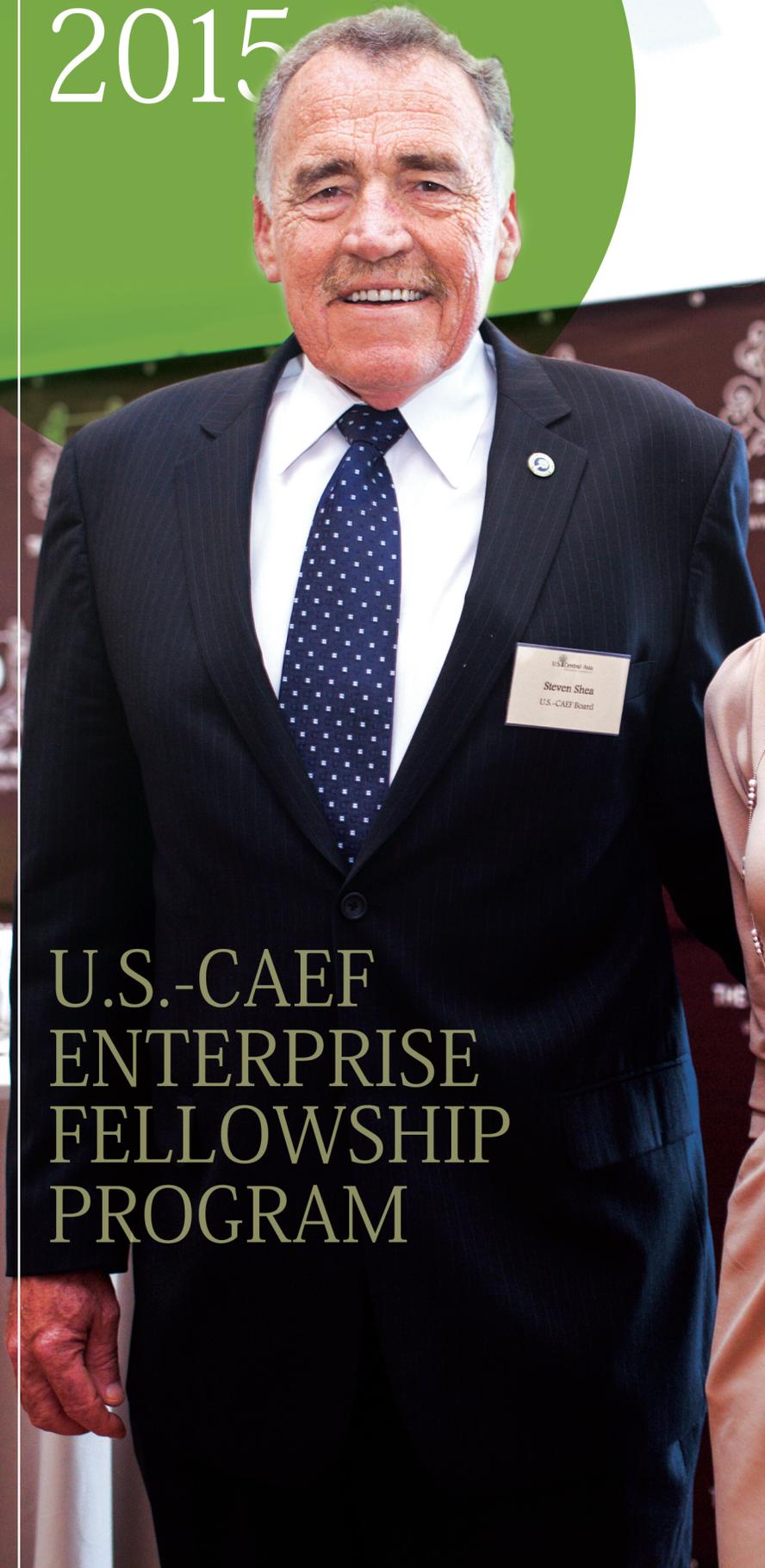




U.S. Central Asia
Education Foundation

GRADUATION 2015



U.S.-CAEF
ENTERPRISE
FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM







Steven Shea
President & Chief Executive
Officer (retired), Rockingham
Bancorp

Malika
Ibragimova
U.S.-CAEF Fellow

STEVE SHEA, FORMER PRESIDENT OF U.S.-CAEF BOARD, WITH AUCA SENIORS ASYLGUL KENZHEBAEVA (LEFT) & MALIKA IBRAGIMOVA (RIGHT)



U.S.-CAEF ENTERPRISE
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
GRADUATION
2015



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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KIMEP UNIVERSITY SENIORS SURUR ULUGBEK OF TAJIKISTA, DARINA YAKOVLEVAAA OF KAZAKHSTAN & AMP; JENNET GURBANMAMMEDOVA OF TURKMENISTAN



GRADUATION BOOK 2015

Graduation 2015 celebrates the fifth class of Student Fellows to receive a university education through the U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation (the Foundation) Enterprise Fellowship Program. Twelve Student Fellows will celebrate their graduation on May 23, 2015 from KIMEP University. Sixteen Student Fellows will graduate on June 6, 2015 from the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

U.S.-CAEF Student Fellows are academically gifted citizen residents of one of the Central Asia 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 further 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 meet the on-going requirements of the scholarship, including maintaining a 3.0 grade point average and participating in the educational, vocational and social events of the Student Fellowship Program.

Graduation 2015 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 not-for-profit 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 8 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 Board had been told by its staff that this “business education” had proved invaluable. In conducting research for its legacy proposal, the CAAEF Board found that there was a strong demand by 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

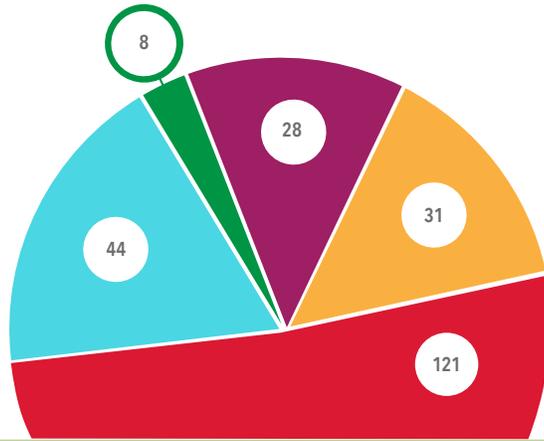


FIGURE 1: STUDENT FELLOWS BY CITIZENSHIP SINCE PROGRAM INCEPTION

- 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 2014-2015 academic year, the Foundation awarded a total of **116** scholarships for 56 Student Fellows to attend AUCA and 60 to attend KIMEP University.

While the Foundation is committed to achieving geographic and regional diversity, 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 these countries.

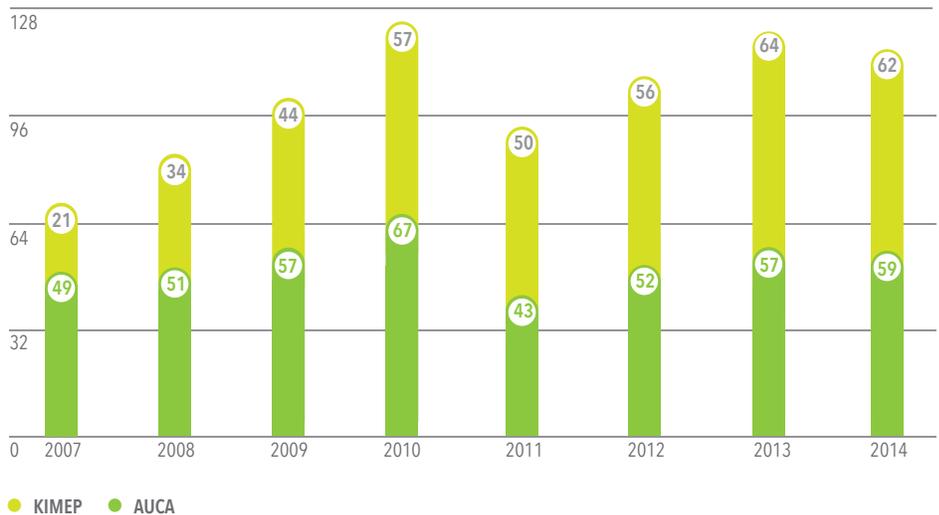
ENTERPRISE FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

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's 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.



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA (AUCA)

KIMEP University continues to support our Enterprise Student Fellowship Program providing thirty non-Kazakhstani Enterprise Student Fellows a full tuition waiver, according to the cost-sharing agreement with the Foundation signed in July 2013. The number of scholarships, as well as the mix of nationalities of students, vary from year to year depending upon factors such as restrictions on visas and travel or recruitment that may be imposed by the respective Central Asian governments. We are most gratified by KIMEP's recognition of the value of the U.S.-CAEF program and grateful for the opportunity it presents to our Enterprise Student Fellows.



KIMEP UNIVERSITY

Program administrator: American Councils for International Education

American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS is a premier, international nonprofit creating educational opportunities that prepare individuals and institutions to succeed in this interconnected world. Founded in 1974 as an association for area and language studies, American Councils, with a team of over 450 dedicated professionals in more than 60 countries, designs, implements, and administers academic exchanges, overseas language immersion, and educational development programs that broaden individual perspectives, increase knowledge, and deepen understanding. Building on over three decades of regional expertise in Central Asia and other republics of the former Soviet Union, American Councils advances education and research worldwide through substantive cross-cultural programs that provide a global perspective essential for academic and professional excellence. American Councils was retained to facilitate the design of and to administer the Foundation's programs.

GRADUATION 2015: 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 and we are proud that they are part of the U.S.-CAEF family. They have continued the traditions started by elder "brother and sister" 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 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.

The academic performance of the graduating class has been exemplary. Of twenty eight Student Fellows, 16 have been recognized on the President's,

AUCA

ULUKBEK ABDUBALIEV
MALIKA IBRAGIMOVA
ASYLGUL KENZHEBAEVA
VALENTINA KHOMENKO
NASIBA NURMATOVA

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 "Vice-President's List."

KIMEP University

JEMAL AGAYEVA
YUSUP ARTYKGULYYEV
JENNET GURBANMAMMEDOVA
AMINA IQBOLZODA
DOVLETGELDI JUMAYEV
SHAHNOZA SEIDMEDOVA
OGULJENNET TAGANOVA
MONANDNISO TURSUNOVA
SURUR ULUGBEK
DARINA YAKOVLEVA
ZARRINA YUNUSZODA

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."

EIGHT OF THESE STUDENT FELLOWS ARE ON TRACK TO GRADUATE WITH HONORS

ULUKBEK ABDUBALIEV
MALIKA IBRAGIMOVA
ASYLGUL KENZHEBAEVA
VALENTINA KHOMENKO
NASIBA NURMATOVA

AMINA IQBOLZODA
SHAHNOZA SEIDMEDOVA
SURUR ULUGBEK
ZARRINA YUNUSZODA

Our seniors have taken advantage of highly competitive study abroad programs in Austria, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Turkey, and United States. In the pages that follow, we offer profiles of these outstanding young men and women. We thought it best to allow the Student Fellows to share their own stories. The following first-person narratives have been prepared by the graduating Student Fellows themselves.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: U.S.-CAEF
ALUMNI YERZHAN SMAGULOV,
SAIDKABIR AZIZOV & SENIOR
RUSTAMJON VAKHOBOV OF TAJIKISTAN



Alisher
Mamunov
USCAEE Fellow

Aigerim
Birikova
USCAEE Fellow

Malika
Ibragimova
USCAEE Fellow



AUCA

ULUKBEK ABDUBALIEV

HOMETOWN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST-FALL 2012, SPRING 2014



"I really appreciate being a U.S.-CAEF fellow, because the program provided all these opportunities not only for my personal development but helped me bring social changes in my community, and in the future I am planning to make social entrepreneurship a big part of my life."

Spending four years at AUCA through U.S.-CAEF program and studying Business Administration was definitely the best time of my life so far, and I really appreciate every moment spent with wonderful people and every moment that shaped my personality.

At AUCA, I understood the importance of bringing positive changes to my community. I started off by winning the Bard College Essay competition on Global Citizenship during my freshmen year which gave me a wonderful opportunity to participate in Smolny University Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia where I had a chance to share my insights and offer possible solutions to global issues. That conference broke all the doubts I had about my goals, making me more confident and mature.

During my sophomore year, I made a decision that totally changed my life. I became a member and later the Vice President of Outgoing Exchange at AIESEC, an international student organization, the main goal of which is to develop youth leadership potential through international volunteering and internship experience. My involvement in this organization was important for my personal development.

It helped me enhance my leadership skills, but most importantly, it gave me a chance to bring benefits to my community and affect other people's lives.

One of the most exciting experiences for me was spending my junior year at Maryville College in USA through the Global UGRAD exchange program sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. It was a great opportunity for me to gain international experience, take interesting business classes, learn more about American culture and share my culture with American students. At the end of the year, I was proud to receive "The Best Country Presentation" award from the Global Citizenship Organization in USA.

I really appreciate being a U.S.-CAEF fellow, because the program provided all these opportunities not only for my personal development but helped me bring social changes in my community, and in the future I am planning to make social entrepreneurship a big part of my life. After graduation, I am planning to work in the marketing sphere in Kyrgyzstan.



NURSULTAN ABDUKHALILOV

AUCA

HOMETOWN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

ECONOMICS

I am an AUCA senior majoring in Economics. Throughout my college years I have been engaged in activities that helped me grow professionally and develop my leadership potential. During my freshman year, as a student senator I worked on improving funding for student clubs through fundraising and grants. Participation in the debate club helped me improve my communication skills. Through Enactus I implemented social and business projects using the knowledge I had gained in the classroom. Eventually, I became President of Enactus, and led my team to the Enactus World Cup in Beijing, China in 2014.

Another highlight of my student life is an exchange program at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, South Korea which became a turning point in my life. It was during this period that I fully realized the role of entrepreneurship in the process of economic growth, and I decided to work in this area after my graduation.

During my junior year, I joined Rome Model of United Nations (MUN). Now I am a MUN staff member, which allows me to participate in international conferences every year. My involvement with MUN has introduced me to diverse perspectives on economic and other global issues.

In 2013, I took part in World Business Dialogue in Cologne, Germany where I learned about current issues and trends in business, met students who ran startups, and successful entrepreneurs and professors. The inspiration I received at this conference gave me a strong motivation to move forward and achieve more. So I joined the Youth Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic. As the chairman of its Economic Committee, I met young leaders from all over the country and deputies of our Parliament, participated in important discussions on the country's economic future and organized business training for Kyrgyz youth. In 2014, I took part in the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR). Meetings and panel discussions with professors and alumni of the Harvard Business School, speakers representing well-known companies and young leaders inspired me to promote entrepreneurship among the youth in my country further and create my own business.

Based on all the knowledge and experience I have gained throughout these years, I created my own startup in 2014 that provides services to farmers. I have many dreams and goals, and this startup is just the beginning of my desired career path.

"Based on all the knowledge and experience I have gained throughout these years, I created my own startup in 2014 that provides services to farmers. I have many dreams and goals, and this startup is just the beginning of my desired career path."

AIDAI ALMAZ KYZY

HOMETOWN

KYZYL-SUU, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



"I am grateful for the generosity of the Foundation which invests so many resources in students in Central Asia. This program erases the boundaries of the minds and plants the seeds for a better future."

I like to dream, and I dream big.

From the time when I received a phone call from American Councils, Bishkek and learned that I became a finalist of the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX), I started to believe in the power of thought, as FLEX was my dream that came true. After spending an amazing and fulfilling year at Olathe South High School in Kansas, I was sure that I would continue my studies somewhere abroad. However, I received another call from American Councils, this time about becoming a finalist of the U.S.-CAEF Enterprise Fellowship Program. At that point I made a decision to stay in Kyrgyzstan and study at American University of Central Asia, and I never regretted. Now I am majoring in Business Administration and planning to focus on the area of marketing. Once I acquire sufficient experience and enhance my marketing skills, I would like to open my own business in the future.

For me, being a U.S.-CAEF fellow means to be one step ahead from other university students. The reason for that is that I am surrounded by successful fellows, and I am involved in different workshops or internships that are organized

for us. Especially, I am very thankful to U.S.-CAEF for giving me an opportunity to intern in the department of individual credit issuance at FINCA Global, a microcredit company. This experience helped me understand the elements of a professional work environment, and shape my career interests.

I am glad that the program also encourages students to take part in different study abroad programs. And I did not miss this opportunity—I applied and was selected to participate in an exchange program in the Netherlands. I spent an amazing spring 2014 semester in Arnhem Business School, where I acquired valuable knowledge from leading professors, experienced a new culture and built a network of friends from around the world.

I consider myself a very lucky person for having this opportunity to study in one of the best schools of Central Asia in a favorable environment created by the U.S.-CAEF Program. I am grateful for the generosity of the Foundation, which invests so many resources in students in Central Asia. This program erases the boundaries of the minds and plants the seeds for a better future.

NURZAT ALTYNBEKOVA

HOMETOWN

KEMEN SUU, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



I feel happy to be a U.S.-CAEF fellow. The U.S.-CAEF program gave me an incredible opportunity to learn new skills and grow as a person, and most importantly, to find the right direction in my life. Looking back, I still remember how I was overwhelmed when I received an acceptance letter from AUCA and became a U.S.-CAEF finalist.

I would also like to acknowledge the support and hard work of all the AUCA professors and tutors who imparted their knowledge and skills, helping me and other fellows prepare for a global work environment. I feel extremely lucky that I was able to discover my passion for finance through the courses I studied and my internship experience at RSK Bank. The internship helped me find out what I really want to do in my life. First, I am planning to work at the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic and become involved in projects related to the development of small businesses. Eventually, after gaining some experience, I want to run a successful business of my own.

In addition to academic and professional programs, AUCA provides other opportunities that enrich students' lives through their participation in its clubs and various events. I had a chance to take part in the international volunteering program organized by AUCA's AIESEC club. This club is part of AIESEC, the world's largest youth-operated organization. Along with other volunteers, I was involved in a variety of social projects which brought many positive changes to my community. In addition, I was involved in another activity that I am really passionate about—playing chess! Once I even became the winner of one of the chess contests among AUCA students.

I am confident that the U.S.-CAEF program has prepared me to deal with challenges, and I take with me incredible memories, achievements, and friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime. I'm graduating soon with absolute certainty that choosing to study at AUCA was among the best decisions of my life. This became possible only because I was privileged to be a U.S.-CAEF fellow.

"I am confident that the U.S.-CAEF program has prepared me to deal with challenges, and I take with me incredible memories, achievements, and friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime."

MEERIM BATYRKANOVA

HOMETOWN

BALYKCHY, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



"It seemed impossible to turn my dreams into reality without good financial status. However, my strong motivation and the U.S.-CAEF program brought me to where I am now."

Goal setting is a powerful process for thinking about your ideal future, and for motivating yourself to turn this vision into reality. I always had a desire to study in one of the prestigious universities. It seemed impossible to turn my dreams into reality without good financial status. However, my strong motivation and the U.S.- CAEF program brought me to where I am now.

I decided to study business when I spent an academic year at Traverse City High School, Michigan as a Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) student. Through job shadowing at the Huntington Bank in Traverse City, I observed the bank's business model and operations, and I became inspired to start my own business in the future. After returning home, I learned about the U.S. - CAEF program from Ignatii Kim, who was already a U.S. - CAEF fellow at that time. So I decided to apply and was accepted to this great program, which helped me pursue a business degree at AUCA.

I am very grateful to the U.S. - CAEF program for providing many opportunities to enrich my knowledge in the field of business through studying at AUCA and abroad, and taking part in internships. During the summer of 2013 U.S.- CAEF arranged an internship for me at

Kyrgyz Concept, a leading tourism company, where I gained my first professional experience and learned about the benefits of working in a good team. I am very glad that I had this excellent opportunity to test my business knowledge in the real world and expand my network.

Another event that boosted my development was an exchange program in Turkey. I spent my spring 2014 semester at Koc University, Istanbul. Communicating with a diverse group of students from different parts of the world with different perspectives encouraged an exchange of ideas which I found very beneficial.

In addition to my studies, I also broaden my experience through teaching English at the Language Center of American Courses in Bishkek, and the English Learning Center during the summer program for children in Istanbul. These experiences confirmed that teamwork and collaboration are keys to the success of any organization.

I am very thankful to the U.S. - CAEF program for providing all these opportunities. Through this program I developed friendships that I am sure will continue to thrive and grow with time regardless of where life takes us.



AIGERIM BIRLIKOVA

AUCA

HOMETOWN

BALYKCHY, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR ECONOMICS

I can't say that I am from a particular city or region because I have lived in almost all parts of wonderful and sunny Kyrgyzstan. Every time when I moved from place to place, I was lucky to be surrounded with friendly and sincere people. And after graduating high school, once again I became part of a friendly family called U.S.-CAEF.

Currently, I am a senior majoring in Economics. I think that it is important to enrich your classroom learning with real work experiences and internships. During the four years of my studies, I interned two times and was employed three times by the same organization, Center for Educational Assessment and Teaching Methods (CEATM). CEATM provides a variety of services to higher education institutions and other educational organizations, including administering the State Exam. My work with the organization started in the summer of 2013, when as a sophomore student I participated in the regional internship program provided by U.S.-CAEF. I am grateful to U.S.-CAEF, for this chance opened a door to other opportunities. Working in various CEATM projects was a valuable experience in terms of utilizing and strengthening my problem-solving skills as I encountered a number of challenging situations when I was involved with administering tests and consulting students about their test results. I am so thankful

to have experienced the collegial atmosphere that helped me develop self-confidence and become more independent, which resulted in my professional growth. I am proud that eventually I was trusted to lead an important project on the national assessment of educational achievements of the 4th grade students held by the same organization, and I traveled to Batken, south of Kyrgyzstan, on my own and tested school children.

In addition to CEATM, I also interned in the Kyrgyz Republic Transition Initiatives, a USAID funded project, for four months in 2014. The colleagues I met there were mainly the graduates from AUCA. I was proud to see that they were real professionals in their spheres and this proved that AUCA provides high quality education. Through different training sessions provided by the agency and work experience, I learned valuable communication and analytical skills.

All these experiences were possible thanks to the support provided by the Foundation. They became the basis for my future career – the skills and knowledge I have gained from the university will stay with me for the rest of my life.

"All these experiences were possible thanks to the support provided by the Foundation. They became the basis for my future career – the skills and knowledge I have gained from the university will stay with me for the rest of my life."

MALIKA IBRAGIMOVA

HOMETOWN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

ECONOMICS

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST-SPRING 2014

DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2012, FALL 2013



"I am proud and happy to be part of this incredible program. In return, like all the other fellows, I will do all my best to bring positive changes to the world."

If someone asks me what kind of a person I am, I would say that I am a lucky one. I am lucky to be a U.S.-CAEF Fellow. I am lucky to get access to high quality education in Central Asia. I am lucky to study in the unique atmosphere of AUCA, and I am lucky to find many good friends at the university.

Since childhood I enjoyed studying and all classes were exciting for me, so I graduated high school with honors. During my last year in high school, I developed a particular interest in economics; therefore I decided to apply for AUCA. Now I am completing my undergraduate degree in economics at AUCA.

Throughout the four years of studies, I had a chance to develop both personally and professionally. Participating in extracurricular activities developed my communicational skills, while attending different training events and conferences deepened my professional knowledge. I spent my fall 2013 semester at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences as a non-degree student, where I was also elected as a board member of the International Student Union. The experience of attending courses at this institute with students from various countries with

diverse academic backgrounds gave me an opportunity to expand my understanding of economics from different perspectives. In addition, I interned at Bai-Tushum Microfinance Bank as part of the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program. I was involved both in simple operational and comprehensive analytical tasks. The experience turned out to be invaluable because I learned to work with clients, conduct market analysis and expanded my knowledge about bank strategies and price policies.

In the future, I am interested in conducting economic research and prognostication of economic trends. I believe that through analytical forecasting of government policies and their impact on the social well-being and economy of Kyrgyzstan, I would be able to contribute to the economic development of my country.

I am very thankful for all the support I received from the program. U.S.-CAEF is an exclusive chance to obtain a good education for many talented students. I am proud and happy to be part of this incredible program. In return, like all the other fellows, I will do all my best to bring positive changes to the world.



ZHURSUN ISMAIL KYZY

AUCA

HOMETOWN
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR
ECONOMICS

I was born in Jalal Abad, south of Kyrgyzstan. While growing up there, I always dreamed about receiving a valuable education, and the only place where I could get it was American University of Central Asia (AUCA). Finding out about the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship Program, I realized that my dreams could come true. And that moment when I became a U.S.-CAEF Fellow was a turning point in my life. This scholarship was like a ticket to a bright future. During these four years, I have gained not only a good education but also had a great opportunity to meet new people and gain invaluable experience.

Currently, I am a senior majoring in Economics. AUCA provided me with a good theoretical foundation that I expanded through my internship in Demir Kyrgyz International Bank, provided by U.S.-CAEF program in the summer of 2013. The experience helped me to understand the structure of the bank and how it functions. Also, I interned in the parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic through a program sponsored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). This program allowed me to learn more about the work and role of the parliament.

Additionally, my participation in an exchange semester in Kyung Hee University, South Korea, debate club, the international students' organization AIESEC, conferences and team-building events organized by the U.S.-CAEF program encouraged me to explore professional opportunities and identify my career path.

I am so thankful for the support provided by this program and its coordinators and this opportunity for us to learn and develop. I realize that all of the achievements we accomplished would have not been possible without the U.S.-CAEF program.

During these four years, I acquired my second family and it is the U.S.-CAEF family. This is a small community where I made many friends. In conclusion, I would like to say that our life is like a book made of many chapters, and I sincerely believe that I will meet these people again in different chapters of this book.

"Finding out about the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship Program, I realized that my dreams could come true. And that moment when I became a U.S.-CAEF Fellow was a turning point in my life. This scholarship was like a ticket to a bright future. ."

ASYLGUL KENZHEBAEVA

HOMETOWN

JALALABAD, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- SPRING 2014

DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2012, FALL 2013



"U.S.- CAEF didn't only provide an opportunity to study at AUCA, but also opened many horizons to my career path and personal growth."

"If there is a will, there is a way," is one of the proverbs that I follow to achieve my goals and ambitions. While being a student at Kyrgyz-Turkish High School, I always used to say that I want to study in one of the top universities in our country, and AUCA was on this list. I realized that I needed English language proficiency to be competitive; therefore I applied for the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) and became a finalist. During my exchange year in the US, I applied for U.S.-CAEF and AUCA and was accepted by both.

From the first year at AUCA, I have been active and have taken advantage of many opportunities offered by the program. I became Outgoing Exchange Coordinator at AIESEC, the world's largest non-profit student run organization. I was also an active member of Unity Fund (a charitable organization) and volunteered as an assistant to the FLEX alumni coordinator. Together with other FLEX alumni, I implemented several social projects. I spent two months of my summer break in Malaysia in 2012, where I was part of a social project called "Share the Future". That year I also published my first novel in English, *Life's Games*. During my the second year, I volunteered at MoveGreen, a youth environmental movement and participated in Model United Nation (MUN) conferences and

was nominated as the "Best Delegate" by the General Assembly during the Miras University International MUN conference in Shymkent, Kazakhstan in 2013. During the same year, I successfully completed my internship in the administrative and finance unit of the Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations (FAO UN) in Bishkek; the internship was organized by U.S.-CAEF. During my junior year in 2014, I took part in an exchange program at Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey.

In addition, during my university years I worked in several organizations – the Center for Educational Assessment and Teaching Methods, the Fund of Responsible Consumption, Demir Bank, Camp of America and others. Now, I am a member of the Business Clinic AUCA. Through this organization I can test my theoretical knowledge by providing free consulting services to local businesses and acquire valuable contacts that might open more doors after graduation.

I highly value everything the U.S.-CAEF program has done for me, because it gave me all these things I wanted to have and achieve. U.S.-CAEF didn't only provide an opportunity to study at AUCA, but also opened many horizons to my career path and personal growth.

VALENTINA KHOMENKO

HOMETOWN

OSH, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- SPRING 2014
DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2012, FALL 2013



I was born in Osh, a city where I spent a lot of time learning English, playing volleyball and dreaming about getting an undergraduate degree in Moscow, Russia, and establishing a business in the food industry. However, right before my senior year at high school, I became a finalist of the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) and spent one academic year at Greeley West High School in Greeley, CO. This was the first turning point of my life. The second one was my becoming a U.S.-CAEF scholar that provided an amazing opportunity to study business at AUCA.

From the very first days at AUCA I felt special because I could concentrate on my studies without worrying about paying tuition. I studied hard, and was rewarded for my academic achievements — I was named to the Dean's List in 2012 and 2013, and to the Presidents List in 2014. Moreover, I was one of the two AUCA students selected to participate in an exchange program at Norwegian University of Life Sciences in fall 2013. In April 2014, I was selected to intern at the Antimonopoly Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic.

I am grateful for every single opportunity and try to express my gratitude through volunteering. In 2012, as a FLEX Alumni coordinator I led

over 100 social projects and won three important USG grant proposals for raising awareness and advocating the rights of disabled people, promoting healthy life styles, and building a classroom for a children's educational center. Especially, I am proud of coordinating and implementing countrywide projects for Global Youth Service Day 2013. For these contributions, I was named the FLEX alumni coordinator of the month by the Eurasia FLEX alumni office in June, 2013.

I believe that my studies, professional and volunteer experiences have prepared me to face the challenges of the Capstone program in fall 2015. I view my internship in Washington, DC as the next important step toward my career goal of creating a sustainable and innovative enterprise that would result in improving food business in Kyrgyzstan. I hope to learn new ideas from American business leaders, and bring back best practices to Kyrgyzstan.

Everything I have already achieved and I am about to achieve would not be possible without the support of U.S.-CAEF. I would like to thank our dear Board members, our fantastic coordinator Rabiya, our successful alumni and our enthusiastic fellows for this wonderful experience.

“Everything I have already achieved and I am about to achieve would not be possible without the support of U.S.-CAEF.”

ALISHER
MAMUNOV**HOMETOWN**

KARAKOL, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



"I feel fully prepared for future challenges, and I would like to thank the Foundation for the support and for providing all these opportunities for my personal and professional growth. Thank you all!"

I am an AUCA senior majoring in Business Administration. AUCA has provided not only a good business education but has truly become the school of life for me because it helped me shape my values. Studying such courses as Sociology, Philosophy and Psychology complemented my business education and played a great role in preparing me for professional life. Extracurricular and volunteer opportunities offered by AUCA and the U.S.-CAEF program allowed me to test my knowledge in practice and develop my world outlook.

As part of the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship program, after my sophomore year, I had my first professional experience in the marketing department at Promotank LLC, a consulting and marketing company in Bishkek. The internship helped me develop my research and analytical skills. I also had an opportunity to visit different companies for the purpose of initiating new partnerships and selling Promotank's services. It was a good learning experience that confirmed my career choice and taught me responsibility and persistence, valuable qualities for every employee, especially for entrepreneurs. My supervisors, both U.S.-CAEF alumni, Aisalkyn Musabaeva and Alyona Li, made the experience even more valuable by providing

support and encouragement throughout the internship. This experience led me to another professional opportunity – an internship at AKKA Group of Companies, which triggered an interest in management.

My involvement with AIESEC, where I was responsible for sending local students to international professional internships, helped me improve my leadership and communication skills. I was also involved in other AIESEC activities. Especially, I was glad to take part in the New Year Fairytale project through AIESEC that I organized together with other U.S.-CAEF fellows, Ulukbek Abdubaliev and Azhar Akimbaeva. The aim of the project was to support children from two orphanages in the city of Tokmok. We conducted drives to gather food, clothes, and stationary, and organized a special entertainment program based on famous fairy tales. I find such events very rewarding and important because they are a good opportunity to give back to society.

I feel fully prepared for future challenges, and I would like to thank the Foundation for the support and for providing all these opportunities for my personal and professional growth. Thank you all!

NASIBA NURMATOVA

HOMETOWN

OSH, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2012



I am grateful for U.S.-CAEF and AUCA for amazing moments and memories that will stay with me for the rest of my life. These years helped me mature as a young professional who definitely knows what to do in the future.

I grew up in Osh, south of Kyrgyzstan, dreaming about studying at AUCA. Dreams come true. In 2010, I was proud to call myself a FLEX exchange student at Farmington High School in Minnesota. In 2011, I was proud to call myself an AUCA freshman. Now I am majoring in Business Administration and minoring in International Business Law.

Experience is everything. Therefore, I took every opportunity to engage in community service and social projects, conferences and internships. I served as a coordinator for Kyrgyzstan and was named the best alumni coordinator by the Eurasia FLEX alumni office in October, 2013. I interned in the finance department of the U.S. Embassy in Bishkek through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship program in summer 2013. After the successful completion of the internship, I was offered a part time job as an administrative clerk in the same office. This success encouraged me to apply

for an internship at the UN Entity for Equality and Empowerment of Women, where I was involved in research and project management. In addition, at AUCA's Business Clinic, I provided consulting services to local small businesses. In recognition of my contributions, I was awarded an AUCA Student Intellectual Life Committee grant, which allowed me to participate in the Youth Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship Conference in New-York in July, 2014.

In my free time I like to write. I am glad that in March, 2014 I was honored to represent my country at the 2nd International Forum of Poetesses in Baku, Azerbaijan, and my poems were included in a Japanese Haiku book. I am also proud that I contributed to the successful launch of the U.S.-CAEF newsletter in August, 2012.

It seems like all four years at the university I spent packing my experiences into my life suitcase. Now I am ready for a new journey and my first career flight should start at the "management gate". As a Capstone finalist, I am looking forward to my internship in Washington, DC in fall 2015, where I would like to acquire valuable experience in the area of human resource management and apply the new skills in my native Kyrgyzstan.

"It seems like all four years at the university I spent packing my experiences into my life suitcase."

Now I am ready for a new journey and my first career flight..."

AIGERIM TOKTOGULOVA

HOMETOWN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



"I also believe that inspiration plays an important role in any success. Personally, I derive inspiration from support and trust. Therefore, I would like to thank my parents and the U.S.-CAEF program for trusting and supporting me throughout these years. I will continue working on further successes and hope to bring meaningful contributions to the growth, development and prosperity of Kyrgyzstan."

Thomas Edison's definition of genius – "One percent inspiration, 99 percent perspiration" – has often been quoted to define success as well.

My major successes in life were winning a scholarship for studying in Kyrgyz Turkish High School in Bishkek and graduating with honors; being chosen as a finalist of the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX); and spending a wonderful school year in the US. However, my greatest success was receiving a U.S.-CAEF scholarship, which gave me an opportunity to study in AUCA.

Currently, I am a senior majoring in Business Administration and minoring in Comparative Politics. I believe that in addition to solid academic knowledge, it is essential to have practical work experience. Therefore, in 2012, I became part of the team led by Roza Otunbayeva, former President of the Kyrgyz Republic, and Elvira Sariyeva, current Minister of Education, and helped organize an important conference, "Mekendeshter". The conference brought together influential Kyrgyz citizens to address important issues on economics, business, transportation, communication, health, education and other issues.

This event led me to another exciting opportunity – I was invited to intern at The National Democratic Institute (NDI), a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and nongovernmental organization that supports and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. After the internship, my supervisor offered me to become an assistant for the Women's Program. While working in the program, I communicated with the Parliament and local council members to strengthen women's political leadership skills. This experience helped me expand my professional network and motivated me to work in the business and political spheres.

Looking back at my life's journey, I can say that these achievements were mostly due to "99% perspiration". I came to realize that even small successes require a lot of effort and time. I also believe that inspiration plays an important role in any success. Personally, I derive inspiration from support and trust. Therefore, I would like to thank my parents and the U.S.-CAEF program for trusting and supporting me throughout these years. I will continue working on further successes and hope to bring meaningful contributions to the growth, development and prosperity of Kyrgyzstan.

TEMIRLAN TOKTOSARTOV

HOMETOWN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST-Spring 2009



I was born in 1990 in our capital city, Bishkek. I graduated from the Kyrgyz-Turkish high school and received an academic honor for excellent study. I was accepted to one of the best universities in Central Asia – the American University of Central Asia (AUCA). Thanks to U.S.-CAEF, I am able to pursue my bachelor's degree in Business Administration at AUCA. Throughout these years I have developed a keen interest in management, business and personal development. I always look for new challenges in different fields and look for opportunities to improve my professional skills.

During my freshmen year, I had an opportunity to intern at Kyrgyz Concept, one of the biggest local tourist companies. This internship helped me learn how to work effectively in a team and develop valuable communication skills. Two years later, I interned at International Business Council (IBC), a preeminent business association which unites over 140 major leading private companies from various sectors of the economy in the Kyrgyz Republic. Its activities are aimed at creating an attractive investment

climate in Kyrgyzstan by improving legislation on entrepreneurship and promoting efficient business practices. IBC actively supports economic reforms and ensures that private sector interests are represented in the government decision-making process. After successfully completing my internship, IBC hired me as a PR manager for the summer period. My work experience at IBC helped me widen my professional network and opened new opportunities. Since May 2013, I have been employed as an assistant director at Orda Invest, an emerging company in the construction market. This position gives me an opportunity to improve almost all my professional skills regularly, since it involves numerous duties and responsibilities.

My academic classes as well as internships and work experiences have been very useful for me. Through studying at AUCA I gained invaluable theoretical knowledge and skills, which I applied and developed at my workplace. I am looking forward to having more opportunities to improve my professional skills further so that I can help my country develop and prosper.

"I am looking forward to having more opportunities to improve my professional skills further so that I can help my country develop and prosper."

AMANTUR TYNYBEKOV

HOMETOWN

OSH, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



“Now I am working towards my dream to become a great marketer. Marketing is the field where I can work for hours and hours. It is an ideal path for me to bring something new to this world, create things that people need.”

Denis Waitley, a famous writer and motivational speaker, said that happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace and gratitude. With the help of the U.S.-CAEF program, I have spent four years enjoying every moment, meeting challenges, pushing myself to limits and overcoming those limits. During these four years I was the happiest person in the world, because I was in the place and with people I wanted to be and dreamed of.

When I was in 10th grade I was selected as a FLEX finalist and spent a year at Western Brown High School in Mt. Orab, Ohio, USA. While in the US, I realized that it was time for a breakthrough and to live every moment to the fullest. When I returned to Kyrgyzstan I was accepted to AUCA's Business Administration department and won a U.S.-CAEF scholarship.

Throughout these years I sought out opportunities to apply my academic studies to real world situations. I have interned at Beeline and DOHWA Engineering. I was also involved in the activities of the AUCA's Business Clinic, Debate Club, Rotaract (community projects) and Unity Fund (a charitable club). When I was a junior, I participated in an exchange program at the

Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, Latvia, one of the top 10 best business schools in Europe. In addition, I joined entrepreneurship workshops, business games, and Olympiads in marketing. These experiences have shaped my professional interests and developed my passion for marketing.

Now I am working towards my dream to become a great marketer. Marketing is the field where I can work for hours and hours. It is an ideal path for me to bring something new to this world, create things that people need. I am looking forward to learning from American experts when I take part in the U.S. Capstone Internship program in fall 2015. I believe that the internship in Washington, D.C. could help me gain valuable knowledge, because marketing was created in the USA and it is very developed there. I have so many ideas that need to be shaped and linked to Kyrgyzstan and the Kyrgyz people. Kyrgyzstan needs great ideas and people with great experience. I believe I could be that person.

I would like to thank the U.S.-CAEF program for giving me all these opportunities and allowing me to be part of this great family!

AMANTUR HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN FALL 2015

MERUERT ZHUMAGULOVA

HOMETOWN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MAJOR

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



I grew up as a serious and shy child spending a lot of time in the company of books rather than friends. The transition to my new personality started when I received my U.S.-CAEF award to study business at AUCA in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The open and favorable student environment at AUCA helped me get out of my shell and start to share my ideas, thoughts, jokes, and find friends with whom I could work on community projects to help my little, yet precious country. I participated in Unity Fund, a charitable student organization; learned about people's international experiences through AIESEC; organized German Talking Club; and just enjoyed what I study – Business Administration. Through these activities and the academic courses I took, introductory business courses in particular, I was able find out what interests me most as a professional in the business sphere. I developed a deep interest in marketing: product promotion, consumer behavior, and integrated advertising campaigns – everything connected with finding the right approach to customers that results in stimulating sales. This made me realize that I need additional knowledge, so I decided to minor in Psychology because I believe that the

course can help me understand customers' behavior better and provide services and products that satisfy their needs. This knowledge proved to be useful when I had a chance to practice what I had learned during my internship at Namba Food Company.

Moreover, last year when I took part in an academic exchange program at the University of Louisiana in Monroe, Louisiana through the Global UGRAD program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, I understood the origins and essence of the western system of education that AUCA follows and how I can use the opportunities offered by the program to my benefit better and grow professionally. One of the new cultural perspectives for me that I learned in the US was the understanding of the importance of initiative and networking in the professional world.

I will never stop appreciating the support of the U.S.-CAEF program and its role in encouraging me to pursue good education and reaching out to people who understand the importance of action and initiative.

"I will never stop appreciating the support of the U.S.-CAEF program and its role in encouraging me to pursue good education and reaching out to people who understand the importance of action and initiative."



KIMEP

KIMEP UNIVERSITY GRADUATING FELLOWS



University

JEMAL AGAYEVA

HOMETOWN

BAIRAMALY, TURKMENISTAN

MAJOR

FINANCE

MINOR

TOURISM & HOSPITALITY

AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST-SPRING 2012, 2013



"After gaining practical experience in finance, I would like to start my own business in Turkmenistan. I truly believe that I will be able to bring changes to my country."

I am from Bairamaly, a small town in Turkmenistan located in the heart of the Karakum desert. When I was a child, I was told to dream big and work hard to achieve my dreams. So I grew up as a goal-oriented and hardworking person. In secondary school, I was active, earning good grades, participating in different projects and Math and Physics Olympiads, and volunteering. However, my first big achievement was in 2009, when I became a FLEX finalist. I spent an academic year at Princeton High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. This exchange year in the US was very important for shaping my character. It also opened a door to new opportunities -- I was accepted to the U.S.-CAEF program, which allowed me to study at KIMEP University.

The U.S.-CAEF scholarship gave me a chance not only to learn from the best professors and prepared me for my future career in business, but also provided an opportunity to explore myself further and become more self-reliant through my involvement in student organizations, various projects, competitions, internships and conferences. The university education has already proved to be valuable in a number of occasions. For example, during my third year, I took part in the international

competition, 'Banks Battle' organized by Sberbank of Russia. 'Banks Battle' is a bank simulation game in which each team runs a bank to achieve the highest share price on the virtual financial market. My team came in first among Kazakhstani teams, and in the overall ranking became one of the top thirty out of one thousand participating teams. Another example is my successful semester as a Mevlana scholar at Akdeniz University in Antalya, Turkey where I proudly represented KIMEP University.

Since my freshmen year I have been serving in the Office of the President at KIMEP University where I help organize internal and international events. I was also actively involved in Silk Way International Model United Nations (SWIMUN) simulations and Tech Forum of Central Asia (TFCA), sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan.

All these experiences will be useful soon, when I step into the real world. Upon my graduation, I am planning to continue my studies and earn a master's degree in International Finance and Risk Management. After gaining practical experience in finance, I would like to start my own business in Turkmenistan. I truly believe that I will be able to bring changes to my country.

YUSUP ARTYKGULYYEV

HOMETOWN
MARY, TURKMENISTAN

MAJOR
ACCOUNTING & FINANCE

AWARDS
DEAN'S LIST- SPRING 2012



It seems like yesterday when I first arrived in Almaty in August, 2011 and was surprised to find it not as hot as in my native Mary, Turkmenistan. From childhood, my biggest goal was to receive a high quality education in an academically strong university. Thanks to U.S.-CAEF, it became possible--I was able to enroll at KIMEP University, and now I am about to graduate from this leading university in Central Asia. However, the path to this outcome has not been short for me.

While in high school, I was accepted to the Future Leaders Exchange Program, and spent an academic year at Ritenour High School in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. The exchange year in the U.S. was very productive for me because I learned many new things, improved my English, and developed a strong interest in business after taking a course in Business Management. All of this helped me win a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at KIMEP University.

My student life at KIMEP University has been very interesting. I am double majoring in Finance

and Accounting. Upon graduation, I would like to work in the spheres of audit and investments. I would also like to pursue a higher degree in one of these fields of studies which I believe will contribute to my future career advancement.

Besides my studies, I participated in several student projects and joined some student organizations. I was especially active in Debate Club and KIMEP's volleyball team. In addition, throughout these years, I was able to gain good professional experience providing administrative support in the university's International Relations and President's offices; assisting a visiting professor of Politics, Mr. Mietek Boduszynski, from Pomona College, US; and interning in the Internal Audit department of KIMEP University.

Without the support of U.S.-CAEF these achievements wouldn't have been possible. I am very grateful to U.S.-CAEF for giving me a chance to pursue my bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

"From childhood, my biggest goal was to receive a high quality education in an academically strong university. Thanks to U.S.-CAEF, it became possible..."

JENNET GURBANMAMMEDOVA

HOMETOWN

BALKANABAT, TURKMENISTAN

MAJOR

FINANCE

MINOR

ACCOUNTING

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- SPRING 2012
& 2014, FALL 2012

DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2011



"U.S.-CAEF gave me an opportunity to follow my dreams. These were four amazing years in my life.... I am sure that this is only the beginning of my path to the future."

Education is a driver and foundation of everything new. Since high school, I have been using every opportunity to expand my education. Therefore, in 2009, I was accepted to the FLEX program and spent an academic year at West Potomac High School in Alexandria, Virginia, USA. The program helped me to mature and to improve as a person.

In 2011, I was awarded a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to support my studies at KIMEP University. After completing several business courses, I found finance to be the most exciting area and decided to study it as my major. I chose Accounting as my minor, as knowledge in this field is important for a career in finance.

U.S.-CAEF gave me an opportunity to follow my dreams. These were four amazing years in my life. I was a member of the Diplomatic Briefing Club (DBC). Through DBC, I participated in several Model UN and Security Council Simulations. In addition, I had an amazing chance to intern at Nestle Food, where I was introduced to Western corporate culture and learned how a global business operates from inside. Furthermore, I have been working as a teaching assistant at the Bang College of Busi-

ness. Through these experiences, I developed my time-management skills, and learned to work in a team as well as to complete various tasks by myself.

During my senior year, I was selected to represent Central Asia in the 40th Annual Business Today Conference in New York City, organized by Princeton students. During the three days of the conference, I had a chance to attend seminars with CEOs and managers of global companies such as GE, Blackstone, The New York Times, Aramark, and Alcoa. In addition, I had the chance to participate in a case competition organized by Deloitte. This was an inspiring event, which gave me a deeper insight into the world of business.

This year I was also accepted to the U.S.-CAEF Capstone Internship program in the U.S. which allows me to explore many aspects of the finance field and identify my niche in it, which is important at this early stage of my career. I am much honored to be among the brightest minds of Central Asia. I am very thankful for U.S.-CAEF and value every opportunity the Foundation has provided. I am sure that this is only the beginning of my path to the future.

JENNET HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN FALL 2015

AMINA IQBOLZODA

HOMETOWN
KHOROG, TAJIKISTAN

MAJOR
FINANCE

MINOR
ACCOUNTING

AWARDS
PRESIDENT'S LIST- SPRING 2012,
2013 & 2014, FALL 2013 & 2014
DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2012



My desire to pursue a career in business became stronger when I was volunteering at NGO Marifat back in my hometown of Khorog, Tajikistan. One of the business projects that my team was involved in dealt with opening a bakery in Khorog. The project received funds and became a success. As a result, several women became employed. I was very proud of this achievement, but especially I was happy that the project brought some stability into these people's lives driven by poverty, gender discrimination and high unemployment rate in Tajikistan. At that moment I realized that I needed to study business, open my own company, and help people in my community.

In 2009, I was chosen to participate in the Future Leaders Exchange program (FLEX). For one academic year I lived with an American family and attended Dirigo High School in Dixfield, Maine.. During my exchange year, I was also honored to represent my country in Better Understanding for Better World (BUBW), an international conference that gathers students from all over the world. The year in the U.S. taught me the value of international experience. So after graduating from high school, I applied and was accepted to KIMEP University and received a U.S.-CAEF

scholarship. I am currently completing my undergraduate degree with a major in Finance and a minor in Accounting. Studying at KIMEP University has been a very unique and rewarding experience. During these past few years, I have acquired broad theoretical knowledge both in the finance and accounting spheres. I was delighted to be taught by great professors who inspired me and cultivated my professional and intellectual interests.

Besides my studies, I interned in the credit, deposit, risk management and finance and accounting departments of The First Microfinance Bank in Khorog; worked as a teaching assistant at the Bang College of Business; participated in the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange Trading competition in November, 2013; and was involved in the activities of the European Law Students' Association in Almaty. Recently I was selected to participate in the U.S.-CAEF International Internship program in Washington, DC. I am confident that this learning experience will deepen my professional knowledge further and help explore new business ideas. Upon my return, I plan to find employment in my native Tajikistan. My long-term goal is to open a private equity firm and attract foreign investors to Tajikistan.

"... I realized that I needed to study business, open my own company, and help people in my community."

AMINA HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN FALL 2015

DOVLETGELDI JUMAYEV

HOMETOWN

GARAGUM ETRAP, TURKMENISTAN

MAJOR

ACCOUNTING

AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST – SPRING 2012



“Because of this program my path turned in a different and better direction. I am also glad to be part of the U.S.-CAEF community– I feel very comfortable being with U.S-CAEF students from different countries.”

Many things in our lives happen as a result of seemingly small decisions we make. During my high school years, I wondered what I would become in the future. This changed when I started learning English and applied for a high school exchange program in the U.S. through the FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange) program and was accepted. During my exchange year in Ulen High School, Ulen, Minnesota I had a chance to explore a different culture which made me look at the world differently.

Receiving a U.S.-CAEF scholarship was one of the best things that happened in my life because it allowed me to study at KIMEP University. During these years at KIMEP University, I found what I am really interested in and improved my networking skills. Currently, I am majoring in Accounting and minoring in Finance.

During my junior year, I participated in the Global UGRAD exchange program and spent an academic year at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, US. I studied in a private college and took classes related to my major in accounting. I did not experience any problems

with my studies because the education styles at KIMEP University and my American college were similar. Interning in the accounting department of Hemslojd, the leading Swedish store in the U.S., helped complement my classroom learning experience.

Besides my studies, throughout these years I have joined many student clubs. My favorite one is called Proud of KIMEP (originally founded by our U.S.-CAEF fellows) which promotes the university brand by selling clothes with the KIMEP University logo.

Upon graduation, I would like to work in a corporation in Turkmenistan to gain experience. My long term goal is to open my own company. I've been thinking about it since my freshman year. Of course, it would not be easy, but I believe that nothing is impossible if you try hard.

I am very thankful for all the opportunities that U.S.-CAEF has given me. Because of this program my path turned in a different and better direction. I am also glad to be part of the U.S.-CAEF community – I feel very comfortable being with U.S-CAEF students from different countries.

SHAHNOZA SEIDMEDOVA

HOMETOWN

DASHOGUZ, TURKMENISTAN

MAJOR

ACCOUNTING

MINOR

FINANCE

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2011

DEAN'S LIST – SPRING 2012, FALL 2013



I was born and grew up in the small town of Dashoguz in Turkmenistan. In high school, I was selected to participate in the Future Leaders Exchange program (FLEX). When I returned from the USA, I was actively involved in many activities, such as organizing projects and teaching classes. However, I knew that I would have to develop myself further by acquiring higher education. Now, I am a senior at KIMEP University, majoring in Accounting and minoring in Finance. As I know that my family would not have been able to afford my education, I am extremely grateful to the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship Program for providing me with an amazing opportunity to achieve what I have been striving for.

To begin with, KIMEP University has given me a lot. I plan to utilize my abilities by becoming a strong leader and motivating people to build collaborations based on the highest ethical standards, mutual respect and understanding. I realize that because I am a very futuristic individual I am driven by the future and what it possibly holds. When I go out into the real world, the knowledge that I have gained will help me be exceptionally proficient in the business world.

Furthermore, my academic year at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas through the Global UGRAD Exchange Program has contributed greatly to my social and professional life. I chose to study psychology there. I believe that this knowledge will help me become an even more effective business person in the future.

We live in a highly competitive world. Thus, I am very thankful to the U.S.-CAEF Fellowship program for giving me a chance to earn a degree that will later pay off in life. Encouraged by U.S.-CAEF and program coordinators, I would like to achieve more, so I am planning to continue my education and earn a master's degree in Business Administration.

My unlimited gratitude goes to U.S.-CAEF for the wonderful experiences that would have been nearly impossible for me to achieve without the program's support. I am looking forward to the moment when I will finally walk across the stage and receive my bachelor's degree certificate and feel proud of my achievement.

"My unlimited gratitude goes to U.S.-CAEF for the wonderful experiences that would have been nearly impossible for me to achieve without the program's support. I am looking forward to the moment when I will finally walk across the stage and receive my bachelor's degree certificate and feel proud of my achievement."

OGULJENNET TAGANOVA

HOMETOWN

ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN

MAJOR

ACCOUNTING

MINOR

FINANCE

AWARDS

DEAN'S LIST – SPRING 2012, FALL 2012



"I am proud to be a U.S.-CAEF fellow, and want to thank the Foundation for giving me an opportunity to develop as an educated young lady full of motivation and desire to change the world for better."

Since childhood I have been motivated to achieve greatness. My first accomplishment was my acceptance to the Turkmen-Turkish Girls' School when I was eleven. While in high school, I became a FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange) finalist. Spending an academic year at Shelby County High School in Columbiana, Alabama gave me huge inspiration. Upon my return home, I became a FLEX alumni coordinator and organized summer schools, charitable events and youth clubs in Turkmenistan.

Studying business has always been one of my biggest goals, and U.S.-CAEF granted me this unique opportunity to pursue my dream in the best university of Central Asia—KIMEP University. While taking required courses, I realized that I was passionate about accounting; therefore, I chose it as my major. To expand my knowledge, I interned for two consecutive summers as an assistant to the senior accountant at Baker Tilly Turkmen, a leading accounting firm in Turkmenistan. Currently, I am a teaching assistant for a microeconomics course at KIMEP University.

During all four years, I have been active and was involved in student organizations such as KIMEP Pictures, Diplomatic Briefing Club, and the U.S.-CAEF Student Association. I volunteered at the

Ski Jumping Grand Prix 2011 in Almaty, and was one of the organizers of the KIMEP Model UN in 2012. Recently, I became a semifinalist in the 'Banks Battle' contest organized by Sberbank, and successfully competed in a trading simulation sponsored by the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange.

In fall 2015, I will be participating in the U.S.-CAEF internship program in Washington, DC. I am eager to enhance my qualities further, gain invaluable practical international experience and expand my understanding of contemporary issues in the U.S. business environment. After returning from the US, I would like to work for one of the Big 4 companies, and become a certified public accountant. After developing sufficient professional experience, I would like to facilitate the convergence of international and national auditing and assurance standards to strengthen public confidence in auditing and improve the business environment in Turkmenistan.

The U.S.-CAEF program and KIMEP University played a major role in my life and made me who I am today. I am proud to be a U.S.-CAEF fellow, and want to thank the Foundation for giving me an opportunity to develop as an educated young lady full of motivation and desire to change the world for better.

OGULJENNET HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN FALL 2015

MONANDNISO TURSUNOVA

HOMETOWN

KHUJAND, TAJIKISTAN

MAJOR

FINANCE

MINOR

MARKETING

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- SPRING 2013
& FALL 2014

DEAN'S LIST- FALL 2011



Opportunity is my favorite word. I always search for new opportunities.

While in high school, I was active participating in Olympiads and other school events, preparing myself for college. Selection for university scholarship programs is highly competitive, so I realized that it would be very challenging for me to compete with my peers, and even felt quite skeptical about my chances until I received a U.S.-CAEF award.

I really love the U.S.-CAEF program because of the great opportunities that it provides. And now I am about to graduate from KIMEP University. I am majoring in Finance and minoring in Marketing. Upon graduation, I would like to work in the sphere of finance.

Throughout these years, I tried to take full advantage of the program. As a freshman, I immediately embraced student life and as a project manager of the International Deputy Committee (IDC) of the KIMEP Student Association, I organized a number of multicultural events on campus. During my second year, I started to look for international opportunities to expand my experience and came across the international youth forum Seliger. So in the summer of 2012, I partic-

ipated in INTERSELIGER, an international youth camp in the middle of the Russian woods in the Tver Region, where thousands of entrepreneurial young leaders from all over the world gather to meet famous speakers, participate in educational and social activities and discuss important topics, including economic and intercultural issues. The experience was enriching and broke all cross cultural boundaries and barriers.

During my third year, I decided to focus on professional development. I gained my first work experience working for Eventica CO, an event management company. The knowledge and skills I learned were helpful during my internship at Doodle.tj, a web development and design studio. In addition to internships, I was involved in several business games and competitions, such as "Simulator" and "MARS". Participation in such international competitions gave me a lot of practical and useful knowledge.

All these things happened to me because U.S.-CAEF has been beside me. I am more than thankful for this life-changing journey. Especially, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their great support. I am sure all fellows feel the same way, and are infinitely grateful for every opportunity provided by the program.

"Especially, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their great support. I am sure all fellows feel the same way, and are infinitely grateful for every opportunity provided by the program."

SURUR ULUGBEK

HOMETOWN

KHOROG, TAJIKISTAN

MAJOR

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST-FALL 2011,
2012, 2013, 2014,
SPRING 2012, 2013, 2014



"I am thankful to the U.S.-CAEF program for giving me a chance to gain knowledge and to experience one of the most fulfilling and amazing times. I am planning to use the education that I have acquired in the best interests of my community."

"The most important thing is to be true to yourself and what you love doing. Train and cultivate your talent to the highest degree. Be the best at what you do. Whatever it is." -Michael Jackson.

I believe the opportunities that we are given should be used to the highest level in order to bring maximum benefit to the community that raised us.

I come from a small but beautiful town called Khorog, located in a mountainous region of eastern Tajikistan. I graduated from Aga Khan Lyceum. My high school provided the best education I could possibly get back then and motivated me to pursue my future goals.

While studying in the lyceum, I became a participant of the Future Leaders Exchange Program. During this academic year, I had a chance to meet wonderful people and study at one of the top schools of Colorado, the public charter academy called The Vanguard School. Upon finishing high school, I chose to pursue a career that involves both accounting and finance, and I thought that KIMEP University is the best choice. With the help of the U.S.-CAEF scholarship, now I am receiving my education at KIMEP University, and I am very grateful to

be part of it. I am double majoring in Accounting and Finance. These two areas are connected and in this dynamic world I might need the skills in both fields.

As for my professional development, I interned in the departments of finance and accounting of Kazkommertsbank and Tojiksodirotbank. During my internships, I assisted in preparing financial and tax reports, and ensured their accuracy. These opportunities helped me identify what specifically I want to do in my future.

As part of the exchange opportunities that KIMEP provides, I took advantage of a study abroad program organized by the Ljubljana Summer School, and I had a chance to enhance my knowledge, meet interesting people and explore new places.

I am happy with where life has taken me and what I have achieved up to now. I am thankful to the U.S.-CAEF program for giving me a chance to gain knowledge and to experience one of the most fulfilling and amazing times. I am planning to use the education that I have acquired in the best interests of my community. Finally, I would also like to thank my family and friends for their warm support. This has been a great journey.

RUSTAMJON VAKHOBOV

HOMETOWN
ISFARA, TAJIKISTAN

MAJOR
FINANCE

MINOR
MARKETING



It seems like yesterday when I arrived at KIMEP University, overwhelmed with emotions and enthusiasm. I was so lucky to be selected as a finalist of the U.S.-CAEF program. The time spent at the university was one of the best moments in my life.

I learned a lot about business during these years. I enjoyed every class that I took and every internship and work experience that I have gained. After my sophomore year, I was honored to intern at The Farm, an investment company in Almaty, through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship program. I was primarily involved in the research and analysis of different open source information. This was my first real experience which allowed me to dive into the business world.

Participation in business case competitions and conferences also contributed to my professional development, and inspired me to create my own business. So during my junior year, I opened Flower Company with my friend. First, I analyzed the market and calculated all costs and realized that we could make a profit. The knowledge I had gained in and outside the classroom helped me start my business, which became a success.

My first entrepreneurial success inspired me to open another business, a bicycle renting company. My co-founder and I bought about 20 bicycles, rented a crowded place right in front of the KIMEP University, and started to rent our bicycles. It was a good niche for a business in Almaty. Our research and survey that we had conducted before opening this business revealed that one out of four people in Almaty ride bicycles two times a week. To promote our services we offered online BeSmart coupons. As a result, our company was able to increase its sales four times and cover all our initial expenses in 2.5 months.

Recently I sold my bicycle business. Now I am thinking about going big. This was a good learning experience for me. As Friedrich Nietzsche said, "That which does not kill us, makes us stronger." I have learned many aspects of conducting a business, and how to face failures, and feel ready for new challenges. All these experiences and knowledge will help me become a better specialist and contribute to the development of the region. I want to express my deep gratitude to U.S.-CAEF for giving me a great opportunity to study at KIMEP University. Thank you, U.S.-CAEF. Thank you, KIMEP.

"I learned a lot about business during these years. I enjoyed every class that I took and every internship and work experience that I have gained.... The knowledge I gained in and outside the classroom helped me start my business, which became a success."

DARINA YAKOVLEVA

HOMETOWN

UST-KAMENOGORSK, KAZAKHSTAN

MAJOR

MARKETING

MINOR

MANAGEMENT

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- SPRING 2012
& 2014, FALL 2012

DEAN'S LIST- SPRING 2013



"I am highly motivated to follow in the footsteps of successful U.S.-CAEF graduates and continue to demonstrate the excellence of the KIMEP University education. I would like to contribute to enhancing a spirit of coexistence, participation, cooperation and mutual support that can bring real positive changes in people's lives."

I remember when I wrote a motivational letter for the U.S.-CAEF scholarship. I wrote that if I received a scholarship, I would be able to realize all my dreams. This has proven to be true, indeed.

A distinguished faculty, strong international relations, great corporate connections, numerous accreditations, awards of excellence, and corporate social responsibility--this is what makes top universities. KIMEP University is, certainly, one of them. The university has provided me with all necessary skills for my professional future. The university environment and high standards of the U.S.-CAEF program committed me to develop my abilities and skills to the fullest. I learned a lot and met new people who taught me new things and helped me grow as a person.

I used all resources available that enabled me to receive comprehensive education and develop my values and skills. In addition to my studies, I tried to gain work experience. During my 3rd year, I worked as an assistant in the Recruitment and Admissions office of KIMEP University, and recently I was employed by the British Councils to administer language tests.

Last year, I won an Erasmus Mundus scholarship and currently I am participating in an exchange program at the University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain. It is a unique opportunity for me to ex-

pand my horizon, improve my language skills not only in English, but Spanish as well, delve in the Spanish culture, meet students from all over the world and expand my international business contacts.

I think that I have the potential to develop myself further and achieve more. All these achievements have given me even more motivation and confidence in my abilities. I want to develop as a principled leader able to work in a competitive global business environment. I am confident that I have strengthened my competitiveness in the job market. I would like to apply the skills and experience I have gained throughout these years in the marketing department of a big company, performing interesting and challenging tasks.

The U.S.-CAEF program helped me expand my intellectual and cultural horizons and provided the experience of a lifetime. I am highly motivated to follow in the footsteps of successful U.S.-CAEF graduates and continue to demonstrate the excellence of the KIMEP University education.

I would like to contribute to enhancing a spirit of coexistence, participation, cooperation and mutual support that can bring real positive changes in people's lives.

ZARRINA YUNUSZODA

HOMETOWN

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

MAJOR

FINANCE

MINOR

MARKETING

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S LIST- FALL 2011, 2012
& 2013; SPRING 2012, 2013 & 2014



While in high school, I strived to get international experience and explore the world. You need a strong desire and apply your efforts, and you will get what you want. This is what brought me to where I am now.

Back in high school, I was selected as a Future Leaders Exchange program participant. I spent a year living in the United States and studying at Theodor Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, Iowa. It was a life-changing experience that was the first step towards all the achievements I have now. During that year, I also became more confident in my desire to study business in an international western-style university. My dream came true when I was granted a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at KIMEP University, a leading business school in Central Asia. Since then, the doors to numerous opportunities have opened to me.

Firstly, KIMEP University provided me with a strong theoretical foundation and valuable knowledge in the field of Business Administration, particularly in finance and marketing.

Also, during my undergraduate studies, I was active in extracurricular life, balancing it well with excellent academic performance. I have participated in various student organizations, which enhanced my leadership, managerial, communication and team-working skills.

After the second year of studies, I used the opportunity to participate in the regional internship program provided by U.S.-CAEF and worked in the marketing department of KazNetEvents. After successful completion of the internship, I was offered a position for the next year. I was able to use the theoretical knowledge gained in the university into practice. I also learned how local businesses work, and what challenges they face.

KIMEP University also offers various study abroad opportunities. Last year I won an Ernst Mach scholarship to study at IMC University of Applied Sciences in Krems, Austria. This was a unique opportunity to get acquainted with the European educational system, culture, and people not only from Austria, but also from all over the world. I benefited not only educationally, but also culturally and personally. Study abroad is a great experience that should be part of any undergraduate study.

I am very proud to be a U.S.-CAEF fellow and very grateful for all opportunities that helped me master my educational, professional and personal skills and prepared me for the next step toward my career.

"My dream came true when I was granted a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at KIMEP University, a leading business school in Central Asia. Since then, the doors to numerous opportunities have opened to me."

THE FOUNDATION'S FACULTY & INTERN FELLOWSHIPS



FACULTY BOOK RELEASE AT KIMEP UNIVERSITY, ALMATY, MAY 2014

Enterprise Faculty Fellowships

The Foundation has sponsored and delivered several faculty training development programs since its inception in 2007. In 2010 the Foundation launched a focused two-year faculty training program, developed and delivered by Fairfield University (Fairfield, CT, USA), which consisted of three separate intensive in-person sessions within the region and ongoing remote training and communication between the Fairfield University team and faculty participants. The program was extended and in May 2014, these efforts culminated in the publication of *Business Education in Central Asia: Best Practices in Integrative Study and Teaching*. A landmark accomplishment in the field of pedagogical scholarship in Central Asia, Business Education is a compilation of articles by AUCA and KIMEP faculty who participated in the development workshops and report on their experiences in creatively adapting and applying the principles of integrative study and teaching within the contexts of their universities. Fairfield faculty members continue to work with colleagues at AUCA and KIMEP University on materials and activities that will further build upon the work accomplished during the development program.



CAPSTONE 2014 INTERNS (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): YELENA VOROBAY, MALIKA PULOTOVA, KHEDZHERA SULEEVA & SAKINA YASAKIEVA

Enterprise Intern Fellowships

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 Capstone Internship Program.

THE FOUNDATION'S FACULTY & INTERN FELLOWSHIPS



ZARRINA YUNUSZODA



MEERIM BATYRKANOVA

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 as a degree requirement. The Foundation's summer internship program, which includes orientation and support for the interns, is intended as an opportunity to become familiar with the business environment, enhance skills and lead to more informed choices in selecting the degree-required internship. Eleven Student Fellows from the graduating 2015 class – the highest number of participants in the history of the summer internship program – took part in the summer 2013 U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program:

ULUKBEK ABDUBALIEV

AIDAI ALMAZ KYZY

MEERIM BATYRKANOVA

AIGERIM BIRLIKOVA

MALIKA IBRAGIMOVA

ZHURSUN ISMAIL KYZY

ASYLGUL KENZHEBAEVA

ALISHER MAMUNOV

NASIBA NURMATOVA

RUSTAMJON VAKHOBOV

ZARRINA YUNUSZODA



AUCA SENIORS (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): MERUERT ZHUMAGULOVA, NASIBA NURMATOVA, AMANTUR TYNBEKOV, VALENTINA KHOMENKO, ASYLGUL KENZHEBAEVA, NURZAT ALTYNBEKOVA AND ULUKBEK ABDUBALIEV

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

THE FOUNDATION'S FACULTY & INTERN FELLOWSHIPS

The Foundation is grateful to the companies in Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic that have hosted Enterprise Regional Interns since the inception of this program in 2009. These companies include:

ADM CAPITAL
ALPHA TELECOM
ARDAMINA TEXTILE COMPANY
ASIA UNIVERSAL BANK
BAI TUSHUM & PARTNERS
MICROFINANCE BANK
BEELINE
CAI CONSULTING
CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL
ASSESSMENT & TEACHING METHODS
CHANNEL 7
DEMIR KYRGYZ
INTERNATIONAL BANK
EURASIAN BANK
FINCA
FLAMINGO PARK
GARANT, LLC
HSBC BANK
INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS COUNCIL
KARAKOL COFFEE SHOP
KAZINVEST
KAZNETEVENTS
KYRGYZ CONCEPT
KYRGYZ KREDIT BANK
MEGACOM
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
NATIONAL LEASING COMPANY
POLYGON INTERNATIONAL, LTD
PROJECT HOPE
PROMOTANK
RCG INVESTMENT FUND
SBERBANK OF RUSSIA
SK LEASING JSC
TALAS COPPER GOLD, LLC
THE FARM
THE UNITED NATIONS
THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BISHKEK

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 2014: **Jennet Gurbanmamedova, Amina Igbolzoda, Valentina Khomenko, Nasiba Nurmatova, Oguljennet Taganova and Amantur Tynybekov.**

The Foundation's International Capstone Interns take part in an established and success-proven program operated by The Washington Center (www.twc.edu), Washington, DC. In addition to the vocational and educational components of the internship, Enterprise International Interns live and participate with interns from the U.S. and other countries who have recently completed their undergraduate studies; and will benefit from events provided by The Washington Center where they have the opportunity to build their international and professional contact network and interact with experts and leaders from public, private and non-profit sectors; and participate in other activities arranged by American Councils.



ALUMNUS GUFRONJON AYUBJONOV AND SENIOR RUSTAMJON VAKHOBOV

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association (the Association) develops and enhances the involvement of Enterprise Fellowship program alumni in supporting and complementing the mission and goals of the Foundation through communication, service and leadership. U.S.-CAEF alumni work in large international corporations, leading domestic enterprises, and small- or medium-sized businesses throughout Central Asia. Several have shown their entrepreneurial skills and started their own businesses, while others have decided to further their education and are pursuing their MBAs.

This year, 28 new graduates join the U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association, bringing the total number of program alumni to 140. After two years of service, the first alumni council passed its duties onto a new leadership team. The newly elected members are eager to continue the traditions set by their predecessors and look forward to fostering the U.S.-CAEF spirit further and contributing to the economic prosperity of Central Asia.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: STEVE SHEA, FORMER PRESIDENT OF U.S.-CAEF, GRAHAM HETTLINGER, DIRECTOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF AMERICAN COUNCILS & ARYSTAN MOLDABEKOV, FORMER ALUMNI OFFICER.

The Association hopes that the graduating class of 2015 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.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: U.S.-CAEF ALUMNI OF DIFFERENT COHORTS, ASSEL ZHAMBYRBAEVA, ORALBEK SEITMANOV, YELENA VOROBAY, ASKAR SAPARBEKOV AND MALIKA PULOTOVA

The new leadership team represents both AUCA and KIMEP University:

YELENA VOROBAY

PRESIDENT
INTERN | TAX & LEGAL DEPARTMENT KPMG
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

IGNAT KIM

TREASURER
HEAD OF FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT,
BISHKEK BRANCH OF MANAS AIRPORT
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

MALIKA PULOTOVA

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH
JUNIOR BUYER
APEX INTERACTIVE
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

KARINA KUSSAINOVA

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS COACH
AMITY CONSULTING
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

AIDANA ABDRAKHMANOVA

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
FINANCIAL ANALYST | PROCTER & GAMBLE
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

MADINA DAMIR KYZY

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH
ASSISTANT AUDITOR | KPMG
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

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.

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U.S.-CAEF DIRECTORS (LEFT) PEGGY GRIEVE,
STEPHEN WEINROTH AND STEVE SHEA DURING
GRADUATION RECEPTION 2014 IN ALMATY



WU Economic Asia
Gumyr Dauletbak
Kazakhstan



U.S. - Central Asia Education Foundation

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COVER: STEVE SHEA, FORMER PRESIDENT OF U.S.-CAEF BOARD,
& KIMEP UNIVERSITY SENIOR JENNET GURBANMAMMEDOVA



PHOTO CREDITS: LEFT TO RIGHT: DASTAN ZHUMAGULOV,
CLASS OF 2014 & BAKHROM TURSUNOV/CLASS OF 2017

