



U.S.-CAEF ENTERPRISE
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
GRADUATION
2021

9
AUCA
STUDENTS

10
KIMEP
UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS



U.S.-CAEF ENTERPRISE
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
GRADUATION
2021

THE FOUNDATION IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT
FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, ITS CITIZENS AND
THE CENTRAL ASIAN-AMERICAN ENTERPRISE FUND,
WHICH HAVE MADE ITS OPERATION POSSIBLE.



PHOTO CREDITS
BAKHROM TURSUNOV

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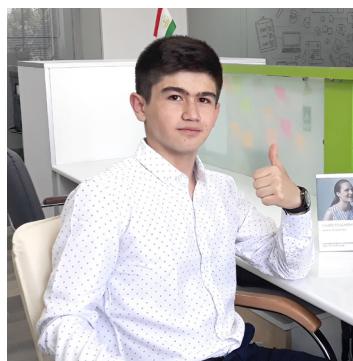
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Alumni
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► STEPHEN D. WEINROTH, PRESIDENT, U.S.-CAEF BOARD





“U.S.-CAEF helped me become who I am today and set me on the path to become a successful professional that will be of great help to the world and my homeland in the future.”

-Iskender Tavaldiev



GRADUATION BOOK 2021



19 FELLOWS



9 AUCA



10 KIMEP UNIVERSITY



The 2021 U.S.-CAEF graduates represent the 11th class of student fellows to receive a university education through the U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation (the Foundation) Enterprise Student Fellowship Program. A total of 19 fellows, nine from American University of Central Asia (AUCA) and ten from KIMEP University, will celebrate their graduation on May 22 in Almaty, Kazakhstan and June 5 in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic, respectively.

U.S.-CAEF student fellows are academically gifted citizen residents of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, or Uzbekistan who, without financial aid, would not otherwise 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 economics. Student fellows must meet the rigorous admission standards of their university and are selected by the Foundation's board at the end of a selection process developed by both the Board and American Councils for International Education (American Councils), which administers the Foundation's fellowship programs. Each student selected for the program commits to meeting the ongoing requirements of the scholarship, which include maintaining a minimum 3.0 grade-point average for AUCA student fellows and a 3.25 grade-point average for KIMEP University student fellows, and participating in the educational, vocational, and social events of the Student Fellowship Program.

Graduation 2021 is the result of years of hard work by each fellow and represents a major milestone in the lives of the graduating students 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), is 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, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and operated in Central Asia for ten 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 provided extensive training and education to the young Central Asian men and women who comprised its staff and worked in its lending and investing programs. The staff informed the CAAEF Board that this business education had proven invaluable. In conducting research for its legacy proposal, the CAAEF Board found that there was strong demand among private sector businesses in Central Asia for employees with a Western business education. Few opportunities existed, however, for academically qualified yet financially disadvantaged students to obtain an undergraduate business degree in Central Asia. The CAAEF Board determined that the cornerstone of its legacy proposal would be a financial need- and merit-based undergraduate scholarship at universities committed to the adoption of a Western-style curriculum. Recipients would pursue business-related fields and would be citizens of one of the five countries in which CAAEF operated.

In addition, the Board would include 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 expertise and practices at selected institutions of higher education 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 open market economies operating within democratic environments; and promoting other activities that will generate a favorable environment in Central Asia for private business to succeed and entrepreneurial spirit to thrive.



SINCE MAY 2007

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.

PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

Our partner universities, AUCA and KIMEP University, were selected based on various criteria including their use of English, the international language of business, as the primary language for instruction; their adoption of a Western-style curriculum and teaching methodology; and a willingness to support the goals of the Foundation and its student fellows. The Foundation is most grateful for AUCA and KIMEP University’s dedication to providing their students with the technical skills, knowledge, and critical thinking habits required for success in the business world, where our students will spend their professional lives, and their continued commitment to the highest quality education.



AUCA



KIMEP University

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR: AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION



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

Since 1974, American Councils has worked in 89 countries important to national security, prosperity, and peace, and built a community of more than 89,000 alumni, including national leaders, ministers, members of parliament, ambassadors, and CEOs.

THE FOUNDATION EXECUTES ITS MISSION THROUGH TWO PROGRAMS

ENTERPRISE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

A financial need-based undergraduate business education scholarship program for academically gifted students who, due to financial hardship, would not otherwise be able to pursue a university education. Scholarships are provided at selected Central Asian universities to citizen residents of the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

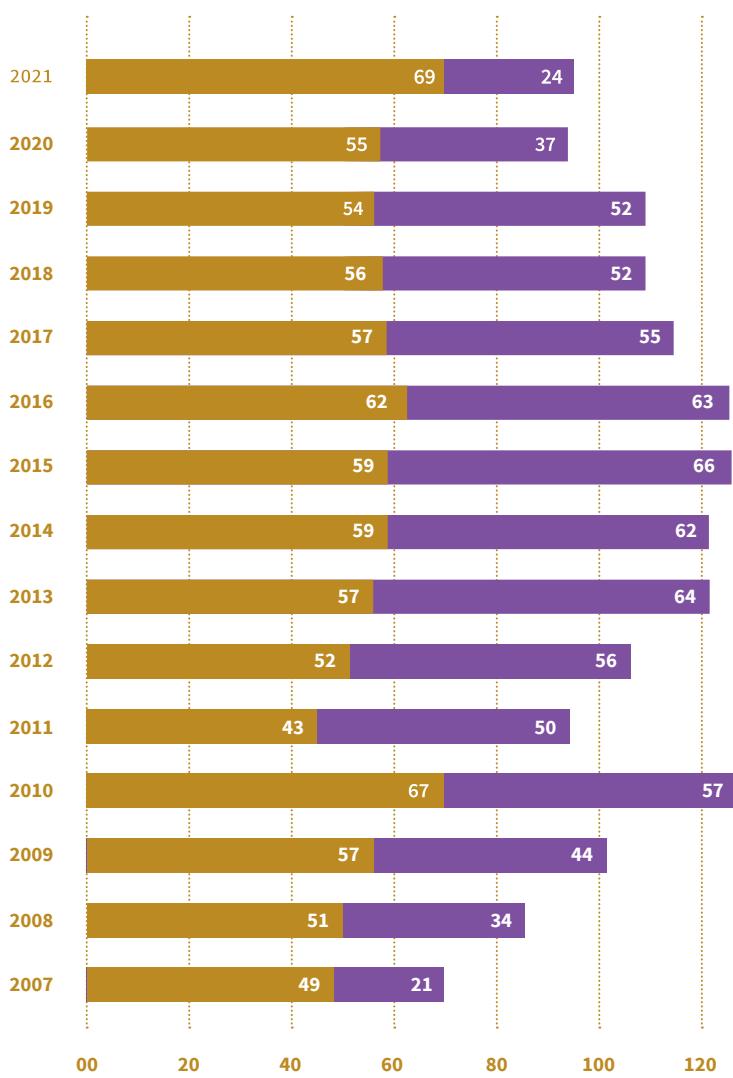
ENTERPRISE INTERN FELLOWSHIPS

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.

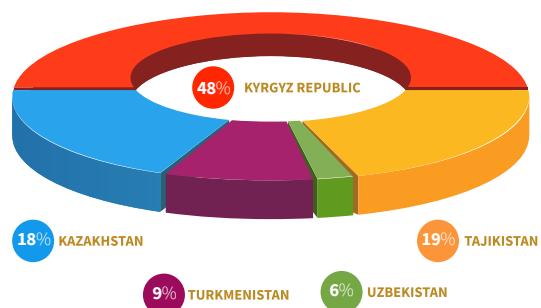
ENTERPRISE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

In the 2020-2021 academic year, **93 students were awarded U.S.-CAEF scholarships** – 69 at AUCA and 24 at KIMEP University. This total includes 45 students (two cohorts of fellows) sponsored by the U.S. Department of State who began their studies at AUCA in 2019 and 2020.

STUDENT FELLOWS BY INSTITUTION



STUDENT FELLOWS BY CITIZENSHIP SINCE PROGRAM INCEPTION:



AUCA



KIMEP UNIVERSITY



GRADUATION 2021

Celebrating the 11th Class of U.S.-CAEF Fellow Graduates

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. They have continued the traditions initiated by earlier Enterprise Student Fellows. Their collective success is a credit to their parents, their families, their professors, their universities and their U.S.-CAEF family. They have mentored incoming fellows, helped create and strengthen the U.S.-CAEF Student Association, taken campus-wide roles in student government and university clubs, managed entrepreneurial ventures, won opportunities to study overseas, and volunteered their time and skills to their communities.



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

At KIMEP University, full time students with a semester **GPA of 4.0 or higher are placed on the “President’s List,”** while those with a semester GPA of **3.75 to 3.99 are placed on the “Dean’s List.”**

The academic performance of this year’s graduating class has been exemplary. Of 19 student fellows, 12 or 60% — have been recognized on the President’s or Dean’s List.



Our seniors have also taken advantage of highly competitive, enriching study abroad programs in France, Poland, Turkey, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

In the pages that follow, we offer profiles of these outstanding young men and women, written by the graduating Fellows themselves.

GRADUATING SENIORS RECOGNIZED ON THE PRESIDENT’S & DEAN’S LISTS



NURZADA
ABDIVALIEVA



BIBIGUL
ARZYBAEVA



MUKHAMMADNOSIR
ABDUZHABBAROV



DILNAZ
IMERAMZAYEVA



ADILKHAN
KALIBEK



UMAR
NASRIDDINOV



ABDUVOHIDKHAJA
QODIROV



BEKZAT
SADYRBAYEV



DILRABO
SAIDLIEVA



SYMBAT
SLAMBAYEVA



RUSLAN
ZHANAIDAR



ALMAT
ORAKBAY

A photograph of four young women of diverse ethnicities standing outdoors. They are dressed in casual attire, including jackets and jeans. Two women are in the foreground, smiling and laughing, while two others are partially visible behind them. The background shows a brick building and some foliage.

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



AUCA GRADUATES

Nurzada Abdivalieva



MAJOR:
ECONOMICS

AWARDS:
DEAN'S LIST
FALL 2018 & 2019

PRESIDENT'S LIST
FALL 2020

FINALIST OF THE U.S.-CAEF
CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP
PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON,
DC IN FALL 2021

📍 KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

I have always been passionate about mathematics. Mathematics is an amazing science to explore and I am ready to dedicate my life to this subject. I have always been fascinated by how applying all the formulas and theorems can solve some of the world's biggest problems. As time passed, I started realizing that there is another unexplored world apart from math and science, and there is no particular formula to explain real-life challenges. I concluded that limiting myself by studying only one area prevents me from seeing other viewpoints.

Therefore, I needed an education that could transform my mindset. The only university in my home country that could offer me a comprehensive and inclusive education was AUCA. It could provide a platform for me to express opinions, take part in debating, and explore the ever-expanding world of ideas. And the only opportunity to help me realize my goal was the U.S-CAEF Program.

Becoming a finalist of this amazing scholarship program has changed my life. Due to this program, I was able to grow both personally and professionally, and meet many inspiring friends who want to contribute to the economic development of Central Asia. In addition, besides academics, I tried myself in different areas of interest. I was privileged to intern in the marketing department at Burger House and Tumar Art Group.

Moreover, I worked as a project manager at Neobis IT Company, implemented social projects aimed at raising awareness about building a sustainable future, took part in the Youth Social Entrepreneurship Program, and won a Student Initiative Development Program (SIDP) grant to implement civic engagement initiatives.

Certainly, besides extracurricular activities, my priority was always to receive profound knowledge that I could use in my future career. Therefore, I worked hard with my studying and was twice named to the Dean's List for excellent academic performance. Due to my good grades and recommendations from professors, I became part of the Writing and Academic Resource Center and was accepted as an exchange student to Soldbridge International School of Business, Daejeon, South Korea, although I declined it later due to the pandemic.

These experiences helped me shape my goals for the future, gain important knowledge and skills and develop a sincere desire to bring positive changes to my country. U.S-CAEF not only allowed me to study at one of the top universities in Central Asia, but also inspired me to work in the education sector. Being a recipient of this amazing scholarship, I fully understand how invaluable it is; therefore, I want to help other young people to earn a quality education and continue taking advantage of these opportunities.

“Being a recipient of this amazing scholarship, I fully understand how invaluable it is; therefore, I want to help other young people to earn a quality education and continue taking advantage of these opportunities.”

“Success stories of other fellows were so inspiring, that I became motivated to add my own value to this program.”

My journey with U.S.-CAEF began during the last semester of my sophomore year, when I received the unique opportunity to join the family of outstanding students at AUCA. By that time, many fellows were already far along on their career paths by attending different courses, interning at leading companies in Kyrgyzstan, and even launching their own creative projects. Success stories of other fellows were so inspiring, that I became motivated to add my own value to this program.

As for my academic achievements, I became a writing tutor at the Writing Academic Resource Center (WARC) at AUCA and joined a team of some of the brightest AUCA students. There, while helping mainly freshmen and sophomore students, I was able to improve my interpersonal skills. Moreover, I was among the few students who had a chance to attend courses offered for AUCA students by leading universities such as Stanford, Harvard, and Princeton. My GPA has always been a priority; I am proud to finally have achieved my highest term GPA of 4.0.

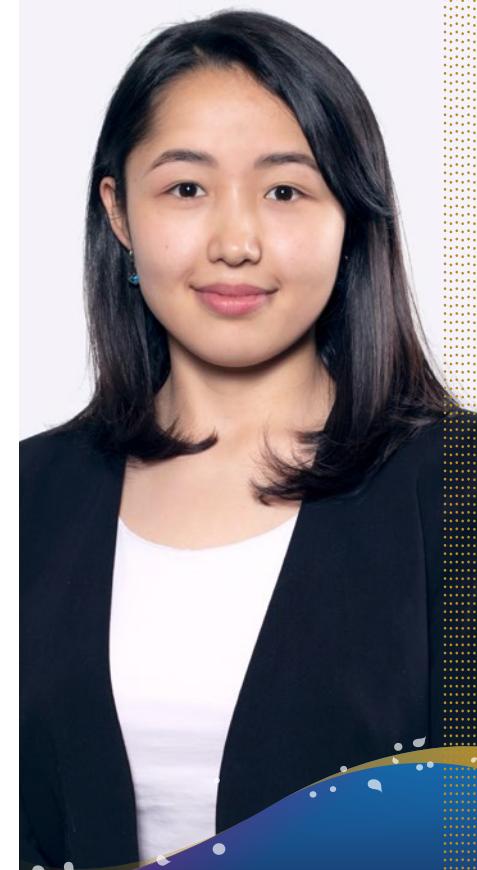
Regarding my professional growth, I have completed several internships within and outside of AUCA. The most memorable one was in the marketing department of Svetofor, an e-company, through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program. There,

I realized how wide the possibilities of the e-Commerce sector are and how far it may go in the near future. Later, I decided to intern at the Alumni Relations Office of our University and acquire a valuable network for further development in the e-commerce area. During the summer, I managed to launch my own small online shop and in real time try all my skills in practice.

In addition, I was selected as a volunteer for the third Nomad Games and later for the Ethno festival called “Nomad universe” held in Saudi Arabia. After spending almost three weeks there, I was not only introduced to a new culture, but I also learned to value what we have here in Kyrgyzstan. After my return, I initiated a creative writing club together with the Academic Development Office, served as a peer advisor for freshmen students, and volunteered in different big events at AUCA.

Today, two years after joining this program and looking back on the path I have taken to get here, it is very bittersweet to acknowledge how close we are to graduation. The journey with the U.S.-CAEF program was very fruitful and I wish I could experience it again! For the younger fellows, I suggest constantly seeking opportunities to develop and find new opportunities. You will be amazed by the variety of things to explore and discover.

Nurshoola Aibek kyzy



MAJOR:
BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION

📍 KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



TALAS

Ibrokhimbek Akhmedov



MAJOR:
BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION

◆ KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



Like many other students at my high school, I did not know exactly where my future would take me. It was absolutely clear, however, that acquiring a bachelor's degree would be crucial. When I started looking into different universities, both in my country and abroad, I realized that my family lacked sufficient funds to pay for the tuition. I had almost given up on the idea of applying to AUCA and was looking at other local universities when I found out about the U.S.-CAEF Program. It became a saving grace for me. At school, I had very good grades, took part in different extracurricular activities, and even won several school and city Olympiads. However, my application process for this program was a little bit different than that of most fellows. At the time of application, I was a FLEX exchange student in the United States and had to take all my tests and interviews online.

The past four years at AUCA were a priceless experience. Along with the extensive knowledge, I gained in a variety of business-related subjects, I met a lot of great people. The U.S.-CAEF fellows became my new, large family, in which everyone would always assist one another. I knew I could share any problems with my peers or our coordinator, and I would always receive great advice in return. Even though I completed the last three semesters online because of the

pandemic, the quality of education was always great. I acquired a lot of new knowledge in the fields of marketing, management, accounting, and many others.

Aside from being fully committed to my education, I managed to successfully find and manage three e-cigarette stores. The first one I created when I was in my first year of study; it allowed me to carry out my vision of creating a society where people would smoke cigarettes less often.

In my sophomore and junior years, I was an exchange student through the Work & Travel Program. Together with friends from the university and other program fellows, we spent a beautiful summer in Montauk, New York. It was another opportunity that my university provided, and it helped me meet a lot of new people from not only the USA, but from other parts of the world like Mexico and Europe.

My life before U.S.-CAEF was different and I changed greatly. I became more mature, had a chance to study at one of the best Kyrgyz universities and received many other wonderful opportunities. Moreover, I became part of a large family that would exist even after graduation. I believe that my mission after graduating is to help my country grow and become richer, healthier, and more successful.

“My life before U.S.-CAEF was different and I changed greatly. I became more mature, had a chance to study at one of the best Kyrgyz universities and received many other wonderful opportunities.”

I was always a smart kid and had excellent grades in all my subjects in school. Because of my commitment to my studies, I focused mostly on academics during my undergraduate studies, and I hope to eventually pursue master's and Ph.D. degrees. I am an Economics major, but I also have a genuine interest in mathematics and took on a minor in Applied Mathematics at AUCA. Though these are both challenging fields, I am proud to have maintained a 3.99 GPA. In fall 2019, I became a finalist of the Program in International Education developed by Bard College and spent the spring semester of 2020 at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. That same year, I was also selected as a recipient of the Writing and Research Center scholarship and began tutoring AUCA students in economics.

During my four years at AUCA, I was also engaged in numerous extracurricular activities. I was part of the basketball team for the first two years of my studies, and I participated in the Japanese and Philosophy clubs. I volunteered at AUCA events and participated in projects about the 'Green Economy' and education organized by AUCA in 2018, and the Youth Social Entrepreneurship Project in 2017. In addition to that, I was privileged to mentor two U.S.-CAEF fellows (Valeriya An (2019) and Fariza Dusmatova (2020)) and was responsible for mentoring an orphan high school student from a rural area of Bishkek through the Better Future Movement, organized by FLEX Alumni. I also gained work experience as a financial assistant at Montauk Asset Holdings, New York, USA; the office manager at "Mister Marketing" LLC, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; and Economics Tutor with both U.S.-CAEF and AUCA.

"My gratitude toward the board, coordinators, professors, and fellow U.S.-CAEF scholarship recipients will never cease. I would like to thank all these people for the amazing four years I have spent at AUCA, which are going to serve as a solid foundation for my future achievements."

I have achieved all the great things I have in my life with the help of different scholarships and international programs. Thus, I want to return all the help I have received through these scholarships by becoming a professional in my field of study, which in turn would positively influence the economy of my country. Therefore, one of my biggest aspirations is to support or conduct a program such as U.S.-CAEF, JACAFA, or PIE Bard in order to assist young leaders in pursuing their goals as much as I have been assisted and supported by the wonderful people who are part of the aforementioned programs. I am proud to be an alumna of these great programs and I will do my best to support them now and in the future. My gratitude toward the board, coordinators, professors, and fellow U.S.-CAEF scholarship recipients will never cease. I would like to thank all these people for the amazing four years I have spent at AUCA, which are going to serve as a solid foundation for my future achievements.

Bibigul Arzybaeva



MAJOR:
ECONOMICS

AWARDS:
PRESIDENT'S LIST
FALL 2020

DEAN'S LIST
FALL 2018 & 2019

FINALIST OF THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2021

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

OSH



Bakyt Mamytbekov



MAJOR:
BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION

📍 KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



I remember when I first applied to this program: filling out the documents, answering questions about finances, short-term and long-term life goals. It was then that I knew I wanted to strive for this opportunity. At the beginning of this journey, the U.S.-CAEF Program gave me the opportunity to study at AUCA, surrounded by dedicated students and great friends. Each year, AUCA provided me great experiences that I will always remember.

The first year of study taught me how to ask the right questions; it was like a paradigm shift. The professors of my courses made me realize how important it was to think critically. My first year ended with my departure to Germany for the summer. The peculiarities of other cultures helped me to broaden my horizons and look at my life from a different perspective.

The second year at AUCA taught me to understand what was important for me. I tried to use my theoretical knowledge in different fields. I applied my skills at business cups, including one held at AlmaU University, where we came in first. Then I participated in a social project between Kyrgyzstan and the USA called “Cultural Bridge,” for which I made a video story about the jewelry of nomads in ancient times. Later that year, I also began a project with a friend to make rocking chair cradles.

The third year of my studies taught me to recognize that you cannot get everything at once and that things do not always go as planned. I started looking at problems as opportunities and using my creativity to solve them. After taking courses on working with procurements, my friend from AUCA and I started working with procurements. While we struggled in the beginning, we did not give up and eventually began to succeed.

The last year of my studies is teaching me how to value time. The pandemic has greatly affected the economies of countries around the world. Businesses moved to online platforms. I started studying programming and worked in a logistics company at the same time. While developing a new company, I was able to finish my internship and study the logistics industry in the USA in detail. I am now working on opening my own logistics company in the United States.

I remember a quote from Mark Twain used in my admissions essay: “The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.” I am grateful to this program for giving me the opportunity to study at university and develop myself in personal and professional directions.

“I am grateful to this program for giving me the opportunity to study at university and develop myself in personal and professional directions.”

“I highly value the mission of U.S.-CAEF because this program gives participants a chance to choose a better future. I believe that all the skills and experience I have gained throughout these years have prepared me well for my future challenges and opportunities.”

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest; thus, the U.S.-CAEF Program became the golden ticket to receive a quality education and financial support to study at AUCA for many passionate and motivated students from Central Asia, including myself. I am grateful that I am part of the U.S.-CAEF family, where I am surrounded by many talented and highly motivated people, who always support me and push me forward.

From my first year at AUCA, the spirit of the U.S.-CAEF and AUCA communities pushed me to work hard and gain valuable knowledge from the best professors and business professionals. During the summer after my freshman year, I was given a great opportunity to travel to Bayern, Germany, where I learned firsthand how German businesses and firms operate. It was truly a valuable experience for me to learn how foreign firms and businesses differ from our local ones.

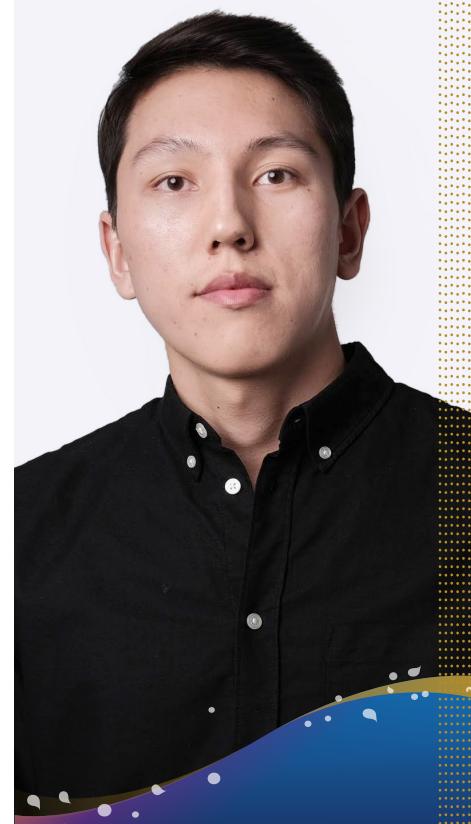
Another interesting and beneficial part of my university experience was participating in AUCA clubs, particularly AUCA Case Club, where a team of talented and passionate students solves real business cases by applying valuable and practical

skills in the business sphere. My team participated in various case competitions, and the experience I gained there will always be helpful and useful.

My recent experience at Lavand.kg, which is one of the most interesting and promising e-commerce startups in Bishkek, gave me my first look into the IT sector. After interning as a marketing specialist and conducting a market analysis of the e-commerce market in Kyrgyzstan, I learned how IT and business can work in tandem and change our economy for the better. This experience pushed me to dive into the IT world, and after 12 months of learning programming, my team and I are currently developing a social web platform where people can receive psychotherapy from professional psychologists to overcome depression and stress problems online in one platform.

I highly value the mission of U.S.-CAEF, since this program gives participants a chance to choose a better future. I believe that all the skills and experience I have gained throughout these years have prepared me well for my future challenges and opportunities.

Talgat Muratbekov



MAJOR:
BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION

📍 KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

AKSY

Bekzat Sadyrbaev



MAJOR:
BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS:
DEAN'S LIST
FALL 2019

FINALIST OF THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2021

📍 KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

TALAS

Since my childhood, I was interested in exploring great business ideas, imagining how I would realize them in the future. When I was in 10th grade, I decided that my future career path would be linked with business, and fortunately, I was lucky to discover such an amazing program as U.S.-CAEF. I am so grateful to have had an opportunity that gave me not only a free education in one of the best universities in Kyrgyzstan, but also a community and friends, whom I consider my second family.

Freshman year was the start of my active university life; I volunteered for AUCA and U.S.-CAEF by implementing various social projects, and I completed my first ever internship at an NGO called Civil Initiative on Internet Policy (CIIP), where I was engaged in different administration and office tasks. Moreover, that year I received my first recognition on the Dean's List.

Besides academics, I am proud to have been a member of AUCA Case Club. I am particularly proud that in 2018, my team came in third at the RIA Case Competition and became one of the finalists to participate in an international case competition held in Hong Kong. AUCA Case Club taught me how important teamwork is and how important it is to have leadership skills to achieve success.

Another opportunity I took part in was the Work & Travel Summer

Program. I was lucky to spend my summer in the United States, which used to be a dream of mine growing up. I visited several cities like New York, Washington, DC, Boston. After exploring the business environment in a country with one of the strongest economies in the world, I was highly motivated to raise the economy of my home country.

I decided to dedicate the last two years at AUCA to different internships to gain more practical experience. Recently, I had a chance to work for such great companies as "M-Vector" Consulting and Research Company as a junior analyst, and "Mister Marketing" LLC, where I helped with research, data analysis, commercial offers, marketing strategies and reports of many foreign companies. My hard work there paid off when I was offered a senior analyst position at "M-Vector" after graduation. However, it was my internship at "Mister Marketing" that helped me understand that I would like to pursue marketing. I really enjoyed working with international companies and managing big projects.

None of the great things I have achieved so far would have been possible without the unlimited support of the U.S.-CAEF Program. I am grateful for the opportunity to spend my university life at AUCA with my U.S.-CAEF family. Now, I can continue my journey toward my dreams and goals with confidence.

"I am so grateful to have had an opportunity that gave me not only a free education in one of the best universities in Kyrgyzstan, but also a community and friends, whom I consider my second family."



Aizhamal Shaeva

“With the U.S.-CAEF Program, I realized that dreams do come true—not magically and suddenly, but through lots of work, effort, and aspiration. I believe that all participants of the program have the background, passion, and drive to accomplish their dreams.”

It is unbelievable that the most exciting journey in my life is about to end. Four years is quite a long time, but somehow these four years flew by quickly and all my worries about finals and deadlines are being replaced with happy memories. However, these four years were so productive that I can proudly say I am extremely lucky to be among the graduates of the U.S.-CAEF Program.

Being a U.S.-CAEF fellow, I had the chance to study at one of the best universities in Central Asia, found new friends from different parts of the world, and became a part of the big U.S.-CAEF family. Every participant had an important impact on me; I feel happy to be part of the U.S.-CAEF community which became like my real family. I am very proud of each of them for their continuous successes. This community makes me believe in myself and feel motivated every day. I obtained invaluable skills and knowledge, which I will use throughout the rest of my life. With the U.S.-CAEF

Program, I realized that dreams do come true—not magically and suddenly, but through lots of work, effort, and aspiration. I believe that all participants of the program have the background, passion, and drive to accomplish their dreams.

When I think about graduation, I remember essays that I wrote in the application for this program. I was passionate about contributing to my country through the knowledge that I would gain while studying at AUCA. After four years of studying and obtaining the knowledge I sought, I want to act now. With the help of U.S.-CAEF, I feel confident about my future. The program gave me everything that I needed and supported me in any difficulties, and now it is time to return the favor by helping others. I hope to share the knowledge I received at AUCA and work for the benefit of my country.

With the help of U.S.-CAEF, I will keep learning to make my country better.



MAJOR:
BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION

📍 KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

OSH

Iskender Tavaliev



MAJOR:
BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS:
DEAN'S LIST
FALL 2017 & 2018

📍 KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

BISHKEK

When I was applying to the U.S.-CAEF Program back in 2016, I had basic ideas of what I wanted to achieve; however, I never thought I would find my second family here. U.S.-CAEF is a program that finds and selects promising students and molds them, nurtures them, and supports them while they are developing themselves personally and professionally during these four amazing years. I am undoubtedly happy to be a part of this family.

From my very first year at AUCA, my fellow U.S.-CAEF student Bekzat and I started actively participating in business case competitions; with our team, we participated in dozens of tournaments like the Bishkek Case Cup, Ria Case Cup, Changellenge Moscow and Almaty, and AlmaU Case Cup. Bekzat and I were also finalists for the Hong Kong Business case competition, though unfortunately, due to financial reasons, the trip was cancelled.

During my third year at AUCA, as part of the FLEX Exchanges to Internships Program, I was selected to intern at the Ministry of Finance for three months. I worked in the Department of International Cooperation, where

I helped with data analysis of the donor organizations (WB, ADB, IMF, IDB) and the conditions regarding the loans and investments that the Kyrgyz Republic receives from the financial organizations. By the end of the program, I also implemented a financial literacy project with the Ministry of Finance and families from rural areas.

After four years of studying at AUCA, I have concluded that education at AUCA, especially with the guidance from the U.S.-CAEF Program, is indeed the finest higher education experience not only in Kyrgyzstan, but in the entire Central Asian region. My successful studies here (including being named twice to the Dean's List) have given me the ability to think critically, write well thought-out academic research papers, and successfully use empirical knowledge; they have also made me a competitive master's degree applicant and a future professional specialist in the western market.

U.S.-CAEF helped me become who I am today and set me on the path to become a successful professional that will be of great help to the world and my homeland in the future.

“U.S.-CAEF is a program that finds and selects promising students and molds them, nurtures them, and supports them while they are developing themselves personally and professionally during these four amazing years.”





KIMEP UNIVERSITY
GRADUATES

Mukhammadnosir Abduzhabbarov

**MAJOR:**

MARKETING
COMMUNICATION
& BRANDING

MINOR:

INFORMATION SYSTEMS
AND COMPUTER
APPLICATIONS

AWARDS:

PRESIDENT'S LIST
SPRING 2018
FALL 2019

DEAN'S LIST
FALL 2020

📍 KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

OSH

From my childhood years, I dreamed of earning a high-quality education to contribute to the development of my motherland and the Central Asian region. Earning a bachelor's degree at KIMEP University with a U.S.-CAEF scholarship was a significant step forward on the way to achieving my dream. Throughout these university years, I gained the most valuable experience and knowledge. In addition to that, I had several opportunities to complete internships and work on a full-time basis, starting as an office assistant in the Dean's Office and continuing as a full-time employee of Toyota Motor, an international company.

Experience is one of the best ways to learn. Thus, I challenged myself to seize every opportunity to gain experience such as taking part in conferences, volunteering, and completing internships. As part of the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program, after my sophomore year, I had an opportunity to experience how it feels to be a full-time employee at a company operating in a worldwide network and to develop as a young professional. After

completing my internship, I was offered a job in the sales department of Toyota Motor. Furthermore, I had a chance to participate in an exchange program and spend a semester at the University of Lodz, Poland. Despite all the challenges caused by the pandemic, I reaped many benefits from my semester abroad and was even fortunate to find a job at the P&G Gillette manufacturing plant, which was a great chance to increase my understanding of international business and develop important professional skills.

It was the opportunity of a lifetime to spend the most brilliant four years studying at KIMEP. I was extremely happy to share unbelievable moments with the best people and the greatest young minds of Central Asia. Of course, all these opportunities and accomplishments could not have been achieved without the help of U.S.-CAEF. Thanks to this program, I realized my full potential and feel confident about my future. I will always be proud to be part of the U.S.-CAEF family.

“I am appreciative of all the opportunities that U.S.-CAEF and KIMEP University have given me. These experiences helped me develop myself as a young professional.”

“I would like to express my sincere gratitude to U.S.-CAEF for awarding me such a brilliant scholarship in 2017, which opened the door to an exciting journey of knowledge, international experience, various skills and new relationships at one of the best universities in Central Asia – KIMEP university.”

During my studies, I took advantage of different opportunities to grow academically, professionally, and personally. In April 2018, I received the Zhas Kyran Award and was published in the 1st issue of the book as one of the top 100 talented students of the Republic of Kazakhstan. I was also fortunate to receive a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) Scholarship in spring 2019. Along with achieving high academic results, I tried to engage in professional activities as well. I gained work experience with Coca Cola Almaty Bottlers LLP through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program after completing my sophomore year. This experience helped me develop my soft and technical skills. After finishing my junior year, I completed an internship in the Deal Advisory Department of KPMG Central Asia. The internship gave me a grasp of what kind of skills and abilities I should possess and develop to build a successful career in corporate finance. Consequently, I set a goal of developing my future career in the corporate finance sphere.

As a person who is passionate about discovering and learning about new cultures, I always had a dream of studying or working abroad. As such, I participated in the Global Volunteer project in Turkey, organized by an international youth organization – AIESEC – in summer 2018. I received a Global UGRAD scholarship to study at SUNY Plattsburg, USA in fall 2019. Throughout this experience, I was able to broaden my horizons and make connections with people from around the world. The experience of studying abroad also helped me realize that I am a global citizen. I am convinced that I was able to achieve my accomplishments thanks to the generous support from U.S.-CAEF. I am very grateful to U.S.-CAEF for organizing various team building events, useful workshops and other valuable activities that allowed me to connect with other fellows and alumni and to learn a lot about the professional world.

Now, I believe that I am ready to make a positive impact and contribution to Kazakhstan’s economy, development, and sustainability.

Dilnaz Imeramzayeva



MAJOR:
CORPORATE
FINANCE

AWARDS:
PRESIDENT’S LIST
FALL 2017, 2018 & 2020
SPRING 2018, 2019 & 2020

FINALIST OF THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2021

KAZAKHSTAN

ALMATY



Adilkhan Kalibek

**MAJOR:**CORPORATE
FINANCE**MINOR:**

ACCOUNTING

AWARDS:PRESIDENT'S LIST
FALL 2017 & 2018
SPRING 2018DEAN'S LIST
SPRING 2020

📍 KAZAKHSTAN

SHYMKE

I remember the moment when I came to KIMEP University during my high school as if it were just months ago. I was looking at the campus, modern classes, and fun atmosphere, but also at the serious professors and friendly students who were always offering their help. At that moment, I fell in love with this university. It became my dream to join the KIMEP community. U.S.-CAEF made my dream come true by providing me with a scholarship to study at KIMEP University. I am so grateful to U.S.-CAEF for giving me this chance and supporting me during these four years.

The first thing that comes to my mind when I hear 'KIMEP' is the academic life of the university. During these four years, I have had many different experiences – there were ups and downs, spending sleepless nights before exams, taking part in Olympiads, and cracking business cases. I did not always realize at the time how important all these experiences

were to my personal development. They helped me deepen my passion for studying and develop into a competent finance professional and a self-disciplined young man with good time management skills.

Another important part of KIMEP is the social life. I was part of the KIMEP Friends organization for two years. We organized big events such as commencement. Being a member of KIMEP Friends allowed me to develop my organizational skills. I was responsible for negotiating with potential sponsors of our events and maintaining our social media platforms. At the end of 2019, I decided to join KIMEP Accounting & Finance Club (KAFC). This student organization gave me experience working with Big Four and other large companies.

U.S.-CAEF was a springboard that helped me jump very high. I am so grateful to U.S.-CAEF for giving me this unique opportunity.

"Excellent students and future professional specialists, great professors and amazing staff, exciting classes, fun social life and a bright future- this is only a small part of what U.S.-CAEF gave me. I would like to express my gratitude to the whole U.S.-CAEF family."

“My studies both at KIMEP University and abroad had a tremendous impact on who I am today. I have gained valuable knowledge as well as the ability to adapt to a new environment.”

I would like to express my gratitude to the U.S.-CAEF Program, which has given me the opportunity of a lifetime and helped me become the person I am right now. In 2017, after spending an academic year at South Jefferson Central School in Adams, New York as a FLEX participant and returning to my native Tajikistan, I received another chance to continue my education abroad: I was awarded a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to study at KIMEP University. Thanks to U.S.-CAEF, I have spent four amazing years of my life at this university. During my sophomore year, I took part in an exchange semester in Lyon, France as an Erasmus scholar. My studies both at KIMEP University and abroad had a tremendous impact on who I am today. I have gained valuable knowledge as well as the ability to adapt to a new environment.

Moreover, during my sophomore year, I had my first professional experience at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Almaty as an intern in the finance department. This internship helped me become more confident and taught me to work in a team at a

large company. I learned a lot about the hotel industry. The time spent at the Ritz-Carlton was unique, and it motivated me to look for other professional development opportunities and led me to a part-time job at KIMEP University as a teaching assistant.

After these experiences and organizing professional development events for U.S.-CAEF fellows, I decided to push myself further and I applied for the position of data analyst with a leading online ticketing company – Ticketon. After passing the interview, I was hired as a full-time employee. Working in an e-commerce company opened a new world of business to me. I learned how to work and operate with different data analyzing tools. Furthermore, since I was working in the marketing department, I learned how to launch targeted advertising on the Internet.

I think that participating in extracurricular activities is crucial for self-development. I have been spending a lot of time doing sports and volunteering as well.

Umar Nasriddinov



MAJOR:
CORPORATE FINANCE

AWARDS:
PRESIDENT'S LIST
FALL 2017 & 2020
SPRING 2018, 2019 & 2020

DEAN'S LIST
FALL 2019

FINALIST OF THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2021

TAJIKISTAN

DUSHANBE

Almat Orakbay



MAJOR:
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
& RISK MANAGEMENT

MINOR:
MANAGEMENT

AWARDS:
PRESIDENT'S LIST
FALL 2018, 2019 & 2020
SPRING 2019 & 2020

📍 KAZAKHSTAN

ALMATY

Education and passion are two key elements of success. Since high school, I have been interested in economics. That is why I intensely studied such courses as mathematics and geography at The Nazarbayev Intellectual School of Physics and Mathematics in Almaty. In 2018, I was awarded a U.S.-CAEF scholarship to finance my studies at KIMEP University. I quickly discovered that I was passionate about the investment field, so I chose it as my major. For my minor, I chose management because it helps me look at the bigger picture and not to be confined to finance. In order to fully develop my skills as a future business professional, I tried to grasp the academic fundamentals of business. I was the winner of the GPA Challenge Spring 2019 with the highest GPA among the fellows of my cohort – a 4.30 out of a maximum 4.33.

Student life is an inevitable and important part of university years. The best way to take part is to engage in student organizations. In spring 2019, I joined the KIMEP Friends student organization, where I learned to plan and organize events.

Theory without practice is nearly useless. During my study, I engaged

in different competitions and internships. The first one was the Exchange Simulator competition organized by the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange in spring 2019. I was recognized as the most active trader among all business majors in Kazakhstan. In February 2020, I participated in the KPMG Audit Case Competition, where I gained knowledge about the banking sector. The Online Internship I took part in during summer 2020, organized by the Bureau for Continuous Professional Development of Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), was a very valuable experience that prepared me for my future career. During the internship, we studied the curriculum of the Chartered Financial Analyst and Financial Risk Manager professional designations. My team won 3rd place in an investment portfolio competition. Through this internship, I learned about the important role of AIFC in fostering the development of capital markets, private banking, Islamic finance, and FinTech in the CIS region.

Currently, I am participating in the CFA Institute Research Challenge, a global competition among students majoring in finance worldwide.

"I am so grateful for the support of U.S.-CAEF throughout these four years. All internships, competitions, and academic achievements during these years prepared me for my career journey."

First, I was very delighted to receive this scholarship right after spending an exchange year at Central High School in Elkader, Iowa as a FLEX student. After beginning my studies at KIMEP, I was very keen to pursue new experiences.

During my time at KIMEP, I was a member of five student organizations including KIMEP PIE, KIMEP Accounting and Finance club (KAFC), KIMEP CINEMA, Debate Club and Case Club. Being active in these organizations taught me many valuable skills. I learned to organize and manage various projects, fundraise, create a business plan, negotiate with investors, and present financial data. Furthermore, it allowed me to sharpen my interpersonal and communication skills, taught me to be a valuable team member and encouraged me to lead my team to achieve goals. I learned to conduct various events at a high level, such as case competitions, debate tournaments, graduation, freshmen parties, film making contests, and academic contests for financiers and accountants that led to offers from top companies in Kazakhstan.

During my sophomore year, I worked as an assistant in the President's Office at KIMEP. It was inspirational to see how the Founder and President of KIMEP University, Dr. Bang, manages and leads the institution to be the best business school in Central Asia. He is a great example of a virtuous leader, who teaches the principles of professionalism, hard work and outstanding job performance.

“I am eternally grateful to U.S.-CAEF for its continuous support throughout my four years of pursuing a bachelor’s degree and commitment to my professional growth.

U.S.-CAEF is not only an educational foundation, but also a family with caring board members and coordinators who are like loving parents, and fellows and alumni who are like brothers and sisters.”

Another impactful experience for me was completing the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program at RSM Tajikistan, where I applied knowledge from my finance and accounting courses. This experience allowed me to broaden my practical toolbox of skills, be confident in them, and further understand how concepts from previous courses can be applied in business operations.

Recently, I returned from Istanbul, Turkey, where I completed an exchange semester abroad. This opportunity enabled me to step out of my comfort zone, to be more flexible, and to seek growth in the face of new challenges.

All these achievements were only possible with the support of U.S.-CAEF and its community. I am looking forward to carrying on the spirit of high achieving that is common among U.S.-CAEF fellows.

Abduvohidkhaja Qodirov



MAJOR:
CORPORATE FINANCE &
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

AWARDS:
DEAN'S LIST
SPRING 2018
FALL 2018

FINALIST OF THE U.S.-CAEF CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC IN FALL 2021

TAJIKISTAN

ISFARA

Dilrabo Saidalieva



MAJOR:
CORPORATE FINANCE &
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

MINOR:
MARKETING

AWARDS:
PRESIDENT'S LIST
FALL 2017 & 2018
SPRING 2018 & 2019

**FINALIST OF THE U.S.-CAEF
CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP
PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON,
DC IN FALL 2021**

📍 TAJIKISTAN

KULOB

At KIMEP University, I noticed how students strived to be active in academic, professional, and student life, which motivated me to try as many opportunities as possible. During my first year, I applied to be a coordinator for a summer program in Silicon Valley focused on social innovation, which became a kick-starter for my future professional endeavors. These endeavors included part-time jobs at KIMEP University as an office assistant at the DPRK Strategic Research Center and as a teacher assistant to Professor Vladimir Garkavenko. In summer 2019, through the U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program, I interned in the Financial Department at Coca Cola Icecek Tajikistan where I developed a deep interest in FMCG companies, and as a result, I decided to do my second internship in the Corporate Affairs Department at Danone Berkut Kazakhstan in the fall of 2019.

In addition, I participated in numerous business case competitions, which helped me build teamwork skills. One of the notable business competitions was the U.S.-CAEF Case Cup 2019, where my team won first place among KIMEP and AUCA students, and I was also awarded the 'Best Speaker' award. In April 2019, my team won the Mars Business Game. I also participated in the international

business case championship Creative Shock and my team was chosen as one of the top 40 among 250 teams across the world. Together with KIMEP students, we also participated in the Changellenge Business Case Competition and obtained a 'High-Quality Award' diploma. Furthermore, I participated in the Persuasive Speech Contest organized among all Almaty universities, where I won both first place and the 'Audience Choice' award.

Involvement in student organizations has been one of my priorities during my time at KIMEP University. Soon after I joined the KIMEP Times organization as a writer, I was promoted to the position of editor and to date, I have edited more than thirty articles. In addition, as a member of the KIMEP Fashion Industry, I helped organize two Miss KIMEP and two KIMEP Top Model events.

I am currently working in the government as a Chief Specialist in the Department of International Relations and Investment Attractions at Free Economic Zone "Kulob." I feel like I am contributing to my community and my country by utilizing the knowledge and skills I gained during my four years at KIMEP University. Thank you, U.S.-CAEF, for the fruitful four years!

"U.S.-CAEF made my dream to study at KIMEP University a reality and provided me with so many opportunities to grow. With pride, I can say that I am a U.S.-CAEF fellow and soon-to-be alumna!"

“Live for the moments you can’t put into words,” they say. Well, I must have had an unbelievable time at KIMEP because there is no way of fitting four years of my life into 400 words! But I will try.

My journey started with the Future Leaders Exchange program (FLEX). During my exchange year at Charles M. Russell High School in Great Falls, MT, I received a letter announcing a scholarship opportunity at KIMEP University. At that time, I could not even imagine studying there on a full scholarship. I cannot fully express my gratitude to U.S.-CAEF for all the support and opportunities it has given me. U.S.-CAEF has linked me with so many people that have contributed to my personal growth, each of them in their own way. I am especially grateful for meeting two of my best friends, U.S.-CAEF fellows Azat and Adilkhan. We were introduced to each other on the first day at university and have not parted ever since. There was not a single day I ever felt homesick, because KIMEP became my second home and U.S.-CAEF became my second family.

My freshman year at KIMEP was probably the most memorable. We were so young and enthusiastic! I immediately joined a student organization called KIMEP Friends. I gained tremendous experience in hosting events and made a lot of friends. During my second year, I started tutoring English at a language school. I realized that I loved teaching and sharing my knowledge, so I still teach and

“There was not a single day I ever felt homesick because KIMEP became my second home and U.S.-CAEF my second family.”

prepare students for the IELTS exam. However, there were times when I needed a tutor myself. U.S.-CAEF not only given me the opportunity to study at one of the best universities in our country, but also supported me throughout all these years. Whenever I struggled with a class, the program would offer to hire a tutor and cover the costs. Sometimes I wonder how I would have passed some of my classes without this generous gesture!

The program also organized many events dedicated to enhancing our professional skills that helped me a lot while working at international companies.

Looking back on how far we have come together as a class makes me so proud. All the boys and girls whom I met four years ago are now young professionals ready to conquer the world. Even though saying goodbye is hard, I believe that every end also has a new beginning.

Symbat Slambayeva



MAJOR:
MARKETING

MINOR:
MANAGEMENT

AWARDS:
PRESIDENT’S LIST
SPRING 2018 & 2020

DEAN’S LIST
FALL 2017

📍 KAZAKHSTAN

NUR-SULTAN



Azat Taizhan



MAJOR:
CORPORATE
FINANCE

MINOR:
MARKETING

📍 KAZAKHSTAN

KARAGANDA

Today, as I am working on completing a bachelor's degree in corporate finance and looking back on my journey, I understand that I have had the best student life and gained valuable knowledge that I could have only dreamed of previously.

I remember the day when I became a U.S.-CAEF Program fellow. On July 26, 2017 I received a call with the big news, which made me the happiest person in the world. After a difficult selection process, I came to Almaty and became a student at the best university in our country. From the first semester, I actively participated in extracurricular activities and became a member of one of the biggest student organizations, KIMEP Friends.

My second year of study was even more interesting and exciting. In fall 2018, I became a member of the KIMEP Student Association (KSA) and held the position of Deputy BCB-2 (Bang College of Business, sophomore year), and later became a member of the KSA Tender Committee. The experience helped me understand work processes at the university. Every month our team had meetings with the university administration and the President of KIMEP, Dr. Chang Young Bang, to discuss issues pertaining to internal operations. Together with my team, I managed to solve many problems for which Dr. Bang awarded me a certificate of appreciation for my contributions.

One of the memorable events in 2019 was participating in the student show "Stars on Ice" in Almaty. For about four months, 13 couples prepared for the ice skating event. After months of hard work, my partner and I became winners of "Stars on Ice" in spring 2019. In the summer of the same year, I had a chance to take part in the Work & Travel Program in the USA. I had an amazing summer and improved my English skills. During my third year of studies, I opened a new student organization and became its president. The name of the organization is Mountain Kings KIMEP and it popularizes skiing and winter sports at our university. The club is still running.

In my fourth year, I started to pursue professional opportunities. All this would not have been possible if in 2017 the U.S.-CAEF Program had not chosen a simple guy from Karaganda and believed in his dream. Thanks to U.S.-CAEF, I am earning more than just a higher education degree. I am grateful to U.S.-CAEF for all the support given to me over these wonderful four years. I am grateful to every employee and member of the program who surrounded me and contributed to my growth. I am proud to be a U.S.-CAEF graduate.

"I am proud to be a U.S.-CAEF graduate and I am thankful to the program for making my dreams come true."

“I am very grateful to the U.S.-CAEF Program for the opportunity to study at the best university in the country and follow my dreams. I will do my best to justify the efforts put into me.”

I was born in the city of Petropavlovsk in the very north of the country. While studying at the Nazarbayev Intellectual School, I chose the elective subject “economics,” where we studied the basic concepts of macro and microeconomics. These classes helped me determine the field of study that I would like to pursue at the best business school in Kazakhstan- KIMEP University, which is famous for its high-quality education and international faculty. For me, entering KIMEP University was a dream, which the U.S.-CAEF Program helped me realize. For my major, I chose finance, as I have always been interested in issues related to increasing and ensuring efficient management of capital. As it turned out, KIMEP had all the necessary resources and expertise to train professionals in finance at the international level. Very experienced faculty members, along with the favorable learning environment, helped me gain valuable knowledge for my future career.

However, theoretical knowledge alone cannot make you an expert in your field. This requires practical experience as well. And once again, U.S.-CAEF gave me a chance to participate in the Regional Internship Program, thanks to which I was able to work at the international private

equity fund CEECAT Capital. During the internship, I gained valuable experience in the investment sector and acquired practical skills such as working with MS Office instruments, understanding business communication and conducting market analyses. The internship helped me shape my career goals further.

During my studies at the university, I tried to pay a lot of attention to extracurricular activities and student life. In four years, I managed to become Head of the Marketing Department for the student organization KIMEP PIE, was involved in the activities of the business development department at AEISEC, and became a member of the KIMEP Finance and Accounting Club, where I gained valuable experience, great networking skills and unforgettable memories. Moreover, thanks to the environment created by very progressive and motivated students, I was able to participate in many case championships and events from Big 4 and other international companies.

To summarize, during these four years I had a fascinating student life, and I was able to take my first steps towards achieving my career goals. None of this would have been possible without U.S.-CAEF.

Ruslan Zhanaidar



MAJOR:
FINANCE

AWARDS:
DEAN'S LIST
SPRING 2020

FINALIST OF THE U.S.-CAEF
CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP
PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON,
DC IN FALL 2021

📍 KAZAKHSTAN

PETROPAVLOVSK

THE FOUNDATION'S INTERN FELLOWSHIPS

ENTERPRISE INTERN FELLOWSHIPS

Through the 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 the International Capstone Internship Program.



REGIONAL SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Since 2009, the Foundation has operated the Regional Summer Internship Program, which is made available on a competitive basis to a limited number of student fellows completing their second year of university study. Both AUCA and KIMEP University require their business and economics students to undertake a formal internship towards the end of their third year of study. The Foundation's Summer Regional Internship Program is intended as an opportunity for participants to become familiar with the local business environment, enhance their skills, and gain practical experience that will help them make informed choices about their degree-required internships in the following year.



A total of **6** graduating seniors took part in the summer 2019 U.S.-CAEF Regional Internship Program. **Three** fellows interned at companies in Almaty, one in Bishkek, and two in Dushanbe:

**Mukhammadnosir
Abduzhabbarov**

**Nurshoola
Aibek kyzy**

**Dilnaz
Imeramzayeva**

**Ruslan
Zhanaidar**

**Abduvohidkhuja
Qodirov**

**Dilrabo
Saidalieva**

The Foundation is grateful to the companies in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan that hosted the Enterprise Interns in the summer of 2019:

**Toyota Motors
Kazakhstan**

**Coca-Cola Almaty
Bottlers**

CEECAT Capital

Marketplace Svetofor

RSM Tajikistan

**Coca-Cola Icecek
Tajikistan**

POST-GRADUATE INTERNATIONAL CAPSTONE INTERNSHIPS

The 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. Eight outstanding student fellows from the graduating class have been selected to take part in the International Capstone Internship Program in fall 2021: **Bibigul Arzybaeva, Bekzat Sadyrbekov, and Nurzada Abduvalieva from AUCA, and Dilrabo Saidalieva, Abduvohidkhuja Qodirov, Umar Nasriddinov, Dilnaz Imeramzayeva, and Ruslan Zhanaidar from KIMEP University.**

The Foundation's International Capstone Interns take part in an established and success-proven program operated by The Washington Center (www.twc.edu) in Washington, DC. In addition to the vocational and educational components of the internship, Enterprise International Interns benefit from joining a diverse group of peers from the U.S. and other countries in their program. During their time in the U.S., interns engage in valuable networking opportunities and extensive interactions with experts and leaders from public, private and nonprofit sectors.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association (the Association) fosters and enhances the involvement of Enterprise Fellowship Program alumni in supporting and complementing the mission and goals of the Foundation through communication, service, 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 demonstrated outstanding entrepreneurial skills and have started their own businesses in often challenging economic environments, while others have decided to further their education and are pursuing MBAs.

This year, **19 new graduates** join the U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association, bringing the total number of program alumni to **306**. The alumni leadership team represents both AUCA and KIMEP University:



Aizhan Kerimbek kzy
PRESIDENT, AUCA CHAPTER
KYRGYZSTAN



Irina Abasova
PRESIDENT, KIMEP CHAPTER
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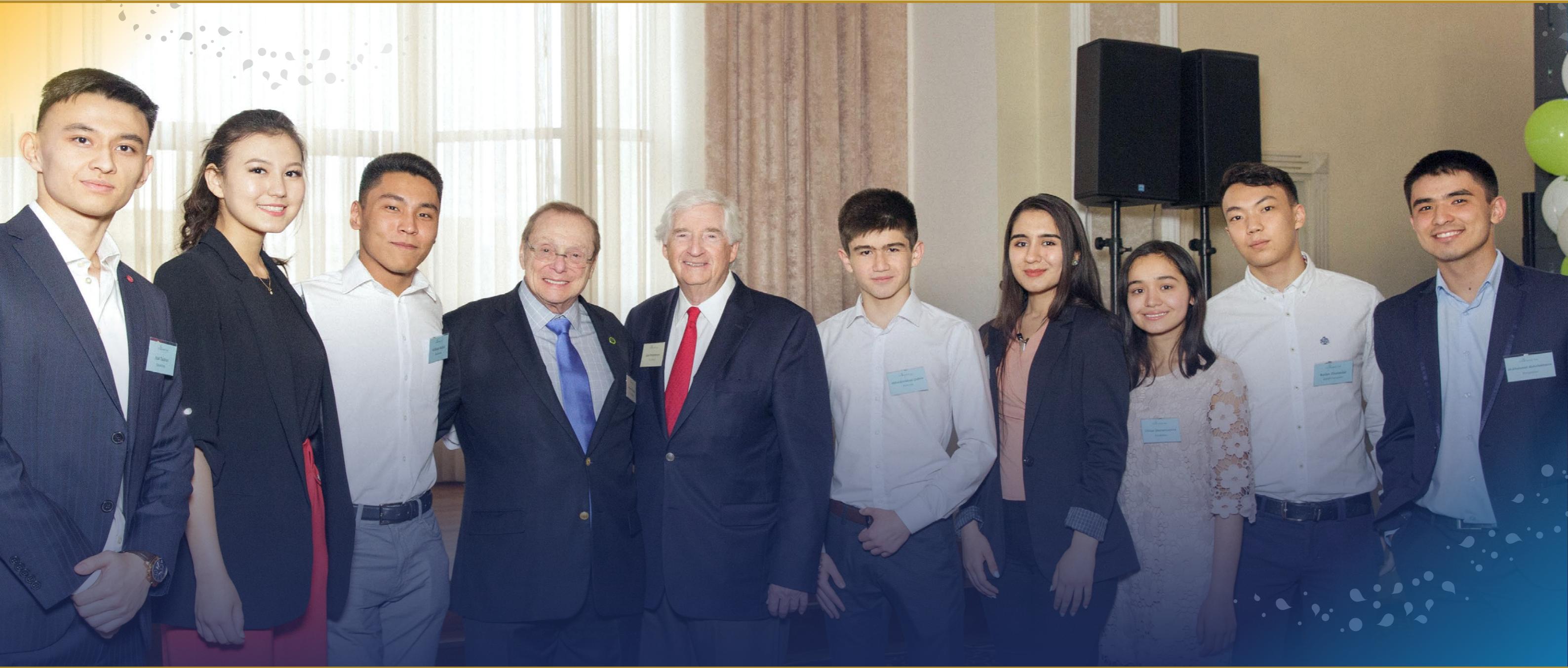


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Mamadzhanova**
ALUMNI COORDINATOR
IN TAJIKISTAN



The Association hopes that the graduating class of 2021 will join in their efforts to establish an important platform for communication and cooperation between all program alumni, current fellows and local business communities. Such efforts will complement the Foundation's goals in fostering the U.S.-CAEF mission, promoting professional development, and contributing to an entrepreneurial spirit and the economic prosperity of Central Asia.





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