

# ENTERPRISE

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MOLDABEKOV**

CFO & Board Member,  
Provident Fiduciary Ltd. and  
SilkSoftGroup Technology Ltd.



**ABOUT THE PROGRAM:** U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation (U.S.-CAEF) Enterprise Student Fellowship Program is an undergraduate business education scholarship program for academically gifted students sponsored by the U.S.-Central Asia Education Foundation and the U.S. Department of State, and administered by American Councils for International Education. The Foundation, in partnership with the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek (AUCA) & the KIMEP University in Almaty, provides educational opportunities in business, economics, and technologies for students from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan to cultivate a principled entrepreneurial environment in Central Asia that fosters the growth of free enterprise and open markets.



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

# CLASS OF 2022 AT A GLANCE

Throughout their four years of study, the fellows have shown themselves as **true leaders and role models** at their respective universities. They have mentored incoming fellows, taken campus-wide roles in student government, created university clubs, managed entrepreneurial ventures, won opportunities to study overseas, and volunteered their time and skills to their communities.



A total of **28 fellows**, 14 from KIMEP University and 14 from American University of Central Asia (AUCA) will celebrate their graduation on **June 4 in Almaty, Kazakhstan** and **June 11 in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic**, respectively.

They are joining the ranks of **305** other U.S.-CAEF graduates who are forging successful careers and contributing to the development of their countries, the region, and the world.

# 71%

**RECOGNIZED  
ON PRESIDENT'S  
& DEAN'S LISTS**

Our seniors have also taken advantage of highly competitive, enriching study abroad programs in Austria, France, Kazakhstan, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

## CLASS OF 2022 AT A GLANCE

CONTINUED



This year, the graduating fellows hail from all **five countries of Central Asia**:

**8** KAZAKHSTAN

**2** TURKMENISTAN

**11** KYRGYZSTAN

**1** UZBEKISTAN

**6** TAJIKISTAN

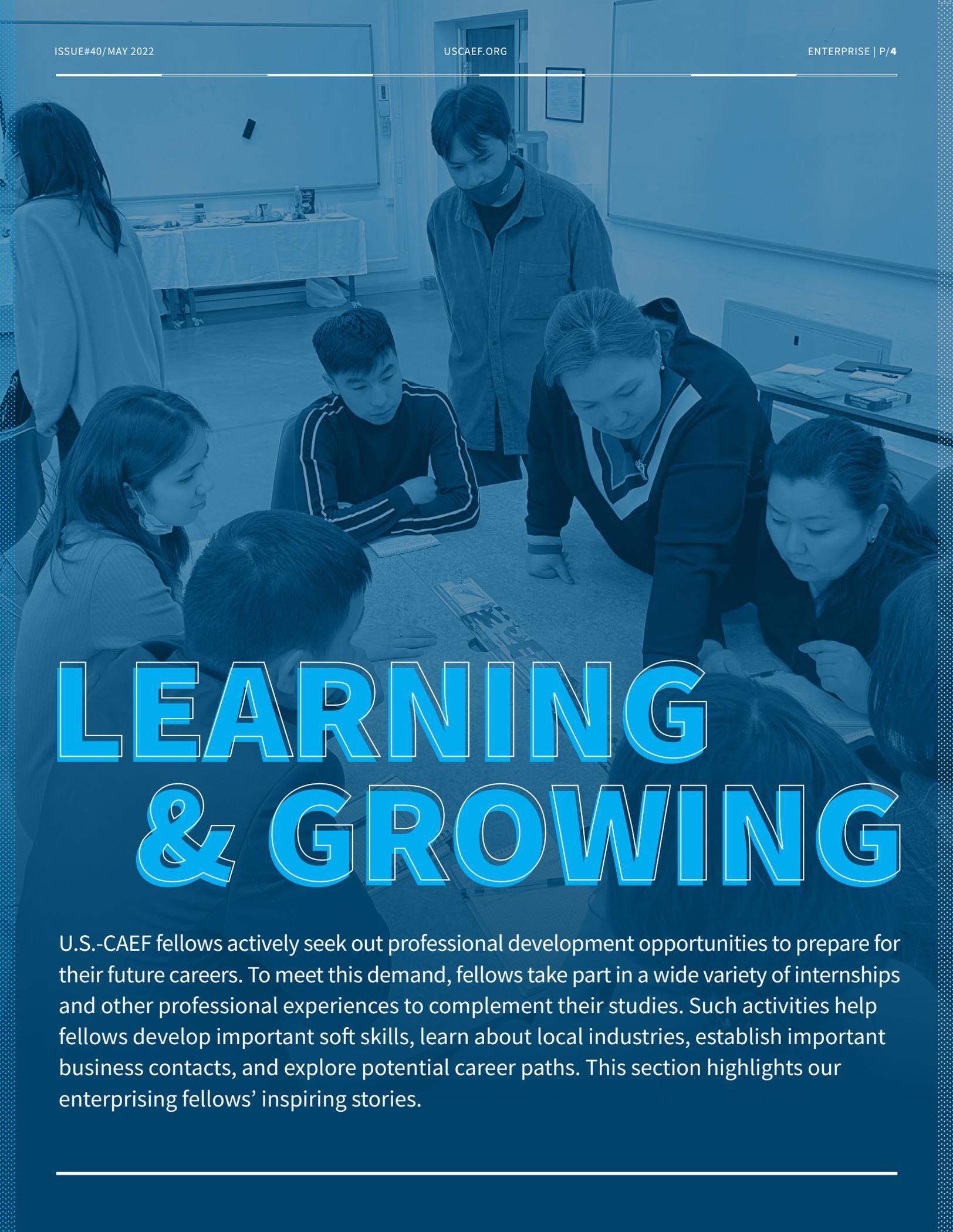


“

The Foundation’s Board expresses our deepest appreciation to KIMEP University, Dr. Bang and the wonderful professionals and professors who have made the KIMEP undergraduate experience transformational for our U.S. CAEF Fellows. AUCA, its Board, administration and professors similarly have dedicated themselves to providing an education designed to equip its students with the knowledge, skills, and values to navigate a complex world where accelerated change has become the norm.”

— **Margaret Grieve**

VICE CHAIR | U.S.-CAEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# LEARNING & GROWING

U.S.-CAEF fellows actively seek out professional development opportunities to prepare for their future careers. To meet this demand, fellows take part in a wide variety of internships and other professional experiences to complement their studies. Such activities help fellows develop important soft skills, learn about local industries, establish important business contacts, and explore potential career paths. This section highlights our enterprising fellows' inspiring stories.

## LEARNING &amp; GROWING

CONTINUED

# LEADING GOOGLE DEVELOPER CLUB

BY ASOL NUSUVALIEVA  
AUCA 2020 | KYRGYZSTAN

After a long and challenging selection process, I was chosen to be a Google Developer Student Club Lead and open a new chapter of the club at my university in September 2021. My involvement allowed AUCA to become a part of the GDS club network around the world.



Google Developer Student Clubs (GDSCs) are community groups for college and university students interested in Google developer technologies. Students from all undergraduate and graduate programs with an interest in growing as a developer are welcome to join the community. By joining a GDSC, students are able to advance their knowledge in a peer-to-peer learning environment. There are over 700 clubs all over the world, including North America, Africa, Europe, and all across Asia!

My motivation behind opening the club was to be able to create an environment that could cultivate inspiration, knowledge, guidance, and opportunities for student developers at AUCA; I wanted to be able to contribute to the developer ecosystem of the university. After completing my freshman year entirely online, I wanted to come up with a way to boost the professional skills and experiences of students in my department beyond just our academic courses, so initiating the GDSC at AUCA seemed like a valuable opportunity.

So far, the club has organized various online activities and events such as info sessions, tech talks, and hands-on programming workshops. Sometimes, we are even able to coordinate the events in tandem with other GDS clubs from countries like Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Iran. In addition to organizing the events, I have been dispersing engaging and informative technology and computer programming content on social media networks like Instagram and Telegram, as well as sharing educational and professional opportunities with student developers like hackathons, programs, and educational courses.

Since running the club, I have acquired many interpersonal and professional skills. I have learned a lot about leadership, team management, stress management, content creation, execution, and negotiation processes. I am very proud of myself for taking this step to further my own development as well as that of my peers!

## Solution Challenge Info Session Event

Presented by GDSC Leads

January 30, 2022 | 7 pm Bishkek time via Zoom



Sol  
Baatyr



Azamat  
Mambetaliev



Sardor  
Narziyev



Leyla  
Gasimova



## Спортивное Программирование в АУЦА: его сущность и важность

Tech Talk от профессора Азамата Деркенбекова и  
первокурсника-спортивного программиста Ислама  
Давлетова

Google Developer Student Clubs



## LEARNING &amp; GROWING

CONTINUED



## WONDER WOMEN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

BY FARANGIS MIRZOBEKOVA  
AUC A 2019 | TAJIKISTAN

Last October, I was lucky enough to qualify for the third cohort of the Wonder Women Mentorship Program from Wonder Women Hub. Wonder Women is a community where every woman striving for development can find like-minded people; share her expertise, knowledge, and skills; give other women self-confidence and support each other while pursuing their goals.

Wonder Women Mentorship is a thoughtful and affordable program in which women experts from all over the world share free career and life advice with those striving for professional development and personal growth. Wonder Women Mentorship allows you to combine and instill a culture of support among women of different social and professional statuses through the work of mentors. My mentor was Laura Adamova, entrepreneur and Founder of the Living Atmosphere furniture salon in Kazakhstan. The program lasted three months and during this period, together with my mentor, we were able to work on the goals that I had set at the beginning of the program. During the program, we took part in several trainings and discussions, where I was able to get acquainted with the other participants. Participating in this program helped me find a balance in my personal and professional life and taught me how to properly allocate my time and cope with stress. I was lucky to be mentored by a woman who is not just a professional in her field, but also an excellent leader. Laura shared with me tips and advice about how to run my own business and how to effectively manage my future team. I hope to use this knowledge in my future career and return to this program as a mentor in the future!

The program has ended, but I am still communicating with my mentor, and she supports me on my career path. Moreover, I volunteered to become an ambassador of the Wonder Women community and, under the supervision of Rada Islamova, who was also a speaker at our Alumni Regional Conference, I will work to expand our community and help women develop their lives.



## INTEGRATING INNOVATIVE TOOLS OF CLIMATE EDUCATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

BY SAMAR KANATOV  
AUC A 2020 | KYRGYZSTAN



With the hope of informing people about the climate change situation outlined in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report without having to read all 2,000 pages, a team of peers and I started the very first Climate Fresk in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia ([climatefresk.org](http://climatefresk.org)).

On February 5, the first Climate Fresk, an IPCC based educational game, was held for university faculty in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Climate Fresk is an international innovative tool for climate education. It is an immersive game in which one can gain a more complete picture of the phenomenon of climate change by building cause-and-effect relationships. And, most importantly, the game allows us to see the role of humans in climate change, as well as to think about how we humans can also solve climate change issues. Climate Fresk is suitable for teaching the complex processes of climate change in an accessible and interesting way to people of all ages, and of any educational and professional background.

It is very gratifying that university professors from different campuses across Bishkek participated in Climate Fresk. They are some of the most important actors for raising awareness of climate and sustainability issues. Professors and other staff from the city's universities highly appreciated the concept of the Climate Fresk game and its engaging and innovative approach to learning.

The event was held as part of the global universities' climate teach-in initiative of Bard College: SolveClimateby2030. Training takes place once a year on one specific day and at multiple universities around the world. In Kyrgyzstan, the initiative is being held for the third time. As in previous years, it will take place on March 30. In the meantime, in the coming weeks, the participants of the game will have several more informational meetings and climate change training sessions in order to better understand the climate crisis.

The Climate Fresk workshop is being held in Kyrgyzstan by some of the first trainers of the tool in Central Asia: Cholpon Aitakhunova, Samar Kanatov, and Olga Tarabashkina.

## LEARNING &amp; GROWING

CONTINUED



## FREELANCING EXPERIENCE

BY FARIZA DUSMATOVA  
AUCA 2020 | TAJIKISTAN

After completing my freshman year, I anticipated an exciting summer, and I wanted to do something interesting and productive. One of my acquaintances sent me a job application for a position as a freelance writer to contribute articles to a website. I decided to apply, though I did not expect they would choose me because I had limited experience in this field.

A week later, I received the good news that they had chosen to hire me out of all the applicants. Receiving the offer allowed me to believe in myself and my abilities, and I realized that even with minimal experience, a good work ethic and professionalism can go a long way.

During my work experience, I learned a lot of new things; I wrote articles for three websites (one about cats, one about law, and one about cars). As someone who did not have much knowledge in any of these topics prior to starting the job, I was pleased to learn a lot of new information.

To write an article, I studied each topic and wrote a meaningful piece with all of my heart behind it. Every time I was praised for submitting an excellent article, it provided me with confidence and pride that people were interested in reading what I was writing. This experience taught me that there are no limits in life; we write our own destinies, and we are the authors of the story that we want to experience. We just need to believe in ourselves and try everything possible, because it may be our one opportunity to do so.



## INTERNSHIP WITH BAKER TILLY TAJIKISTAN

BY NEKRUZ MIRZOEV  
AUCA 2020 | TAJIKISTAN

After finishing my freshman year at AUCA, I was eager to put the skills and knowledge I gained from my university classes into practice. This desire led me to begin an internship at Baker Tilly, one of the biggest audit companies in Central Asia, where I was able to learn about the structure of local companies and the importance of accounting.

Even though I didn't possess extensive knowledge of accounting when I started the internship, the work interested me so much that I also enrolled in an intensive accounting course simultaneously.

During the internship, I was responsible for compiling updates from the Management and Supervisory Board, and documenting correspondence with state bodies regarding legal issues. This allowed me to learn a lot more about company management, and to gain insight on how to identify issues that could affect the company's financial position.

While I was an intern, from November 2021 to January 2022, we managed to conduct an audit of the Tajik Metallurgical Plant and later of Alif Bank, one of Tajikistan's leading banks. I was particularly interested in the audit of Alif Bank, where I was able to observe the organization and procedures of this bank, thereby expanding my understanding of the banking sphere. Overall, this internship experience changed my career prospects and highlighted to me the impact of the financial sector in our region.



## EXPLORING THE HR FIELD

BY LOLA MARDINAEVA  
AUCA 2020 | TAJIKISTAN

FIFTYFIVE Group is a consulting and investment company that has been operating for more than 10 years. It consists of 15+ companies that work in 5 holdings: the sports industry, food, finance, aviation, and the tourism and clothing industry.

My journey with FIFTYFIVE Group started in March of 2021, when I was a participant of their "School For Volunteers of 55 Group" program. It was a three-month program that consisted of one month of lectures and two months of practical experience. The topics of all the lectures were very relevant and helpful; they were conducted by various employees within the company, and each of them was an experienced professional in their sphere. Later, all volunteers were placed in various companies and departments within the FIFTYFIVE Group based on their abilities, goals, and talents. I was lucky to be placed in the HR department at the head office of the company, where I was offered an internship upon completion of the volunteer program. I grew personally and professionally, and improved my presentation, management, organizational, and computer skills. I took on a wide variety of tasks related to finance, organizing team-building activities, recruiting and interviewing new volunteers, copywriting for different channels, and updating documents and personal files. All employees were amiable, open-minded, and eager to provide help and support, even if I was meeting them for the first time. My internship ended in December, as I had to leave for Bishkek to continue my studies in person.

## LEARNING &amp; GROWING

CONTINUED

**EXPERIENCE IN INVESTMENT ANALYSIS WITH ACCELERATE PROSPERITY**

BY FARANGIS MIRZOBEKOVA  
AUCA 2019 | TAJIKISTAN

Last September, when it was announced that the fall semester classes would be held online, I decided to stay home in Tajikistan. At first, I was worried about not being able to go to my classes in person at the university, but then I decided to take advantage of the opportunity and gain some work experience. I have always been interested in Accelerate Prosperity (AP), so I decided to apply there as a volunteer.



AP is a new global initiative of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in Central and South Asia and provides technical expertise, creative financing solutions and market connections for small and growing businesses. Due to my interest in and desire to work with the organization, AP allowed me to stay as a volunteer for a one-month period.

Starting in September 2021, I began working with the Supporting Cooperation and Opportunities for Regional Economic Development (SCORED) project. SCORED seeks to catalyze regional economic development and integration in the border regions of Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

Along with other members of my team, we organized business trainings for clients in order to help them develop their business ideas. It provided a great opportunity for me to improve my networking and project management skills. I also had a chance to meet new professionals in the business sphere, which was helpful for

my future career. It was interesting to work on the development of business ideas, since I had a chance to practice the knowledge that I gained at university in practice. The month I spent volunteering for the SCORED project was productive; after successfully finishing all my assigned tasks, I was offered a five-month paid internship at AP as an Investment Analysis Intern.

I gladly accepted this offer, as I was planning to stay in Khorog for that time anyway, and the internship schedule was flexible, allowing me to properly devote time to my studies as well.

During the five months, I had a chance to work on various stages of startup implementation, beginning with idea generation, financial modeling of the business, pitch presentations and idea implementation itself. I learned how to analyze potential business ideas, how to create financial models and calculate the potential profits and losses of a future business, how to present ideas to investors and, finally, how to

succeed in entrepreneurship. My experience with Accelerate Prosperity was useful in terms of gaining both hard and soft skills. The most valuable part was working on a team of experienced analysts and learning the nuances of the profession from them.

I am grateful for the friendly atmosphere that AP staff members created for me, and for the amount of support I received both professionally and educationally. It is important for an intern to be treated as a full-fledged employee in order to perform to the best of their ability, and Accelerate Prosperity provided me with exactly that chance.

I finished my internship at the end of February 2022, and I am excited by the possibility of joining the AP team in the future as an Investment Analyst. Overall, participating in an internship in investment analysis once again confirmed for me that I made the right decision about my academic major.

## LEARNING &amp; GROWING

CONTINUED



BY NEKKHOTUN QIRGHIZBEKOVA  
AUCA 2020 | TAJIKISTAN

“Undoubtedly yes!” This was my reaction when a close friend of mine asked if I wanted to participate in a two-month internship in fall 2021. When older U.S.-CAEF fellows told me about working in different companies and completing their first internships, I recall feeling anxious, bewildered, and eager all at the same time. The feeling that such an experience would be out of reach for me made it all the more difficult for me to start my first internship. But I knew it would be a great opportunity for me.

After being accepted to the internship, I received a text message directing me to report to the office immediately. I spent over two hours preparing what to say and how to act to ensure that I would make a good first impression. For my internship, I worked as a Business Consultant and Finance and Admin Manager Assistant/Intern at Pamir Energy Company. The duration of the internship was about two months, from October 5 to December 5, 2021.

I was primarily involved in the Resettlement Action Plan for the Sebzor HPP Project. As a business consultant, my responsibilities revolved around delivering business counseling to localities impacted by the Resettlement Plan, as well as reviewing and enhancing their submitted business plans for businesses they intended to start in their villages. I worked with the financial manager to keep track of the resident's accounts and generate balance sheets. In addition, I was in charge of conducting weekly progress reports on activities for the project, and preparing presentations for potential investors.

Despite the relatively short time frame of this internship, I was able to acquaint myself with professional expertise from seasoned, intelligent, and dedicated individuals. I had the opportunity to receive invaluable mentorship and career guidance, and establish my own professional network.



BY IMRAN ALIMOV  
KIMEP 2018 | TAJIKISTAN

Recently, after passing a two-part interview, I started an internship at the sales department of the company “Franchising5.” This is one of the largest companies which provides a full range of franchising services.

As an intern in the sales department, my task was to lead the first two stages of negotiations with potential franchisees. During my first meeting with a potential partner, my task was to find out whether they were eligible to become a partner, as well as to get them interested in our franchisor's business. This stage is one of the most difficult, as you always have to find common ground with different people. The second stage requires extensive knowledge of the market and the business. I led negotiations, addressed objections and concerns, provided insights about the franchisor's business model, and outlined financial and legal expectations. The final part of the negotiations was led by a team leader, who initiated the signing of contracts.

During the first month of the internship, I learned several important skills and effective sales techniques, such as SPIN (situation, problem, implication, need-payoff) and verbalization. I am fortunate to have been able to join this company, as I received constant coaching and gained knowledge that I never received at my university. In order to take away as much as possible from the internship, I worked nearly 12–14 hours every day. By the end of the first month, I outperformed my expectations by 320% and became one of the three best interns, gaining a total of \$30,000 in sales for the company.

This exceptional experience gave me knowledge and skills that will be invaluable as my career progresses, and I would advise everyone to acquire some experience in sales. Even if you have a different major, the skills you gain in this field will enhance your conversation and networking abilities and make you more competitive in the labor market.



BY AIANA RYSBEKOVA  
AUCA 2018 | KYRGYZSTAN

Since March 19, I have been enrolled in the Data Science and Machine Learning Bootcamp at DevX School with a full scholarship. DevX was founded by Kyrgyz developers who are now working in top tech companies. One of their goals is to provide quality education in IT for Kyrgyz young people and provide scholarships for six-month courses.

I feel very excited and honored to have received this opportunity to deepen my knowledge in data science. Even though I have tried myself in different fields, at the start of my senior year, I realized that my love for math and budding knowledge in data science can be combined to implement various solutions to current global issues.

Throughout my four years at AUCA, I have consistently taken courses in statistics, data analysis, and programming languages. However, I felt a strong desire to develop my skills even more. Now, with the help of professional instructors in various disciplines at DevX, I am gaining a comprehensive understanding of important concepts in this field. For six months, I will be working with various teammates with different backgrounds on group projects and building my skills in data science. In addition to learning about technical aspects of data science, we will cover soft skills for data scientists, which is very crucial knowledge to have.

I am very thankful to U.S.-CAEF alumni and fellows for always supporting me and helping with identifying different opportunities, and I want to thank Meerim Moldaliev for being the first one to introduce me to the field of data analysis two years ago, through her short workshop on Tableau. After that, I was inspired to dig more into this subject, and now I am exposed to many opportunities to strengthen myself and become a better professional.

## LEARNING &amp; GROWING

CONTINUED

# INTERNSHIP IN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

BY ZEVAR MAMADJONOVA  
KIMEP 2018 | TAJIKISTAN

At the start of my last academic year at KIMEP, I began an internship to continue putting the skills and knowledge I have gained in my classes to practical use. Shortly after I participated in the Regional Internship Program last summer, I was offered to continue working for the company Crowe Horwath ACG-LLC Tajikistan, which I gladly accepted.

In October, when it was announced that classes at KIMEP would be conducted in-person again, I had to quit my job and return to Almaty. I strategically planned my schedule so that I would have a lot of spare time to devote to developing my professional skills and gaining practical experience. Thus, In November 2021, I started a new job in the pharmaceutical industry, which is a very interesting field for me, through an internship program called "Professional Start with ORION PHARMA EAST LLP." It is a six-month internship program, which was organized by the company for the first time this year, and I was lucky to be selected as one of a few participants.

Orion Pharma East is a subsidiary of a Finnish company, and the company is over 100 years old. It has been operating since 2015 in the Central Asian region. The company has four business areas: original drugs, generic drugs,



veterinary drugs, and fermion. I am an intern in the generic drugs section, and serve specifically in the position of OTC (over the counter) Product Manager Assistant in the Marketing Department. I am responsible for producing promotional materials for the products for both medical (doctors) and non-medical (pharmacies) representatives, as well as making competitive analyses of the market for particular products.

I have always been passionate about the medical and pharmaceutical fields, and at one point I even wanted to become a doctor. Now, as a soon-to-be graduate in the business sector, I am pleased to have found this great opportunity to combine my two interests and

use my business skills and knowledge to assist with the development of the pharmaceutical industry. This is not just an opportunity, but a challenge as well. Especially in the beginning, I had a hard time understanding some of the technical medical information, but now, looking back, I am proud that I persevered regardless of the hardships. Every day I learn and analyze different data to complete specific new assignments.

Therefore, based on my personal experience, I can confidently say that choosing one interest over another is not always the only solution; rather, they can be merged and practiced together. So, go ahead and do not limit yourself!

## LEARNING &amp; GROWING

CONTINUED

## FROM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

BY SEZIM KANATOVA  
AUCA 2018 | KYRGYZSTAN



I always thought managing a business would be a really cool experience. Later, I realized that it was not something that would keep me motivated and excited all the time. As such, I decided to start attending programming courses during my sophomore year to learn a new skill. Building applications requires logic, creativity, and problem-solving skills, and the whole process offers a fun challenge for me. I love the feeling when I finally finish a project I am working on. Since then, I wanted to become a developer.

**IN SEPTEMBER, I WAS SELECTED AS 1 OF 20 GIRLS FROM KAZAKHSTAN & KYRGYZSTAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE “EXPONENTIAL” PROGRAM.**

“Exponential” is a three-month preparatory course intended to help participants apply to FAANG (Facebook (Meta), Apple, Amazon, Netflix, Google) internships, organized by Nazerke Kalidolda, an ex-Google employee. Mentors from Meta helped us refine our technical interviewing skills by teaching us how to solve algorithmic tasks. I was the only participant who was not pursuing a computer science degree, and this was my weakest point. So, after a couple of failed technical interviews, I decided that I would need to prepare even more for my future technical interviews. So, I applied for another program and got accepted.

“DEVxToGoogle” is a preparatory course similar to “Exponential” operated by a Kyrgyz couple located in Chicago. The program covers lessons on technical questions, behavioral questions, and CV reviews, taught by current and previous employees of Apple, Meta, and Amazon. The course was more challenging than the previous one I had taken part in, and it required my full commitment. In the technical part of the course, we learned about general computer science data structures and algorithms. The behavioral component included practicing tricky questions by preparing ready-to-go answers and hitting the key points that recruiters are hoping to hear. The brand management part of the course aimed to prepare us to present ourselves to recruiters. We worked on our LinkedIn pages to ensure that search engines find us faster, and we learned tips for passing CV screenings that are processed by Applicant Tracking Systems in larger companies.

Taking part in this course was a really exciting and challenging experience that pushed me to delve further into engineering. It also taught me that studying business would in fact be a great asset when it comes to applying for future opportunities.

It is a definite advantage to have a background in business in addition to possessing programming skills. Thus, I decided I would like to study Business Informatics for my master’s degree, and ultimately become a business engineer.

**I am so thankful to U.S.-CAEF for providing me with a scholarship to AUCA, allowing me to explore and pursue extra opportunities like this one.**

# GROWING THROUGH BUSINESS COMPETITIONS

Every year, U.S.-CAEF fellows take part in challenging business competitions to test their knowledge and skills. This year as well, our current fellows from KIMEP University fared well against their peers, winning important prizes.



## GROWING THROUGH BUSINESS COMPETITIONS

CONTINUED

### Case4Success Winners

BY ZEVAR MAMADJONOVA & SAVSANGUL MAMADLOIQOVA  
KIMEP 2018 | TAJIKISTAN

Case4Success is an international case championship organized by Turan University, which involves both higher academic institutions throughout Kazakhstan and partners from global industries. The competition provides a great opportunity for students to improve their business skills and make new professional connections. This year, the event was organized in an online format and took place from February 21 to March 5, 2022. Event partners included large global companies like Burger King, Head Hunter, Mars Kazakhstan, JTI, and others. Participants had the option of choosing the company they wanted to work with and demonstrate their competency in resolving cases using their analytical thinking and creativity.

The team named 'Level4,' comprising U.S.-CAEF senior fellows **Zevar Mamadjonova** and **Savsangul Mamadloiqova** was delighted to take part in this competition and present their work, based on thoughtful research analysis and discussions about Burger King's current obstacles and possible innovative solutions. Zevar and Savsangul confidently presented their solutions in front of the judges, and were thrilled to win first place in the championship! Following the event, the team was invited to the Burger King office, where they had the opportunity to communicate with the heads of each department and discuss possibilities for employment at the company.



“ I was delighted to take part in such a valuable experience and present myself from a professional point of view in front of international business experts. During our team's meeting with the Burger King representatives, I had a chance to analyze the industry from within and gain a better understanding of how multinational franchise corporations manage their operations.

— SAVSANGUL MAMADLOIQOVA

“ Following all the advice of successful U.S.-CAEF alumni, I have tried my best to gain meaningful, hands-on experiences by participating in different case competitions and championships. Case4Success was a great opportunity to test my skills in the marketing field by coming up with solutions to make Burger King “number one” among students in Kazakhstan. It was an empirical study that involved conducting interviews and surveys and analyzing data, and formulating everything into a cohesive, understandable presentation, supported by financial indicators so the judges would understand our suggested strategies. Despite the challenges, my teammates and I worked hard to exceed the expectations and suggest solutions that could be applied in real life within a realistic time frame. Overall, it was a very interesting and relevant experience.

— ZEVAR MAMADJONOVA

**WINNING SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL CASE CHAMPIONSHIP WAS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT FOR BOTH FELLOWS, & THEY REPORT THAT IT WAS AN IMPORTANT STEPPINGSTONE IN THEIR PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL GROWTH.**

## GROWING THROUGH BUSINESS COMPETITIONS

CONTINUED

# IMA Europe Student Case Competition

BY ZEVAR MAMADJONOVA & ERADZH NASRIDINOV  
KIMEP 2018 | TAJIKISTAN

In February, my team “Fly High” and I were lucky to be selected to represent Kazakhstan in the Regional Finals of one of the most prestigious global case competitions, the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) Europe 2022 Case Competition. The IMA Europe Student Case Competition is an annual event organized by IMA. The event brings students from all over the world to apply their management accounting knowledge in practice by providing solutions to a provided case.

The competition is very competitive, and it is the second year KIMEP University was represented. With the supervision of our faculty member from KIMEP, our team came up with strategies for “Maximizing Customer Value at the Cage.” As part of the first round, we had to submit our solution in presentation form by the specified deadline.

Because we were selected to attend the Regional Finals, we got to present our solution live, in front of a panel of judges in Athens, Greece. I am very proud to report that our team won 2nd place! As a result of our work, each member of our team will receive a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) scholarship, \$250 in prize money, and free enrollment in online CMA preparation classes. Each of us were thrilled to gain unique experience and apply our analytical skills in practice.



“It was a great opportunity for me to apply and enhance my skills, particularly in management accounting. It was my second time participating in this competition; both experiences were unique and challenging in their own ways. This year, I had strong and committed teammates with different backgrounds and areas of expertise, ultimately creating an ideal group. With a clear objective to succeed in this competition, I tried my best to analyze and complete the case. Although we did not win, I enjoyed the process, using my brain in new ways, reviewing course materials and brainstorming strategies. Most importantly, the opportunity to travel to Athens, Greece for the Regional Finals motivated me to try even harder and never give up, for hard work will never go unnoticed! Earning 2nd place among all other European teams showcased our strong practical solutions and our competency in this field. I am very proud of this achievement, and hope future U.S.-CAEF fellows can go even further in the competition!”

— ZEVAR MAMADJONOVA

“Participating in this competition allowed me to gain new experiences, practical knowledge, and skills. I firmly believed that we could succeed with this team because we knew and trusted each other so well that we were ready to take on any challenge. Making it to the Regional Finals and coming in 2nd place was a great accomplishment.”

— ERADZH NASRIDINOV

In addition to this exciting accomplishment, the event offered an amazing opportunity for us to travel and explore a new place. I got to travel within Greece and explore the local culture and environment, including traveling around one of the well-known islands, Crete. Eradzh, on the other hand, traveled outside the country and visited other European locations such as Germany and Austria. **In summary, this experience was truly unforgettable!**

# GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

## WORLD YOUTH FORUM

## مُنْتَدَى تَشَابُهِ الْعَالَمِ

### ABOUT APPLYING FOR WORLD YOUTH FORUM

After undergoing a rigorous selection process, U.S.-CAEF fellow **Imran Alimov** (KIMEP'22) was chosen as one of just a handful of individuals from Central Asia to participate in the World Youth Forum (WYF) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. A full interview with Imran and further details about the forum and the application process can be found in the interview below conducted by AUCA junior **Gulnoz Faizakova**.



GULNOZ FAIZAKOVA  
AUCA | TAJIKISTAN



## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

CONTINUED



**Q: Congratulations on taking part in the World Youth Forum in Sharm El-Sheikh! Can you briefly describe how you found out about the program, and what the application and admission process looked like?**

**A:** Thank you! Since high school, I have been following various social media pages that share different educational and professional development opportunities. (The U.S.-CAEF scholarship was one of the first opportunities that I found this way). I was scrolling through my Instagram feed and saw a post with a brief description of the forum and eligibility criteria. Without hesitation, I started filling out the application. To my surprise, it was a very simple process. The application involved basic information like my name, university, and address, as well as an essay answering the question, “Why should you attend the World Youth Forum?” The application was completed using an account on the program’s webpage, which was simple and convenient.

Selected candidates received an acceptance letter around three weeks after the application deadline. The next step was to book flight tickets in the same portal where the application was housed. After receiving my tickets, I got an email with instructions on how to apply for a visa. So, the last step was paying the visa fee, and I got it within a few business days!

**Q: How many participants took part in the program? Was selection competitive?**

**A:** Each year, around 3,000 participants take part in the forum, so it is a very large event! When I was filling out the application, I was encouraged by my odds, as I figured it would not be difficult to be selected as one of 3,000 participants. Only after I arrived at the conference did I find out that there were more than 270,000 applicants, which means that the acceptance rate was only 1.1%.

It is possible that if I had known this before, I might not have applied. However, I encourage all U.S.-CAEF fellows to apply and not worry about the acceptance rate, as there are typically not many applicants from Central Asian countries, so there is a better chance to be selected.

**Q: Who sponsors the program, and can participants apply for financial aid to participate in the event? If so, what is the application process like for this and how are candidates selected?**

**A:** The World Youth Forum is mainly sponsored by the Egyptian Government, as well as some local and international companies. The event is fully funded and there is no need to apply for financial aid separately. If you are accepted, the only expense you are responsible for is the visa fee. Everything else, including roundtrip airfare, accommodation, meals, etc., is covered.

**Q: You participated in the conference in January 2022. Does the program take part in other times during the year as well?**

**A:** WYF typically takes place in October or November each year, but it was postponed this year due to the pandemic. The application process starts in August or September.

**Q: Do you have any advice for fellows who are interested in taking part in this conference? Any specific tips for completing a successful application?**

**A:** First and foremost, try to submit the application as soon as possible, and do not wait until the deadline. Getting accepted does not guarantee that you will be able to attend the forum. There were many cases where candidates were selected but were not able to travel to Egypt because the organizing team did not have enough time to buy the tickets or, in some cases, people did not have enough time to receive their visas. Therefore, the earlier you apply, the more time you will have to get everything you need for the trip.

Second, during the conference, I got to know many attendees and I came to the conclusion that all of them actively participate in their communities by volunteering and organizing different events, which positively affect the people around them. Thus, to get selected,

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

CONTINUED

you need to describe how you are impacting your society and how participation in the forum can help you to become a professional who will bring positive changes.

Third, write a thorough, full-length essay, and try to share all your relevant experiences. The more well-rounded it is, the better. If you do not have the right experience, then try to focus more on other positive impacts you want to make on society in the future.

**Q: How was the conference structured, and which themes were discussed by the participants and speakers? What was the most interesting theme/speaker to you?**

**A:** When you arrive at Sharm El-Sheikh, volunteers tell you what to do, where to go, and guide you to the hotel. Everyone stays in separate rooms in 5-star hotels. There is always a team of organizers at the hotel who are ready to help you. The agenda is published in the event app, which everyone is expected to download.

Each day, there are over ten different workshops and conferences on various topics such as entrepreneurship, climate change, human rights, and many others. You can choose and attend the ones you are interested in.

Whatever session you choose, top professionals from different well-known companies and organizations will be featured, so each workshop will be highly informative.

**Q: Can the program serve as a networking opportunity for the U.S.-CAEF fellows and alumni?**

**A:** I believe that this forum is one of the best networking opportunities! Anyone under 40 years of age can apply for the event and meet like-minded individuals from over 130 countries.

Most of the activities are designed in a way to bring people together and allow them to share their experiences and views on various topics. You just have to be open and friendly!

**Q: Are there any other opportunities provided for alumni of the program like awards, special programs, or grants?**

**A:** I haven't heard about such opportunities, but participation in the event is not limited to one year. The agenda each year is new, so you can apply to the forum again and again until you are 40.

**Q: What are your two best memories from the program?**

**A:** Each day of the conference ended with various entertaining activities, one of which was called INSPIRE.D. It was conducted in a theater where successful young people spoke about the difficulties they faced and how they overcame them. It was truly inspiring to hear how despite how challenging their paths were, they did not give up. Whenever I face difficulties now, I recall those stories and it helps me to keep moving forward.

The second memory is related to other activities we took part in while we were in Sharm El-Sheikh. The conference itself lasted for four days, but everyone arrived 4-5 days earlier. Therefore, there was a lot of time to walk around Sharm El-Sheikh and try different activities. One such activity was scuba diving in the Red Sea. I will never forget the feeling of being 10 meters beneath the water's surface and seeing such magnificent marine life. That moment really made me realize that hard work pays off.

**Q: What would you change if you could participate in the program a second time?**

**A:** I would probably try to get to know more people from different countries. This time, I met several people with whom we spent most of the time, but I believe that it is possible to make more connections within the 10 days of the conference.



## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

CONTINUED



BY FOTIMA MIRZOEVA  
AUCA 2020 | TAJIKISTAN

In fall 2021, I was a participant of Model OSCE Central Asia Youth Talks, which took place in Sarob, Tajikistan. The OSCE Model is a simulation game that represents the OSCE Permanent Council convening during times of crisis. As a participant, I was involved in different resolutions while presenting different countries. The whole event was informative, interesting and fun. The formal parts of the event consisted of seminars, lectures, debates and simulations. Additionally, several guest speakers, who were experts in their fields, gave presentations and shared their knowledge and experience with us. The less formal components of the event were equally enjoyable; we participated in hiking, celebrating “Cultural Day,” during which we shared the unique traditions of our countries, and other fun activities.

I am delighted that I got to experience the Model OSCE Central Asia Youth Talks because I gained a lot of knowledge about the whole Central Asian region, and I made new lifelong friends from other countries.

## EXCHANGE SEMESTER AT BARD COLLEGE

BY SARFAROZ YUNUSOV  
AUCA 2019 | TAJIKISTAN

I was among a small group of students who were awarded full scholarships to spend one academic semester at Bard College in fall 2021.

Bard College is a liberal arts college in the U.S. that was founded in 1860. Bard College is also the main partner university to American University of Central Asia and is considered a very prestigious liberal arts college in the United States.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, Bard College faculty and staff were successful in conducting classes virtually and resuming all academic and extracurricular activities in person. After a year of learning online, I was happy to experience the student life and atmosphere on campus.

As a full-time exchange student at Bard College, I was able to take courses in the computer science, humanities, and art departments. My favorite courses were Statistics for Computing, Databases, and Digital Arts. In Statistics, we were able to perform different statistical analyses for real-world problems, and for the final project, we provided our own analysis in the form of a research paper and presented it in front of the student body. I was also lucky to have taken a class called ‘Databases’ with the Director of Laboratory for Algebraic and Symbolic Computation at Bard College, Professor Robert W. McGrail. We learned techniques for creating and maintaining databases on a large scale, and used university databases as theoretical and practical examples.

Student life at Bard College was fascinating. The diversity of the student body and the variety of backgrounds of the students makes the atmosphere very special and interesting. Students come from more than



40 countries around the world, which makes the college a place with diverse cultures and traditions. I became a member of a few different organizations and clubs, including the International Student Organization, Bard Civic Engagement, Robotics, and others. Being active in the community allowed me to make close friendships with Bard students from different countries around the world and from all over the U.S. Also, I was amazed by the sports culture of the universities in the U.S.; many students were involved in one or more sports and competed with other universities.

During the exchange semester, I had a chance to visit several states in the U.S., including California, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Massachusetts. I am so thankful to have had productive and amazing experiences that contributed to both my professional and academic development.

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

CONTINUED

# GLOBAL PEACE AMBASSADOR

BY NURMUKHAMAD TURKBAEV  
AUCA 2018 | KYRGYZSTAN

I was honored to be selected to take part in the **Global Peace Forum in Dubai** as a partially funded delegate. The selection process was competitive; among the representatives **from 195 countries, only 35 people were selected** for funded seats.

In total, over **180 delegates from more than 100 countries** attended the conference. The core objective of the program was to cultivate a culture of tolerance, inclusivity, and social peacebuilding across the world via “peace camps” at universities and community-based organizations across the globe, engaging Global Peace Ambassadors in their respective communities. The summit created a platform where intelligent, young, and enthusiastic peace developers from a wide array of nations could gather to work toward sustainable development and brainstorm solutions to excessive violence, hate, and discrimination. During the summit, we attended such sessions as a Young Leaders Panel discussion; a Religious Scholar Panel discussion; cultural performances; presentations on conflicts in the Middle East; and presentations about contention between India and Pakistan, Palestine and Israel, Russia and Ukraine, and Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Moreover, I was able to present my social project I have been working on in front of 150 people. Shortlisted delegates had 5 minutes to make a pitch about their projects. To make my pitch especially memorable, I decided to make it an “elevator speech” in under 60 seconds, and I am proud to say I think it went very well!

The project that I presented on is called Central Asian Nomad Youth (CANY), which I founded in November 2018 and is currently ongoing. The Instagram account for the project is [@cany.kg](https://www.instagram.com/cany.kg).

For the project, my team and I identified three major social problems to address: 1) lack of educational opportunities and improving the education and business sectors in Southern Kyrgyzstan (UN Sustainable Development Goal #4), 2) conflict resolution- specifically, eliminating ethnic clashes between Kyrgyz and Tajik people in and near border areas (SDG #16), and 3) ending early marriage and promoting gender inequality in peripheral regions of Kyrgyzstan (SDG #5).



# COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEERING

Despite their busy schedules, many fellows find time for volunteering. Community service opportunities offer many different benefits to students as well as to the communities they serve. In the passages below, we offer just a few examples of the contributions fellows have made to their communities.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE &amp; VOLUNTEERING

CONTINUED



BY ERLANBEK MATISAEV  
AUCA 2020 | KYRGYZSTAN

On March 19-20, 2022, Progressive Youth Association (PYA) run by Erlanbek Matisaev organized the Youth for Peace Conference for 20+ participants from 10+ universities. The main purpose of the grant project was to raise awareness of peacebuilding and confessional/religious understanding and friendship. Participants received skills and knowledge through debate tournaments, sessions, activities as well as field trips to places of worship, such as church and mosque. The Youth for Peace Conference was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by American Councils.



BY OYBEK TURAEV  
AUCA 2020 | UZBEKISTAN

Recently, I participated in the Afghan Mentorship Program at AUCA from November to February. As a mentor for newly-enrolled students from Afghanistan to our university, I gained lots of valuable experiences. I am grateful for this program, as it helped me make a new friend and understand better the challenges and experiences international students face. My mentee and I share an interest in cybersecurity, so it was easy to communicate and work with him.

During the program, our main goal was to help our Afghan peers adjust to the new environment and create opportunities for them to share their culture with the AUCA community. This program provided special training for mentors with psychological experts to ensure effective communication with the mentees.

Throughout the program duration, I also participated in different workshops related to IT with my mentee, and I tried to engage him in more social activities and projects. My mentee is even more experienced in cybersecurity than I am, further reinforcing that our partnership was, indeed, mutually beneficial. I am so happy to have been able to support the diverse community within our university. Through this program, I improved my communication and personal skills, and met a lifelong friend!



BY SURAYYO KHAYRULLAIEVA  
AUCA 2020 | UZBEKISTAN

In partnership with the Ministry of Public Education of Uzbekistan, the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent officially opened the American Corner in Qarshi on March 26, 2021. American Corner Qarshi facilitates English language learning through programs led by native English speakers. The Corner also serves as a hub for EducationUSA, a free advising center that provides consultation services to prospective undergraduate and graduate students who wish to study in the United States. The Corner coordinates discussion groups, virtual programs, and English language learning activities.

I was able to volunteer with ACQ over a six-month period, during which I had a chance to work with wonderful people. One of the best opportunities I received during this time was to be mentored by Marco Belmar and English-Speaking Nation (ESN) Program Coach Briana Rogers. I was also lucky enough to learn high-demand skills and gain invaluable experience conducting weekly clubs called "socials." One of the socials I run is called "Female Figures," where we discuss women's empowerment. I also organize a yoga social for the visitors and volunteers of ACQ every week. This once-in-a-lifetime "peer-to-peer" program has changed my life in many ways, since it helped me expand my personal and professional network and introduced me to people for whom I will be grateful for the rest of my life.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE &amp; VOLUNTEERING

CONTINUED

## AYALZAT KUCHU PROJECT

BY BEGIMAI AZIZBEKOVA, BAKTYGUL TAZHAMATOVA, DINISLAM ALMAZBEKOV | AUCA 2020 | KYRGYZSTAN

On February 4-7, sophomore fellows **Baktygul Tazhamatova**, **Begimai Azizbekova** and **Dinislam Almazbekov** implemented a two-day conference on empowering women in Talas by teaching them about their social, political, and economic rights.

The mission of the project was to increase the quality of life among women in the remote region through a mentorship program and informational sessions on various topics related to civic engagement. Our initiative was funded by the Student Initiative Development Program (SIDP). During the project, we invited various speakers to conduct intensive trainings in a hybrid format, including Emil Umetaliev, who spoke about the importance of education in the region; Ulan Usain, who discussed the significance of civil society; and Gulnara Kalikova, who talked about her experience at Harvard. The conference also included a presentation by KG Analytics on the educational system, as well as a session by Aicholpon Alieva on women in leadership. We were able to build strong partnerships with different organizations that supported our programs, such as Imarat Stroy and the FLEX Alumni Association.

The following feedback was provided from one participant:

“Talas is a region that is often isolated from civic movements, and these opportunities allow us to learn more about our rights in different aspects of life. The opportunity to implement the community action project also helped us to broaden our horizons. We gained professional experience; negotiating with partnering organizations helped us to expand our communications skills. Outside of the project, we enjoyed the tour around Talas and Manas Ordo Complex.

— ULARA SAIKBAEVA





# U.S. EXPERIENCES OF CAPSTONE INTERNS

The U.S. International Capstone Internship program is an opportunity for recent U.S.-CAEF graduates to immerse themselves in the global business network. The program is specifically designed to help these individuals explore career options, gain valuable skills, and make professional contacts. Two select fellows are currently completing their internships through The Washington Center's (TWC) postgraduate professional development program in Washington, D.C. The following quotes reflect the interns' impressions and thoughts about their Capstone experience.

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## U.S. EXPERIENCES OF CAPSTONE INTERNS

CONTINUED



**Sevara Tadzhibaeva**, Secondary School Alumni Programs Intern, American Councils for International Education (AC):

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AC administers over 50 programs and has thousands of alumni across the world. This year, the organization has a goal to strengthen the alumni community and foster cross-program engagement and collaboration. Thus, as my first assignment was to design an alumni annual calendar which would include important events and opportunities for alumni. The calendar was populated by field staff members and has been actively used throughout the organization. This calendar is now also used by American Councils social media specialists for content planning.

As my second project I had to review many grant applications for different programs in different countries. This experience was so amazing and useful. I learned about proposals while reviewing dozens of them. Moreover, I improved my writing and analytical skills when reviewing proposals and identifying missing parts and making suggestions for project improvement.

Another project I was assigned to was very exciting and challenging at the same time. I was appointed to plan and execute logistics for a storytelling workshop for one of the programs. The participants of the project were American college students from different states and the trainers were the legendary representatives of “The Moth” group from New York. I worked on travel, hotel, food, and PCR testing logistics. Moreover, I was able to design the workshop’s program and had a great opportunity to interact and network with different people across my organization in the process.

Additionally, I organized many fun cultural events where we explored museums, learned about the history of the Cherry Blossoms Festival, collected donations for Martha’s table and organized an alumni happy hour for FLEX and YES programs.

Besides the internship at AC, I was privileged to have an opportunity to attend sessions offered by TWC. My favorite topics were “Imposter Syndrome” and “How to Ace an Internship.”

I am beyond grateful for the experience I have had with American Councils. The experience allowed me to learn about American work ethic firsthand. I have improved my planning, time management organization, business writing and problem-solving skills further. I learned to use the “ask if not sure” method which was very much appreciated by my supervisor. Looking back, I am extremely happy I have got the most from this internship and consider it as a huge step forward. It helped me develop confidence in my professional abilities and taught me to perform any task at a high level.

## U.S. EXPERIENCES OF CAPSTONE INTERNS

CONTINUED



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### **Abduvohidkhuja Qodirov**, Product Management Intern, Buzz Voice, LLC:

Buzz Voice Inc. is a company focused on creating a bridge between traditional and digital marketing by offering voice enabled software solutions that allow people to use voice to respond to ads, discover places, and find brands. I am responsible for developing of the main product, Buzz Voice, and complementary product, Buzz Pages [Buzz pages is a no-code mini website builder located on the buzz platform].

I have always been excited about the startup world and startup culture and interning at Buzz Voice have given me an opportunity to try myself and my skills in the startup world. Especially, in the field of IT everything was very new to me, and I learned a lot. I developed some understanding of how back-end works, application programming interface (API) and web apps, SEO (Search Engine Optimization) and many more which could be applied in any company. The startup also embraces the Agile framework in day-to-day operations and has given immense results in the short time. I believe the Agile and SCRUM framework and SEO can reshape any business in the digital age.

As part of our stealth mode development [a fledgling business (a startup) working to bring a new product or service to market], we had to work closely with users of our software products. My role was organizing this feedback loop between users and developers to improve the product. Therefore, we needed to survey and get feedback from as many demographically diverse people as possible. Through carefully targeting potential clients/sponsors, I have worked with investors, IT developers, students from various universities, small business owners and employees working directly with customers.

The work culture of a startup is very relaxed sometimes and intense other times. So, as we worked in an agile framework, we had daily goals, weekly and 2-week goals. During daily briefings, we discuss our progress, what's changed and what needs to be done next.

Intense moments were when we would get excited about specific daily goals and would get carried away and work for hours without noticing the time go by. On other goals, we were more relaxed and had fun while working on them.

Those relaxing parts were very fruitful, because we would step back from those mundane parts and see other ways of getting the same results. Those shortcuts saved us time and other resources as well. This strengthened my belief that thinking and researching about the tasks you want to do, before doing it provides better opportunities, especially in the world of IT and startup.

The internship has exceeded my expectations. It has taught me how to work with investors first-hand. I have applied the skills I have learned in business classes. I have improved my 'googling' skills for sure and use of market research tools. I have learned a great deal about software development, structuring and web application development. I was surprised to find out how it is easy to raise funds or get passive investors at seed rounds, but it is very hard to get the right investors, who offer guidance and expertise for growing the company. When I saw the thousand lines of code for the web application of our product, I assumed it was very complex and very hard to write. But when I was taught the structure of it and how it works, I understood how easy it was. Most of those lines were just the programming language and the rest simple logical "if" algorithms and instructions. I am speechless about how the world of SaaS (Software as a Service) works. One of the examples would be the company called card.co, simple mini website building web tool, was founded and run by two people and has more than 2 million paying users today. I have learned how startups get funding, about the industry standards today, the things investors looking for and how to create investment pitch decks.

The people with whom I work with already have noticed my skillset and strengths in particular areas and told me about it. The founder of the company invited me to remain in the team even after the internship.”



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

U.S.-CAEF alumni are lifelong learners who continually seek out opportunities to acquire new knowledge and skills, push their boundaries and expand their worldview. Read on to learn about our alumni who embrace an always-learning mentality, and accomplishments that resulted from this approach and opportunities they pursued.

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED

## APPROACHING LIFE &amp; BUSINESS WITH A GROWTH MINDSET

A student of life, **Arystan Moldabekov** (KIMEP'11), has been successfully juggling several professional roles, online MBA studies, and family responsibilities. Despite his young age, Arystan has been holding such important and demanding positions as CFO and member of the board of directors for two companies- Provident Fiduciary Ltd., a licensed company operating in the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), and SilkSoftGroup Technology Ltd., a fintech company engaged in money services activities registered within Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC). In the interview below conducted by U.S.-CAEF Program Assistant Bekaiym Egemkulova Arystan shares his recipe for a work-life balance.

**Q: Congratulations on your new roles! What previous experience and skills help you manage all your duties?**

**A:** Honestly, it's difficult to determine specifically which previously gained experiences help me the most in carrying out tasks for my current job. Rather, I think there tends to be a sequence of events and experiences that educate you, contribute to your development and help to prepare you for your next challenge or opportunity. At each stage, you learn something new, achieve certain results, get closer to achieving your long-term goals, and possibly even discover something important that helps you to reassess your aspirations. Nearly everything you experience in your life, whether good or bad, is a valuable learning opportunity – it's a matter of making sure that you intentionally utilize it by identifying where the learning opportunity is.

**Q: What does a day in the life of a CFO and board member look like? What do your companies do, and what are your duties?**

**A:** Since 2020, I have been the CFO and Director at Provident Fiduciary Ltd., a licensed company operating in the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), authorized to provide investment management services, investment advisory services, and coordination of investment deals. My area of responsibility includes finance and control functions, regulatory compliance and budgeting, taxation, and risk management functions. Recently, I also accepted another offer for a similar role at SilkSoftGroup Technology Ltd., a fintech company working in financial services that is registered with Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC). Both companies operate in the regulated finance industry, so accepting

positions in each of them required approval from regulators. Convincing two different regulators that I would be executing roles in both companies simultaneously was another challenge, which I was able to resolve by demonstrating the precise time commitments, as well as taking measures to avoid possible conflicts of interest. Working for two different companies at the same time has been a completely new experience for me, particularly since one of the companies is in a different jurisdiction. I am looking forward to seeing where the experience will take me in the future, but for now I appreciate that it is forcing me to go outside my comfort zone and providing a great opportunity to grow.

**Q: As a leader and manager, what qualities do you value and look for in your employees? What valuable management lessons have you learned?**

**A:** I believe that everyone is unique, both in terms of personality and working style, so the qualities that I appreciate and value vary significantly by employee. I enjoy being part of a team where members are results-oriented and eager to face new challenges; where everyone fights for new and unfamiliar tasks, viewing them as ways to demonstrate and strengthen their professional qualities, rather than as scary and unnecessary challenges that they don't want to conquer. This is the type of team that will succeed.

One of the most important management lessons I have learned is based on my experience working in different environments with different corporate cultures, including the private banking sector, global international firms, and government-related entities. While some of the environments employed an authoritative style of management, I found that an inspirational style was more

effective. Your employees are not a tool for you to reach your OWN professional goals- they are your family, friends, and teammates with whom you should collaborate to reach common goals. Several friends of mine, talented professionals in their fields, were once junior members of my team, and I am really proud that we all keep in touch and continue to maintain mutual respect and support for each other after so many years.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED

**Q: You already earned your Master of Science at the University of London and now you are pursuing an online MBA. What prompted you to start an MBA? What do you hope to gain from the program, and how do you think it will help you in your career and life?**

**A:** Since I graduated from KIMEP as a U.S.-CAEF fellow, I have never actually stopped studying – I was almost always enrolled in either another degree program at a university or courses for professional certifications and qualifications in my field. During prolonged periods where I was only working, I started feeling like I was missing something important in my life, that I was depriving myself of available opportunities for growth. As such, I found that it was hard to feel completely fulfilled unless I was studying and learning something new. I love obtaining new knowledge and skills because it always helps me to achieve other goals down the road.

While countless options exist today for different degrees, I discovered an MBA program at One League, and it promised to be a great opportunity. The program offered a chance to receive a high-quality education based on the curriculum of some of the world's top business schools, with highly accomplished and distinguished professors leading the classes. For its inaugural MBA program class, One League selected 60 people from around the world, and I was extremely grateful to know that, besides me, there was one other U.S.-CAEF alum in the class. This should not have come as a big surprise, however, given how U.S.-CAEF alumni and fellows recognize and appreciate the value of education.

While I am sure the program can advance my career further, that was not the primary reason I decided to pursue it. For me, it has more to do with my aspirations to get the best possible education I can and to see where it can take me in the future.

**Q: You manage to juggle so many responsibilities related to work, your studies, and family duties. Do you have any free time? What do you do during these moments?**

**A:** While I have 'contractual' commitments with my work (i.e. hours that I am obligated to devote to my employers), I spend the rest of my hours enjoying time with my family and working on my studies, my favorite things to do when I'm not at work. Last year, my son was born, which changed so many things in my life, certainly in a good way!

Since the pandemic hit in 2019, many companies, including mine, switched to remote work, which allowed me to spend a lot more time with my family and be home to watch my son grow. It was such a blessing to be there for the moments when he tried to say his first words or make his first steps – there is nothing I would rather be doing than witnessing those precious moments!

**Q: You are constantly developing as a professional. What is your ultimate goal/dream?**

**A:** You know, humanity has been continuously developing throughout history. So, when you reach the point when you decide to stop progressing or developing further, you yourself become history. We can never know enough; the more answers we receive, the more questions we come up with. In this sense, there is no end point where you have learned all there is to know.

Instead, you have to constantly strive for more, and aspire to be a leader, not a follower. As a leader, you have the power and ability to make a sizable impact on the world because there are so many things, both big and small, that we can work on improving. My ultimate goal is to contribute to making the world a better place.

**Q: You remained closely connected to the U.S.-CAEF community after your graduation by participating in alumni projects and being a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association. What motivates you to do that? What do you think about the future of the Alumni Association?**

**A:** Thank you, Bekaiym, I am really grateful for the kind words regarding my involvement in the U.S.-CAEF community, although I hardly feel deserving of so much praise! I know that I can and should do more, and I hope to have many more opportunities to make that happen in the future. As I mentioned previously, education has opened so many doors to other opportunities in my life. U.S.-CAEF was one of the first doors to open for me and allow me this educational access, back in 2007. Every U.S.-CAEF fellow was carefully and correctly chosen by the program administrators with the belief that they deserve to be granted a top-tier university education. Today, I think it is important to recognize that we are privileged to have this power in our hands, and we have a responsibility to be leaders and give back to our communities. To me, that is what the future and mission of the Alumni Association embodies – the goal of uniting a large team of impactful leaders to make the world a better place for everyone. I have heard of so many individual success stories from our alumni over the years- just imagine what we can all achieve when we work together.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED

# THE GRACE BERRY AWARD FOR WOMEN IN GRADUATE STUDIES

BY ZHAMILIA KLYCHEVA  
AUCA 2011 | PHD CANDIDATE & RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY, CA, USA



I recently became one of the five recipients of the Grace Berry Award for Women in Graduate Studies for the 2021-2022 academic year at the Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California. This award, which recognizes academic excellence, is typically given to those students who are further along in their degrees than I am.

As the only female student from Central Asia in my program and the first one in my family to pursue a doctoral degree, I feel a lot of pride and responsibility. During my undergraduate years, I focused heavily on community service work and empowering other women to pursue educational opportunities and reach their potential. Thus, I am hoping that my current research will have a significant impact and serve as inspiration to the women in my home region.

Currently, I am working on my dissertation, which assesses the severity of civil conflict. To do this, I am conducting a global study that analyzes structural indicators that contribute to the severity of civil violence. While each of the political, economic, social, technological and demographic factors greatly impact the subject of interest, I have found that it is the combination of these factors that provides the clearest explanation. Furthermore, assessing factors across various disciplines provides a much richer image of the complex reality.

By bringing the best practice literature together and conducting a transdisciplinary analysis of civil conflict, I hope to contribute to the existing civil war literature and emphasize the importance of a multi-lens approach among scholars, as the title of my dissertation suggests: "Severity of Civil Conflict Through the Multi-Lens Looking Glass: Political, Economic and Social Determinants of Violence."

In addition to the global analysis, I am also focusing my study on a regional level to explore the topic specifically in former Soviet Union states. I hope that my work will inspire the youth in my home region, especially the women and girls that face major daily challenges.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED

## CHEVENING EXPERIENCE

BY ASEL KALDYBAEVA | MSC HEALTH ECONOMICS | LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS &amp; POLITICAL SCIENCE

In 2021, I became **one of 1,633 finalists** selected for the Chevening Scholarship Program to study at **one of 115 universities** throughout the U.K., **out of 64,408 applicants from 140 countries**. Each of these finalists has stories, events, and people that defined their Chevening journey, and I am excited to be able to share mine.

Prior to fall 2020, I had never heard about the field of health economics, but now I am enjoying exploring the field more as a student of the MSc in International Health Policy (Health Economics) at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Reflecting on my experience as a volunteer during the COVID-19 pandemic, I started to listen to the Economist podcast, which sparked my interest in this field.

My friend from AUCA and Chevening alumna, Nadezhda Pak, also played a role in inspiring me to pursue this degree, as she was one of the main factors that convinced me to apply for the Chevening Scholarship. I am also grateful to Cholpon Duisheeva, a previous coordinator of New Generation Academy (NGA) at AUCA and an avid supporter of my educational endeavors, who meticulously reviewed my Chevening application essays. Madina Damir kzy and Tangulu Diushakhmatova, both U.S.-CAEF alumnae; Edil Azhibayev, CEO and Founder at picVpic.com; and Seth Fearey, Assistant Professor at AUCA, were all also very helpful in supporting my applications to the program and to various universities. Since I lacked significant professional experience in healthcare and was facing a somewhat daunting career change, it was a privilege to have these people by my side.

After a year-long selection process, on September 27, 2021, I walked by iconic London landmarks St. Paul's cathedral and the Royal Court of Justice to officially start my program at my future alma mater. My program is focused on practical courses; we engage in projects like conducting economic analyses to determine which drugs or treatments are most cost-effective, assessing the health system performances of different countries, and performing systematic literature reviews to support evidence-based decision-making. I have learned a lot by debating about ethical dilemmas within the healthcare sector and talking about pharmaceutical markets with my classmates who worked in leading pharmaceutical companies, consulted various ministries of health around



the world, and assisted mergers and acquisitions (M&A) deals in the healthcare industry. The content of the program and the high caliber of my professors and peers has vastly exceeded my expectations.

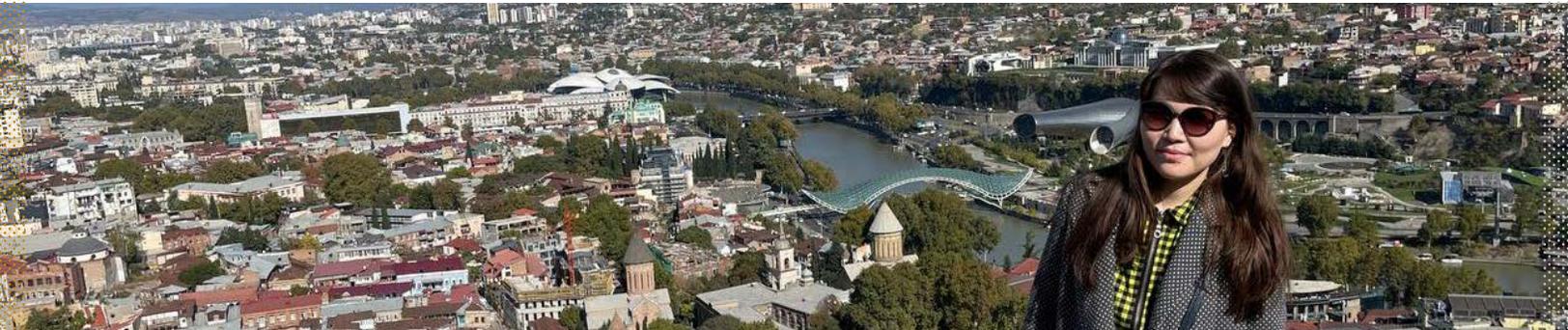
Indeed, embarking on this journey came with some doubts and certain sacrifices. However, I believe the amount of growth and tolerance for changes and challenges I have acquired throughout this journey will help me become a more well-rounded person.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED

# CAREER CHALLENGES THAT SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

U.S.-CAEF Assistant **Bekaiym Egemkulova** interviewed **Madina Damir kyzy**, Lead Specialist in Audit and Investigations at Johnson & Johnson Middle East Inc., Dubai, UAE to learn about her aspirations and experiences that shaped her career path.



**Q: What jobs and career experiences have led you to your present position as Lead Specialist in Audit and Investigations at Johnson & Johnson?**

**A:** I graduated from the American University of Central Asia with a degree in Business Administration and a minor in Psychology. I was always interested in finance, but also enjoyed learning about human nature and people's feelings, which is why I combined these two fields during my studies.

My career path actually started at AUCA after I finished my freshman year. I signed up to volunteer with the Career Services Center at AUCA, and after taking part in a few community service projects, I was offered a job as Student Assistant on Construction Issues to assist with new campus construction at the university. It was a cool opportunity as I got to work with New York- and Germany-based architects, Henry Myerberg and Kai Schleiter, and help them communicate and negotiate with a local construction firm.

I felt very proud and empowered that I was able to contribute to the campus construction, and help my alma mater, even though at times it was difficult to balance the work with my studies. While I worked and studied simultaneously for almost two years, I decided to take a break from work to concentrate on my studies at the beginning of my senior year.

Then, by sheer luck, during the second semester of senior year, Elmira Musuralieva, a teacher in

the mathematics department, approached me and offered for me to apply to her colleague's consulting firm. I accepted and ended up working for K.S. Solutions LLC, a Kyrgyz-Slovak-based consulting firm, as a Project Assistant working on improving the water supply across Kyrgyzstan.

My team and I worked primarily on applying for grants from developmental organizations, and I gained lots of familiarity with governmental entities and regulations. It was a great learning experience for me and helped me realize the inefficiencies and outdatedness of some of the governmental systems in Kyrgyzstan. This also helped me to realize that I do not want to work in a bureaucratic setting, and that perhaps I should look for employment at an international organization.

So, after I graduated from AUCA, I applied to KPMG Bishkek LLC for the position of Audit Associate. This decision was one of the biggest decisions I have ever made, and I was lucky enough to be chosen to work at KPMG. KPMG is a 'Big 4' auditing firm, and as with any consulting firm, requires and pushes a lot out of its employees. Despite the constant overtime and stress the job entailed, I found it to be an invaluable learning experience. The job gave me exposure to different people, industries, and cities. The most exciting part of the job was learning to communicate with different people from engineers to the CFO of the company, and traveling to different cities both in Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian regions with my teammates.

**Q: Why did you decide to move to Dubai, UAE? Could you tell us more about your experience with the exchange program at KPMG in March 2019?**

**A:** By the time I had worked at KPMG Bishkek LLC for almost 5 years, I reached a point where I realized I was not learning much anymore. To find a solution to this, I started negotiating a transfer to KPMG Kazakhstan to our Almaty office, thinking it would expose me to different industries and projects. As I was considering this change, I received an offer from the KPMG Dubai office for a less senior position than the one I was considering at the Kazakhstan office. Since I was looking for new challenges and exposures, I decided to take the offer and moved to Dubai in February 2019. When I transferred here, it was pretty difficult at the beginning, because I thought I knew everything there was to know, then I started to experience a larger market and I realized there was still a lot to learn. As such, it provided a new learning experience and challenge; I had to adapt to certain cultural aspects of the United Arab Emirates, learn and perform at a new professional level, and make new friends.

**Q: Tell us about your current job. What does a typical work week look like for you?**

**A:** In July 2021, I took the next step in my career and moved to Johnson & Johnson Middle East as a Lead Specialist - Audit & Investigations. My current job relates somewhat to traditional audit, but I specialize more in investigations. My

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED

colleagues and I focus on corporate investigations with the goal of uncovering fraudulent schemes, non-compliances, process gaps, etc. It is quite exciting and interesting, as each investigation requires a unique approach, and involves meeting different people and learning different processes across different countries.

Typically, we work on several investigations at the same time, usually independently, and connecting with stakeholders across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and CIS regions. We also work with U.S. teams and issue relevant reports and documentation at the end of each investigation.

**Q: How challenging is it to work at KPMG and Johnson & Johnson? What skills are needed for those who want to get a job with one of these companies?**

**A:** I think one of my biggest challenges so far is learning the art of small talk, which is not very common in Central Asia. I really look up to my colleagues who know how to combine small talk with professional discussion in such an artistic way, but I am still learning how to master that skill. I have learned that communication skills and presentation skills are even more important in global organizations, where each employee is exposed to so many regions and cultural differences, so I am trying to work on that particular weakness of mine.

I believe that J&J is looking for individuals with flexible and diverse mindsets, who are ready to learn and are open to facing new challenges and accepting professional feedback. Also, Johnson & Johnson has a mission statement that emphasizes helping colleagues, individual families, healthcare professionals, and society in a broader sense.

I believe this helps to explain why everyone at the Company is so nice - they share common values. This is to say, I think being friendly, nice, and eager to help your colleagues and people in general is what J&J is looking for in its employees.

**Q: What are the biggest lessons you have learned from the corporate world?**

**A:** Always be open-minded to learning new things, and always be ready for new opportunities. We live in such a globalized world, and new doors and opportunities are constantly appearing; we have to be ready to stretch, learn and seize those opportunities whenever we can. I once thought that the Central Asian job

market was the only market in which I could be competitive, but it turns out that thanks to the educational opportunity I was given from U.S.CAEF and the amazing network it provides, I have learned that there really are no limits.

I got my first two jobs largely by chance, but because of my communication skills, I worked hard to make sure I was learning as much as possible so that I could have an even better chance at landing the next job. Thus, it is important to be flexible and open-minded to learning.

**Q: What do current graduates need to be competitive in the finance market?**

**A:** I would recommend gaining meaningful work experience, whether through internships, part- or full-time jobs, or volunteer opportunities. It does not have to be finance experience exactly, but when you are a recent graduate, having any experience will make you stand out from other graduates who have none. It will show a potential employer that you know the worth of job experience and you know what it takes to be a working professional.

**Q: What piece of advice do you wish you had received before you graduated from AUCA? What advice would you give to future U.S.-CAEF graduates?**

**A:** Develop presentation and communication skills! I am a believer in hard work, and like many Central Asians, I believe that our actions speak louder than our words. However, I also understand how important good communication skills and presentation skills are to succeeding in an international organization.

I believe every U.S.CAEF fellow is already a gem of an individual and already has a great chance of succeeding in the future. That said, I have also observed among our alumni and my current and previous colleagues that those who know how to highlight their strengths and hide their weaknesses, with the help of savvy communication skills, always go farthest.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED

# LEARNING THROUGH TEACHING

BY ZHANNA MARCHENKO  
DAAD SCHOLAR, MASTER'S IN INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT  
OTTO-VON-GUERICKE-UNIVERSITÄT MAGDEBURG

I am currently pursuing a master's degree at the Otto-von-Guericke Universität Magdeburg in Germany, and I recently became a teaching assistant for the Chair of Entrepreneurship at the university. In this role, I supplement my studies by conducting seminars for other master's students in my department.

I find it extremely helpful and interesting to work on tasks together with other students and implement updated business models. The chair of the department is actively engaged in research related to entrepreneurship, which allows students to receive accurate and up-to-date information regarding world-renowned German companies and start-ups. Coming up with new ways to reach customers and creating growth opportunities for existing leaders in the market is extremely interesting and rewarding for students. While working on my master's degree, I have been able to gain deeper knowledge about the current business market and learn valuable insider tips that will help me in my career. Additionally, my experience holding seminars for approximately 100 people has taught me how to better explain business concepts and has helped me to understand them better myself.

Since part-time employment outside the university is not possible due to the rules of my scholarship, the experience of being a teaching assistant has been unique and helpful. Observing the teaching process from the inside gives me a broader view of the value of learning in today's world.



## GRADUATION 2022

A total of **28 fellows**, 14 from KIMEP University and 14 from American University of Central Asia (AUCA) will celebrate their graduation on **June 4 in Almaty, Kazakhstan** and **June 11 in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic**, respectively.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### NEW JOBS

#### Nasir Dzhumaliev

**KIMEP'11**  
CHIEF PRODUCT OFFICER, SBER VOSTOK,  
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

#### Arystan Moldabekov

**KIMEP'11**  
CFO & BOARD MEMBER, PROVIDENT FIDUCIARY LTD.  
& SILKSOFTGROUP TECHNOLOGY LTD.

#### Talгат Kadirov

**KIMEP'11**  
CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR, IPEC ENERGY  
KAZAKHSTAN, ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

#### Irina Abasova

**KIMEP'12**  
FOUNDER & CEO, UNIMO,  
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

#### Xeniya Kurmayeva

**KIMEP'12**  
FREELANCE INTERIOR DESIGNER & DIRECTOR  
OF DEAL OF THE DAY, ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

#### Askar Saparbekov

**KIMEP'14**  
SENIOR BRAND MANAGER, BAUSCH HEALTH  
COMPANIES INC., ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

#### Yerzhan Smagulov

**KIMEP'14**  
PRODUCT MANAGER, SBER SOLUTIONS,  
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

#### Anisa Atalova

**AUCA'16**  
DIRECTOR, UNIQUIM SPORT,  
BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN

#### Asel Raiymbekova

**AUCA'16**  
ASSOCIATE, RATINGS, ANALYTICS, & FORECASTING  
AT HEIMSTADEN, OSLO, NORWAY

#### Ayna Akmyradova

**KIMEP'16**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE, ES DIYARCOM,  
FOUNDER OF "AZALEA.FAMILY" COMPANY,  
CO-FOUNDER OF "A.A" DESIGN STUDIO,  
ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN

#### Aizhan Kerimbek kyzy

**AUCA'19**  
ACCOUNT MANAGER, GLOVO KYRGYZSTAN,  
BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN

#### Alisher Murtazaev

**KIMEP'19**  
MARKETING MANAGER, DANONE UZBEKISTAN,  
TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

### PROMOTIONS

#### Aina Annageldieva

**KIMEP'12**  
GOVERNANCE & FINANCIAL CONTROL BUSINESS  
PARTNER CEAB & T, MARS KAZAKHSTAN, ALMATY

#### Moldir Kussainova

**KIMEP'12**  
PRODUCT MANAGER, DNA PAYMENTS GROUP  
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

#### Yelena Vorobey

**AUCA'14**  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER,  
E.ON, ESSEN, GERMANY

#### Malika Ibragimova

**AUCA'15**  
SENIOR CONSULTANT, LPA, FRANKFURT  
AM MAIN, HESSE, GERMANY

#### Valentina Khomenko

**AUCA'15**  
ASSOCIATE SOLUTION MANAGER,  
TETRA PAK, LUND, SWEDEN

#### Bekzhan Akbayev

**KIMEP'12**  
SUPERVISOR, STRATEGY PLANNING,  
PHILIP MORRIS INTERNATIONAL,  
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

### POST-GRADUATE STUDIES

#### Arystan Moldabekov

**KIMEP'11**  
ONLINE MBA, ONE LEAGUE  
INSTITUTION, SAN FRANCISCO,  
CA, USA, (A FULL SCHOLARSHIP),  
2022-2023

#### Meerim Zhanybek kyzy

**AUCA'20**  
MASTER IN GLOBAL  
ECONOMY & BUSINESS,  
UNIVERSITY OF CASSINO  
& SOUTHERN LAZIO, (A LAZIO  
DISCO PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP),  
2021-2023

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



**Aziz Yuldashev**  
**KIMEP'11**

Aziz is currently involved in two major construction projects - Gas Chemical Complex in Bukhara region and Metallurgical Complex in Karakalpakstan- implemented by Enter Engineering Pte. Ltd. in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. with international partners. Aziz is responsible for market analysis and project management.



**Bakhrom Tursunov**  
**AUCA'17**

As a freelance video editor with Upwork, Bakhrom had an opportunity to enhance his professional skills through online courses from the UK-based Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Academy which helped him become a top-rated editor. Currently, Bakhrom works with clients from the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Portugal, and other countries., while residing in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.



**Dilobar Ortiqova**  
**KIMEP'14**

Dilobar has completed a work of historical fiction entitled "Two Faces of the World: The Seeds of War," which is the first book in her trilogy. Currently, the book is being reviewed by editors at Joshua Tree Publishing, Chicago, IL, USA.



**Nargiza Zhakypova**  
**AUCA'12**

Co-founder of the American-European School and IT-RUN and **Anisa Atalova**, Co-founder and Director of Uniquim Sport (AUCA'16) were part of a small group of female business leaders on April 14 invited by the U.S. Embassy in Bishkek to a meeting with **Ms. Uzra Zeya**, U.S. Undersecretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, one of America's foremost advocates for human rights and freedom.



COMING SOON

# Alumni Study Tour in the US

Application for Alumni Association Study Tour in Washington, DC. will open soon! Tentatively planned for **October 9-15, 2022**, the Study Tour will provide a select group of alumni participants the opportunity to learn the essential skills of fundraising, advertising, social media outreach, NGO management, and strategies for engaging and sustaining membership. It will also include meetings with US Government representatives, organizations affiliated with Central Asia, and potential donors.

**The program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by American Councils.**

## AMERICAN COUNCILS REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES IN CENTRAL ASIA

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