Welcome to our Inaugural U.S.-CAEF Newsletter

Terrence Graham
Director, Higher Education Programs— American Councils

Dear Enterprise Fellows,

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

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

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

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

BY NASIBA NURMATOVA

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

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

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

Thank you, Khislat! We wish you and all CAEF alumni good luck in their future career! Be good examples for U.S.-CAEF fellows! Make us proud.
This year’s very anticipated graduation ceremony for KIMEP students was held on the 26th of May in the Republican Palace. The Palace was full of excited students that were receiving bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees. The atmosphere was filled with excitement from pleased professors, proud parents and invited guests. The ceremony started with sincere congratulations from KIMEP president, Dr. Bang. At the end, each graduate was called on to receive their congratulations letter from the President of KIMEP University. Happy graduates went outside to take photos with their beloved parents and friends when the ceremony finished.

In the evening of the same day, U.S.-CAEF graduates with their parents and friends, U.S.-CAEF alumni and KIMEP professors were invited to the reception at the Dostyk Hotel, organized by U.S.-CAEF sponsors and ACCELS. Among the guests of this event were the President and Chief Executive officer of the U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation, Steven F. Shea, and the Director of Higher Education Programs at American Councils in Washington, D.C., Terrence Graham. Both of them congratulated each student and gave them each of them a gift.

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

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

DINARA ATANTAYEVA

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

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

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

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

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

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

Parvina: How did you know about this scholarship? How many students applied? By which organization is U.S.-CAEF supported?

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

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

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

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

Dinara: What are your expectations regarding the CAEF Newsletter?

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

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

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

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

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

BY MALIKA PULOTOVA

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

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

Temur: I feel good! During studies you are 24/7 under pressure. You feel that there are always some tasks to complete. Now I am working and my tasks stay at work when I go home at 6pm. That is the difference. I am working as an accountant in an accounts payable team, and I like it. I have never thought that accounting can be so interesting.

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

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

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

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

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

Temur: Without CAEF, I would not have had all the good feelings that I have at the moment. Work hard and enjoy student life.

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

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

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