



KIMEP
UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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Dear KIMEP Alumni,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this year's issue of the *KIMEP Alumni Magazine*! Our theme for 2025 is one that is shaping the future across every industry – Artificial Intelligence.

In this edition, we are excited to share a special podcast episode featuring KIMEP alumni who work in fields related to artificial intelligence. They spoke about how they use AI in their daily lives and at work, shared their concerns and fears about its growing influence, and reflected on what the future labor market might look like in an AI-driven world. Their insights offer a thoughtful and personal perspective on the opportunities and challenges that come with this rapidly evolving technology.



Another highlight is the expansion of our Alumni Mentorship Program in collaboration with the Leadership Development Program (LDP). Last year, it moved to a digital platform powered by AI – allowing mentors and mentees to connect more efficiently and meaningfully, regardless of geography.

We also invite you to read the featured article by our alumna titled “*AI and Labor Market 4.0: Why Tomorrow Might Be Too Late.*” It raises important questions about how we prepare ourselves for the evolving demands of the workplace – and what role AI plays in that process.

As always, this issue also brings you updates from KIMEP's colleges – a look back at key highlights, achievements, and milestones from the past academic year. It's a great way to stay connected to the pulse of the university and see how our community continues to grow and evolve.

Alongside our annual Job Fair, we also hosted Career Days for each college, giving students the opportunity to interact directly with alumni and industry professionals, explore career paths, and gain valuable insights. This year also marked memorable alumni gatherings – including warm and lively meetups in Astana and Almaty, where graduates reconnected, shared experiences, and strengthened their ties with KIMEP. Another special highlight was the annual Gala Dinner with representatives of the KAEF Foundation – KIMEP alumni who are also the founding members of the fund. During the evening, funds were raised to support the education of talented KIMEP students. It was a heartfelt and inspiring event that once again demonstrated the power of alumni giving back and investing in the next generation of leaders.

This magazine would not be possible without the incredible support of our contributors, interviewees, alumni volunteers, editorial team, and partners. Thank you for your time, ideas, and energy – your involvement brings this publication to life and strengthens the connection within our growing alumni community.

Enjoy reading – and stay curious.

Dinara Sagindykova,
Alumni manager





MESSAGE FROM DR. BANG

Dear members of the KIMEP alumni community,

On behalf of the entire university, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible impact you make through your work. KIMEP alumni are part of a vibrant and dynamic community that embodies our university's mission – providing students with a world-class education and developing future leaders who make a positive impact to Kazakhstan and society as a whole – and core values of integrity, transparency, and accountability. Your efforts not only strengthen our alumni community but also enhance the reputation and impact of KIMEP University in Kazakhstan and beyond.

During this academic year that is now coming to an end, KIMEP University set a clear goal: to establish a world-class School of Computer Science and Mathematics that will serve as an exemplary model of modern education in Central Asia and beyond. It is committed to fostering academic excellence, innovation, and technological advancement. The modern world is undergoing a rapid digital transformation, with computer science and AI at the core of this revolution. These fields are reshaping industries, driving economic growth, and creating new opportunities across all sectors. Countries that invest in these disciplines gain a competitive edge in innovation, workforce development, and global influence. The establishment of the School of Computer Science and Mathematics at KIMEP represents a bold step in this direction. It will serve as a hub for technological research, industry partnerships, and the cultivation of top-tier talent. I truly hope for your indefectible support in achieving this ambitious goal.

KIMEP will always be your alma mater and you will always be a member of the KIMEP community. As President, I am very proud to count you among our distinguished alumni. My door is always open, should you have inquiries or relevant suggestions on how to continue improving KIMEP University. I hope that together we can join forces to ensure that KIMEP remains a beacon of excellence and quality in higher education in Kazakhstan and beyond.

I hope you enjoy reading this new issue of KIMEP's Alumni Magazine.

Warm regards,

*Chan Young Bang, Ph.D.
President of KIMEP University*

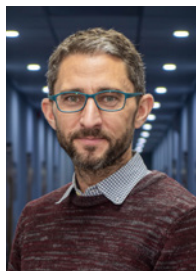


NEWS FROM THE BANG COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024-25 AY

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS IN 2024-25 AY



Dr. Samuel Dylan Spector is a new Associate Professor in Marketing. Dr. Samuel Spector received his PhD in Tourism from the University of Otago in New Zealand. He was then a postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for Sustainability at the same university before teaching at Queenstown Resort College in New Zealand, the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, and the University of Montana in the United States. He also holds a MA in Sport Management from Brock University in Canada. He has taught a wide variety of marketing and tourism courses. With over 20 publications, Dr. Spector's research explores tourism and sustainability, covering topics such as pro-environmental marketing in the ski industry, tourism resilience to natural hazards, and sustainability in space tourism.



Dr. Jeremy Philip Brown is a new Assistant Professor in Management Information Systems, Department of Management and Marketing. He holds a PhD in Information Systems from the University of Sunderland (UK), where he studied telecentre use in rural communities. He also earned an MSc in Computer-Based Information Systems and a BEd in Business

Studies from the same university. With over 20 years of experience in teaching and research, his focus areas include Information Systems, eLearning, IT Governance, and Community Informatics. He has published in Scopus journals such as Information Technology for Development and Information Research. Before joining KIMEP, Dr. Brown was MBA program coordinator at Sohar University. He teaches Management Information

Systems, Project Management, Systems Analysis, and Database Design. His international teaching career spans the UK, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Singapore, New Zealand, Ireland, Brunei, and Oman. In 2005, he helped lead Brunei's national eLearning initiatives in higher education.

BCB ACHIEVES TOP RANKINGS IN 2024 "ATAMEKEN" NATIONAL RATING

KIMEP University's Bang College of Business has been recognized in the 2024 National Ranking of Educational Programs conducted by the "Atameken" National Chamber of Entrepreneurs. According to the published results, the college's programs received high positions across multiple disciplines: *Finance, Accounting & Audit* – 1st place, *Management and Marketing* – 2nd place.



These results reflect the college's ongoing efforts to maintain high academic standards and contribute to the development of business education in Kazakhstan. The rankings are based on a range of criteria including graduate employment outcomes, program content, and industry engagement.

BACHELOR OF FINANCE PROGRAM AT KIMEP UNIVERSITY RE-ACCREDITED BY EFMD

On May 6, 2025, the Bachelor of Finance program at the Bang College of Business (BCB), KIMEP University, was re-accredited by the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) for a period of five years. The EFMD accreditation is considered one of the leading international quality benchmarks for business and management education globally. The program remains the only EFMD-accredited undergraduate program in Kazakhstan and the wider Central Asian





region, maintaining its position since the initial accreditation was granted in 2022.

A five-year re-accreditation is rarely awarded and signifies an exceptional level of confidence in the program's quality and long-term impact. This recognition reflects the program's ongoing commitment to international standards in curriculum design, academic quality, and student outcomes. It also acknowledges the efforts of the institution's faculty, students, alumni, and strategic partners in supporting the advancement of business education in the region.

BCB intends to continue its efforts to further enhance the academic quality and international competitiveness of its programs.

KIMEP UNIVERSITY RECEIVES LONG-TERM RE-ACCREDITATION FROM FIBAA

KIMEP University has successfully completed the re-accreditation process conducted by FIBAA (Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation), receiving exceptional outcomes across all levels.



Following a thorough evaluation, FIBAA granted KIMEP University institutional re-accreditation for the maximum period of eight years—the longest accreditation term the university has ever received. This decision reflects the university's continued commitment to high standards in academic quality, governance, and strategic development.

In addition, two prominent programs at the Bang College of Business received strong endorsements:

The Executive MBA program was re-accredited for seven years.

The Mini-MBA program received re-accreditation for five years.

These achievements underscore the university's and college's dedication to maintaining internationally recognized standards in business education. KIMEP University extends its sincere appreciation to all faculty, staff, and administrative teams whose efforts contributed to the successful outcome of this re-accreditation process.

KIMEP UNIVERSITY HOSTS REGIONAL SAP TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS

BCB hosted a four-day regional workshop from March 17 to 20, 2025, aimed at enhancing digital competencies in higher education. The "Train-the-Trainer" workshop, titled "Introduction to and Customisation of SAP S/4HANA," was conducted on-site and brought together 30 faculty and staff members from seven universities representing four cities — Almaty, Astana, Temirtau (Kazakhstan), and Magdeburg (Germany).

The event opened with welcoming remarks from university and industry representatives, including Dr. Damian Andreas Riviez, Vice President of KIMEP University; Yuliya Stepantsova, Co-Managing Director of SAP Kazakhstan; Dr. Nejat Capar, Dean of the Bang College of Business; and Dr. Yuri Kupriianov, SAP University Alliances Country Manager for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The workshop provided participants with practical training in SAP S/4HANA systems, with a focus on curriculum integration and the application of enterprise software tools in business education.

Organizers noted that the knowledge gained during the workshop would support the ongoing digitalization of academic programs in participating institutions and contribute to the preparation of business graduates with practical and technological competencies. BCB continues to collaborate with global industry partners to promote innovation and enhance the quality of education in the region.

XXII KIMEP INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE GATHERS SCHOLARS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

KIMEP University, in collaboration with the Zagreb School of Economics and Management, and Luxembourg School of Business together with UN PRME, successfully hosted the 22nd International Research Conference on 11–12 April 2025.

Themed "Bridging Theory with Practice: Digital Transformation in the Real Sector for Sustainable



Growth,” the conference brought together global scholars, business leaders, and policymakers to share research and ideas across various disciplines, including Business, Economics, Management, Taxation, and Social Sciences.

This prestigious event fostered academic exchange and promoted impactful, interdisciplinary research.

BCB'S LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FEATURES PROMINENT SPEAKERS

In 2024-2025 academic year, the Leadership and Development Program continued inviting a diverse roster of distinguished entrepreneurs and industry leaders to share their expertise with students. This year, the program was honored to receive the following presenters: Aitbek Amangeldi (Project management professional and human rights activist, KIMEP alum), Yekaterina Bakytzhanova (Consumer Experience Manager at BAT), Zhanna Kan (Founder of Constella Kazakhstan and the BeWoman Forum, KIMEP alumna), Galymzhan Moldanazar (Lead singer of the music band “Moldanazar”), Zhassulan Assanuly (Visionary entrepreneur and founder of INVICTUS), Makhmud Makhmudov (Customer Service Manager at Philip Morris International), Tolkyn Nurusheva (Enterprise Commercial Account Director at Microsoft), Olzhas Suleimenov (Digital Academy Lead at Ernst & Young, KIMEP alum), Yevgeniy Kostylev (The most awarded Creative Director in Kazakhstan and Central Asia), Yulia Tushina (Director of

Creative Transformation at DASM and Managing Director of Force Advertising Agency), Almas Zhali (Producer and Founder of Brave Talents), Olzhas Akmuldin (Director and Head of Sales for the Mobile Experience Division at Samsung Electronics Central Eurasia LLP, KIMEP alum), Denis Kazarezov (Director of IT at Carlsberg Kazakhstan and Commercial Digital Development for Central-Eastern Europe and India), Holger Klötzner (Deputy Mayor of Darmstadt), Dulat Issabayev (Executive Director of Maserati Kazakhstan, KIMEP alum), Jeff Erlich (Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan), Roger Holland (International property consultant, entrepreneur, and investor), Maira Askarkyzy (Certified Gemologist and Director of Tiffany & Co. Boutique in Almaty), Aibek Adambekov (RGM Manager), Denis Li (Group Brand Manager of Confectionary at Mondelez Eurasia), Arna Nurseitova (Regional Manager of Qazaq Republic), Dosym Satpayev (Political scientist and Director of Kazakhstan Risk Assessment Group), Zhansaya Abdumalik (Kazakhstan's first-ever female Grandmaster in chess), Caner Bakir (Country Lead for Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan at Unilever), Aizhan Azhiyeva (Head of Accounting at Samsung Electronics Central Eurasia LLP), Nariman Mukushev (Deputy Chairman of the Management Board at Halyk Bank), Aibek Karibzhanov (Founder & MD of AKF Logistics and endurance athlete, KIMEP alum), Bairam Azizov (Founder of PR Freedom), Zhandos Tungyshbaev (Director and creative producer at Qara Studio), Ahmad Helmi (Media influencer and entrepreneur), Saida Djarbolova (Independent director and Chairwoman of ING Bank in Ukraine, KIMEP alumna), Irina Khaber (Founder &





CEO of Irina Khaber Beauty Salon and Academy), Rana Azfar Zafar (Vice President & General Manager at Novo Nordisk), Marsel Bamatov (COO of Popeyes, Centras Group), Ella Cremer (Head of Personal Development at Centras Capital), Alisa Aubakirova (Sourcing Manager at Mondelēz International), Elena Naumenko (HR Director at EY, Central Asia), Andrey Emelyanov (CFO of Mars Central Eurasia), Alexandra Tarassova (Marketing Manager at Coca-Cola İçecek Kazakhstan, KIMEP alumna), Mesut Doğukan (Offer Management Director at METRO Kazakhstan), and Beibit Alibekov (Entrepreneur, media innovator). These outstanding leaders have shared their knowledge and experience, inspiring students and enriching the learning environment as part of this prestigious program.

BCB CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEADERSHIP PROGRAM WITH HIGH-IMPACT TWO-DAY FORUM

Leadership Development Program (LDP) marked a significant milestone with a two-day event celebrating its 15th anniversary on April 17-18, 2025. This powerful forum brought together industry leaders, alumni, and renowned speakers from top companies to share their expertise and inspire the next generation of leaders. The event featured a range of impactful sessions, including keynote talks and interactive workshops, all happening right on campus. One of the standout panels, Leadership

of the Future: Success Strategies from Big 3 and Big 4 Leaders, brought together top minds to discuss bold visions, practical insights, and leadership strategies for Central Asia's business future. The panel included Dulatbek Ikbayev – Managing Partner at McKinsey Central Asia, KIMEP alum, Dana Inkarbekova – Managing Partner at PwC Central Asia, KIMEP alumna, Saken Zhumashev – Managing Partner at KPMG Central Asia, KIMEP alum. These distinguished leaders shared their strategies for success, providing valuable lessons for aspiring business professionals.

The second panel, which focused on the secrets of successful entrepreneurship, featured leading business figures: Ilyas Issatayev, Founder & CEO of Invictus and Hero's Journey and a Forbes Top 50 Most Influential leader; Eldar Abdrazakov, Owner of Centras Financial Group and a Forbes Top 50 Most Influential entrepreneur; and Zaure Rozmat, CEO of Steppe and a Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree, KIMEP alumna. These speakers shared their personal journeys and provided insights into building successful businesses.

The event also featured an unforgettable panel on inclusivity, women's leadership, and business ethics. Our remarkable speakers for this session included: Aisha Shayakhmetova, Creative Strategy Consultant and former CMO of Yeezy Adidas, KIMEP Alumna; Aisana Ashim, Founder of Village Kazakhstan & Batyrjamal Media, KIMEP Alumna; Jahn Karsybaev, Co-founder & Managing Partner at BigSky Capital; and Kamila Rollan, Inclusion Expert and PhD from Cambridge University.





A highlight of the forum was the awarding of an Honorary Doctorate to Gennadiy Golovkin, President of the National Olympic Committee of Kazakhstan. During an open dialogue with students, Golovkin shared the core principles behind his success: discipline, integrity, and a commitment to continuous growth. Additionally, the National Olympic Committee of Kazakhstan held an open lecture for KIMEP students. Famous Kazakhstani athletes Olga Rypakova and Ruslan Kurbanov participated in the session, where they discussed their professional journeys, the role of discipline, internal motivation, and the importance of mentorship.

This remarkable event offered invaluable learning opportunities for students, and its impact will undoubtedly continue to resonate in the years to come.



KIMEP AND KPMG PARTNER TO SUPPORT STUDENT CAREER GROWTH IN AUDIT AND FINANCE

In early April 2025, KIMEP University hosted a series of exclusive career-oriented events in collaboration with KPMG, one of the world's leading professional services firms. These sessions were tailored to provide students with deep insights into the fields of Deal Advisory and Audit, while also offering pathways to potential paid internships and long-term careers with KPMG. On April 2, students had the opportunity to attend a session on career growth in audit, led by Sergey Nezdemkovskiy (Partner, KIMEP alum) and Umitzhan Kenzhagaliyeva (Senior Manager, KIMEP alumna). The event covered key aspects of professional development in audit, featured

real-life success stories, and concluded with a live Q&A session. Attendees were also given the chance to take part in an initial testing stage for future employment opportunities with KPMG.

On April 3, the focus shifted to Deal Advisory, where Timur Syzdykov (Partner, Business Valuation) delivered a guest lecture. This session included practical case studies, expert advice, and insights into the recruitment process for KPMG's paid summer internship program in corporate finance. Students were encouraged to engage actively and explore their potential within the fast-paced world of financial advisory. These events offered KIMEP students a unique opportunity to connect with senior KPMG professionals, gain first-hand industry knowledge, and take meaningful steps toward launching their careers.

DIGITAL MARKETING EXPERTS FROM GOOGLE, YANDEX, AND NETPEAK DELIVER GUEST LECTURES AT BCB

As part of the Digital Marketing course led by Azamat Gimranov, KIMEP alum, KIMEP University organized a series of guest lectures in late 2024, featuring professionals from leading digital companies such as Google Ads, Yandex Qazaqstan, and Netpeak. The initiative aimed to enhance students' understanding of the current trends and practical applications in digital marketing through direct engagement with industry experts.

On November 28, Azret Satbekov of Netpeak, a leading SEO agency in the CIS region, delivered a session on SEO Best Practices. The lecture provided insights into SEO strategy, digital visibility, and emerging tools in the field, with students actively participating in discussions and case reviews. On December 3, students visited the Yandex Qazaqstan office for an on-site lecture led by Daniyar Tanayev, Head of SME Growth. The session focused on Yandex advertising tools and business integration strategies, combining theoretical knowledge with practical field exposure.

On December 5, Vadim Li, Country Lead of Admixer Kazakhstan, presented on Google Ads and the Global Narrative 2024. His lecture highlighted the role of Google



AI and advertising instruments in supporting SME growth, with particular attention to audience targeting and global campaign strategies in emerging markets. The series concluded on December 10 with a lecture by Alexey Radivanovich, Country Director of Admixer. His presentation, titled The Ecosystem of Google's Digital Advertising Products, offered a comprehensive overview of Google's advertising tools, including display, video, and performance campaigns, and their relevance in Kazakhstan's digital landscape.

The lecture series served as a platform for students to gain first-hand exposure to current industry practices and digital advertising trends in Central Asia. By engaging directly with experts from leading technology firms, participants deepened their understanding of the evolving digital marketing landscape and its practical applications in business contexts.

ADB CHIEF ECONOMIST DR. ALBERT PARK LAUNCHES ASIAN DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK 2024 AT KIMEP UNIVERSITY

On 16 October 2024, KIMEP University hosted the official launch of the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) September 2024, presented by a delegation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The event brought together students, faculty, and guests for an in-depth discussion on current economic trends and challenges across Asia.

The launch featured a keynote address by Dr. Albert Park, ADB's Chief Economist and General Director of the Economic Research and Development Impact Department. A leading voice in development economics, Dr. Park presented the key findings of the ADO report, offering insights into regional growth forecasts, policy recommendations, and socio-economic risks impacting Asia's developing economies. Also in attendance were Dr. Utsav Kumar, Country Director of ADB's Kazakhstan Resident Mission, and Mr. Genadiy Rau, Senior Economics Officer. Dr. Kumar shared his perspectives on ADB's role in advancing sustainable development and economic cooperation in the region, while Mr. Rau provided valuable analysis of Kazakhstan's economic outlook within the broader regional context.

The Asian Development Outlook is ADB's flagship publication, known for its analytical depth and policy relevance. The September 2024 edition outlines pressing economic and development challenges, offering data-driven forecasts that inform public policy and investment decisions across the continent. This high-profile event provided KIMEP's academic community with a unique opportunity to engage directly with influential economic experts. It reaffirmed the university's role as a platform for meaningful dialogue on global economic issues and its commitment to preparing students for leadership in a rapidly changing world.

KIMEP UNIVERSITY AND PARAGON INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY EXPLORE STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

On June 20, 2025, KIMEP University hosted Vice Rector for Research at Paragon International University (Cambodia), Dr. Meirambek Zhaparov, for a meeting focused on exploring potential areas of academic cooperation.

The discussion covered a wide range of topics, including joint research initiatives, academic excellence benchmarks, and opportunities for collaboration in fields such as business, computer science, and mathematics. The parties also reviewed prospects for academic mobility, faculty exchange, and potential joint activities related to PRME, SDGs, and sustainability.





The meeting concluded with both institutions expressing strong interest in establishing long-term collaboration and agreeing to outline specific next steps in the near future.

KIMEP STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY DEBUT AT ERPSIM EMEA COMPETITION 2025

This Spring, KIMEP University students participated for the first time in the prestigious ERPSim EMEA Competition, held online on May 23, 2025. The ERPSim Competition is an invitation-only international event that challenges university teams to manage a virtual company using the live SAP S/4HANA system in a simulated manufacturing environment.

Competing against 22 other teams from across the EMEA region, the KIMEP team ranked 13th overall—an impressive result given the close score margins. Among teams from Kazakhstan, KIMEP placed second, and achieved fourth place in the Central Asia and Caucasus region.

Team members included Ayaulym Bektursun (Bang College of Business), Adilkhan Myrzagaliyev, Kamilla Suleimenova, Elina Samet, and Nariman Tursaliyev (School of Computer Science and Mathematics). All participants received official certificates for their involvement.

The team was coached by Dr. Uldana Baizyldayeva, who was awarded a digital badge in recognition of her contribution to the competition's success.

ERPSim emphasizes real-time analytics, strategic thinking, and ethical business practices, offering students valuable hands-on experience in enterprise resource planning systems and business intelligence tools.

KIMEP UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS PRME CHAPTER EURASIA EVENTS PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

KIMEP University, in its capacity as Co-Chair of the PRME Chapter Eurasia, played a key role in organizing two major events aimed at promoting sustainability-oriented and human-centered management education. The events

were held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and hosted by the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) from May 30 to 31, 2025. Represented by Marzhan Berniyazova, KIMEP University worked in close collaboration with the Chapter Eurasia Steering Committee to facilitate both the PRME Chapter Eurasia Annual General Meeting and an i5 Introductory Workshop. These initiatives brought together representatives from 11 institutions across five countries, strengthening regional cooperation around the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME).

The Annual General Meeting provided a platform to review the Chapter's progress and outline long-term priorities. AUCA President Timothy O'Connor opened the event by emphasizing the growing importance of responsible leadership. Participants engaged in strategic discussions, cultural programming, and networking activities that highlighted the connection between education, ethics, and local context. The i5 Introductory Workshop, facilitated by PRME Chapter Eurasia Vice Chairs, Aurora Díaz Soloaga and Dr. Ekaterina Ivanova and held on the eve of the AGM, gathered 54 participants—well above the expected number—for an engaging, hands-on session exploring the five pedagogical dimensions of the i5 framework: meaningful, joyful, social, active, and iterative. Developed in collaboration with the Harvard Graduate School of Education and The LEGO Foundation, the i5 project aims to support more inclusive and transformative learning environments.

KIMEP University continues to contribute actively to the development of the PRME community in Eurasia and to the advancement of sustainability thinking and SDG-aligned education across the region.







EXECUTIVE EDUCATION CENTER



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024-25 AY

The 2024–2025 academic year marked another milestone in the continued growth of the Executive Education Center. Building on our 20-year legacy the Center experienced a productive and impactful year, expanding its reach and strengthening key partnerships.

Throughout the year, we successfully launched 8 strategic partnerships with corporate sector and 3 partnerships at the negotiation stage. A significant achievement was the advancement of our collaboration with the banking sector of Kazakhstan and with quasi-governmental companies. We have provided trainings for Halyk bank, Freedom bank, and developed partnership with JSC “Kazakhstan Temir zholy” and prolonged our partnership with JSC “Kazakhtelecom”. Adding to our achievements, both of our programs have received re-accreditation from FIBAA effective from June 5, 2025.

The 2024–2025 academic year reaffirmed our commitment to developing leaders equipped to drive transformation across sectors.



EXECUTIVE MBA NEWS

In Fall 2024, we proudly launched a new Executive MBA cohort in Astana, bringing together accomplished professionals from government institutions, leading corporations, and the entrepreneurial community. The cohort has already completed half of the program, showcasing remarkable dedication, progress, and achievements.

That same season, an international study module was organized in France for a corporate group from Kazakhtelecom. Ten participants engaged in immersive learning at IESEG School of Management—one of Europe’s top-ranked business schools—where they explored advanced concepts in strategy, marketing, and luxury brand management, gaining invaluable global perspectives.

On February 5–6, 2025, our Executive MBA and Mini MBA programs successfully underwent the FIBAA re-accreditation site visit. This rigorous quality assurance process was made possible through the active and collaborative efforts of our faculty, staff, and students.

The academic year reached a memorable milestone on May 17, 2025, when five Executive MBA students proudly crossed the stage at the official graduation ceremony, held at the prestigious Baluan Sholak Sports Palace—a moment of pride and inspiration for our entire community.





MINI MBA AND PDCP NEWS

The Mini MBA cohort that commenced in June 2024 successfully completed the program by March–April 2025. As we continue to expand access to high-quality executive education, we are now preparing to launch two new Mini MBA cohorts—offered in both Russian and English. This intensive program provides a strong foundation in core management disciplines while helping participants sharpen their leadership and soft skills.

Throughout Fall 2024, we delivered a number of impactful training sessions as part of the Professional Development Certification Program (PDCP), including finance training for Freedom Bank and a digital transformation module for Halyk Bank. In Spring 2025, we continued our collaboration with industry leaders



by offering specialized trainings for AstraZeneca Kazakhstan on taxation and for BI Group on investment strategies. Looking ahead to July 2025, we are set to conduct a dedicated corporate training on mergers and acquisitions.

Further strengthening our portfolio, we successfully launched the CFA Certification course in April 2025, and we are excited to introduce a comprehensive Project Management program in Fall 2025—designed to meet the evolving needs of today's professionals and organizations.

PROFESSIONAL CLUBS AND COMMUNITIES

At the Executive Education Center, we are proud to foster three vibrant professional communities: the HR Club, the Marketing Club, and the Education Leadership Club. Each serves as a platform for knowledge exchange, professional development, and community building within its respective field.

In 2024, the KIMEP HR Club marked a major milestone—its 15th anniversary. Over the course of these 15 years, the club has become a cornerstone of professional growth, collaboration, and innovation. This year, we hosted six engaging sessions, celebrating not only the club's legacy but also its continued relevance in today's dynamic HR landscape. In March 2025, we successfully renewed the club's strategic vision and confirmed the continued leadership of Alexey Chistyakov as moderator. With over 20 years of international HR experience, Alexey now leads his own enterprise while bringing deep expertise and mentorship to our community.





The Marketing Club convened three impactful meetings throughout the year, sparking valuable discussions among professionals across industries. We were pleased to appoint Kanat Israilov as the new club moderator—an experienced marketing strategist who will lead the club into its next chapter. For the upcoming year, we plan to host monthly gatherings and actively expand our network of marketing professionals.

Our Education Leadership Club continues to thrive, with seven dynamic sessions held over the past year. The community has steadily grown, uniting forward-thinking educators and school leaders. Looking ahead, the club will focus on the theme “Well-being at School”—a timely and essential topic announced by our moderator for the upcoming year.

Through these clubs and communities, the Executive Education Center remains committed to nurturing professional excellence and fostering meaningful connections across sectors.

WLP PROGRAM NEWS

Since the 2023–2024 academic year, the Executive Education Center has proudly introduced a new division—the World Languages Program (WLP). This initiative offers a diverse range of language courses tailored for learners of all ages, from schoolchildren to adults, who are eager to master a new language.

Among the offerings is the Provisional English Program, specifically designed for high school students preparing to apply to university. Additionally, WLP provides courses in Kazakh and Russian for international students, alongside a selection of global languages including Korean, Chinese, Spanish, French, and Italian.

For the third consecutive year, the World Languages Program successfully hosted the KIMEP Summer Career Exploration and English Language Camp. This year’s program featured a dynamic and enriching format: in the mornings, students worked with a professional career coach to engage in self-discovery, goal setting, and networking activities; in the afternoons, they enhanced their English skills through immersive sessions with native-speaking fellows from Princeton in Asia.

The camp offered an intensive and thoughtfully curated experience focused on personal growth, effective communication, and career awareness - empowering students to build confidence and envision their future paths.





EXECUTIVE
EDUCATION
CENTER
KIMEP UNIVERSITY

Executive MBA —
an international degree
available in Kazakhstan



ALUMNI MAGAZINE



FIBAA





NEWS FROM THE LAW SCHOOL

By Michael Blasie, Dean of Law School

As we reflect on another dynamic year at the law school, I'm filled with excitement. Our students continue to impress with their intellect, resilience, and commitment to justice. And thanks to your continued support, we have enhanced experiential learning, and deepened our community partnerships.

This year, we celebrated milestone reunions, launched innovative academic initiatives, and welcomed distinguished guests who challenged and inspired us. Through it all, your legacy as alumni—whether advocating in courtrooms, leading in boardrooms, or mentoring the next generation—remains a vital part of our story.

I invite you to visit campus, connect with current students, and see firsthand the incredible momentum you have helped create. Thank you for all you do to uphold the values and excellence of our law school.







NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



NEW MINOR IN DIGITAL FILMMAKING AT KIMEP UNIVERSITY

KIMEP University is excited to announce the launch of a new minor in Digital Filmmaking, offered through the Department of Media Communications (DMC). This program is designed for students who want to go beyond just watching films — and start creating them.

The curriculum covers key aspects of filmmaking, including visual storytelling, directing, cinematography, sound, editing, and production. Students will gain hands-on experience using professional equipment and industry-standard software, while learning to work as part of a creative team.

The Digital Filmmaking minor is open to students of all majors and serves as a valuable addition to programs in Journalism, PR, International Relations, Business, and beyond — helping students build practical visual communication and creative thinking skills.



GREENMAS: SHAPING A JOINT MASTER'S IN GREEN ECONOMY MANAGEMENT

On June 12–14, the College of Social Sciences hosted an intensive three-day consortium meeting of our Erasmus Mundus Design Measure project, GreenMAS, with five working sessions dedicated to shaping an ambitious joint Master's program in Green Economy Management for Arid & Semi-Arid Climate Zones.

KIMEP University and CSS are proud to be the first institution in Kazakhstan and Central Asia to receive the highly competitive Erasmus Mundus Design Measure (EMDM) award from the European Commission. Partnering with us in this forward-looking initiative are the University of Siena (Italy) and Burgas Free University (Bulgaria).

Launched in November 2024, the project is coordinated at the College of Social Sciences, with the Department of Public Administration set to offer the degree once the program is established. It aims to design an integrated Master's program with student mobility across all three universities—ultimately leading to a triple-degree certification from Kazakhstan, Bulgaria, and Italy.







NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF HUMAN SCIENCES AND EDUCATION



PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE: BRIDGING THEORY AND PRACTICE

This interdisciplinary conference brought together researchers, educators, and practitioners to explore the intersection of psychology and education. Held in the New Academic Building, the conference featured keynote speeches, panel discussions, and interactive workshops. Key topics included mental health, cognitive development, inclusive education, and the use of AI in psychological practice. One highlight was Lieve Cuypers's keynote speech, which emphasized culturally responsive teaching and nonviolent communication. The event promoted collaboration and innovative teaching strategies while underscoring the importance of mental well-being and diversity in education. It offered participants valuable insights and tools for professional and academic growth.



CAHE 2025

On May 31, 2025, College of Human Sciences and Education hosted the Central Asian Higher Education (CAHE) Workshop Conference. The conference focused on the growing reading and literacy crisis among

university students. The event featured a keynote address by Dr. Ken Bartlett and four interactive workshops that provided research-based strategies to improve academic reading skills. With its practical, regionally grounded format, CAHE 2025 fostered collaboration among educators across Central Asia. Sessions addressed digital distractions, critical reading, and effective task design, empowering faculty to build students' analytical literacy. The event underscored the pressing need for faculty involvement in redefining reading culture in the current higher education landscape.

LEVELUPLAB 2025

From June 2-6, 2025, LevelUpLab 2025 convened early-career academics, Ph.D. students, and faculty from College of Human Sciences and Education for an intensive summer school focusing on research and pedagogy. Led by Dr. Kenneth Bartlett (University of Minnesota) and Dr. Kim Dang (Monash University), the program featured two tracks: faculty engagement in teaching and systematic review methodology. Over the course of five days, participants engaged in hands-on learning and produced tangible academic outcomes, including teaching action plans and review outlines. By emphasizing depth, practical relevance, and scholarly output, LevelUpLab strengthened academic capacity and pedagogical innovation in Central Asia's higher education landscape.





TURKIC LANGUAGES SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

On May 19 to June 27, 2025, the College of Human Sciences and Education hosted the inaugural Turkic Languages Summer School. This six-week program immersed participants in the linguistic and cultural richness of the Turkic world. The program offered intensive language instruction in Kazakh, Chaghatay, and Uyghur, along with lectures on Turkic linguistics, history, and culture. The program was open to students and scholars with backgrounds in linguistics or regional studies and emphasized academic rigor and cultural engagement. Through interactive classes and cultural activities, participants deepened their understanding of Turkic languages and their role in Central Asian heritage.

GRADUATES OF THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE PROGRAM

This year, the College of Human Sciences and Education celebrated a major milestone with the graduation of the cohort from the Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science (BACS) program. This interdisciplinary program combines psychology, linguistics, philosophy, computer science, and neuroscience to explore how the mind works. The inaugural graduates represent a new generation of thinkers equipped with analytical and research skills relevant to both academia and industry. Their achievement marks a significant step in the development of cognitive science education at KIMEP and sets the foundation for future cohorts to build on their pioneering work.

NEW COLLEGE OF HUMAN SCIENCES AND EDUCATION FACULTY

We are excited to announce that our faculty will welcome 10 new faculty for the 2025-2026 academic year! These talented professionals bring fresh perspectives, diverse expertise, and a strong commitment to excellence in teaching and research. Their arrival marks a significant step forward in strengthening our academic community

and enriching the learning experience for our students. Stay tuned as we introduce each new faculty member on our Instagram page @kimep_chse, where you can learn more about their backgrounds, interests, and visions for the future. Join us in welcoming these outstanding colleagues to our KIMEP family!

KIMEP CULTURE FAIRE 2025

The KIMEP Culture Faire 2025 was a vibrant celebration of cultural diversity, student engagement, and academic community spirit. Bringing together over 150 participants, the event featured interactive activities where attendees could test their skills, make new friends, win exciting prizes, and learn something new about the world's many rich traditions. It was a lively and inclusive gathering that highlighted the power of shared experiences in fostering global understanding and connection.

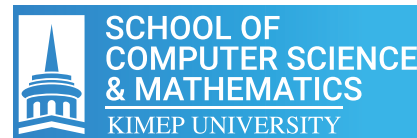
FIBAA ACCREDITATION

The College of Human Sciences and Education is proud to announce that it has been officially accredited by MSP, BSP, and BACS under the FIBAA Accreditation framework. While the detailed results of the evaluation are yet to be released, the successful accreditation itself reflects the college's commitment to maintaining high academic standards, continuous improvement, and international recognition of its programs.





NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS



AI CONFERENCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT KIMEP UNIVERSITY

On November 21–22, KIMEP University hosted an exciting two-day AI Conference, welcoming over 350 high school students not only from Almaty, but also from other regions – including students from Bilimkana School, Kyrgyz Republic.

The event featured an intensive AI training workshop, where participants gained hands-on experience and received certificates of completion (4 hours). The training was conducted by KIMEP's faculty members.

In addition, the conference included a poster competition on AI topics, where students presented their creative ideas and research. On the second day, the winners of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place were announced and awarded monetary prizes.

We were honored to host leading industry speakers from Amazon, Microsoft, Genesis CSP, Atlas Capital, as well as local experts from AIFC Authority of Kazakhstan, and startup founders from Dereknet and AI-TidAAR. Their talks inspired the students with real-world insights into AI innovation and entrepreneurship.

It was a truly inspiring event that empowered the next generation of tech leaders!





OFFICE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

KIMEP UNIVERSITY ALUMNI OF 2014, 2019 AND 2023 SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

During Summer-Fall 2024, Office of Quality Assurance and Institutional Research conducted a survey among alumni who graduated 10 years ago (2014 alumni), 5 years ago (2019 alumni) and 1 year ago (2023 alumni). The aim of the survey was to learn about graduates' professional development and career achievements along with collecting their opinion on general level of satisfaction and evaluation of benefits gained as a result of studying at KIMEP University. We thank all alumni who participated in the study!

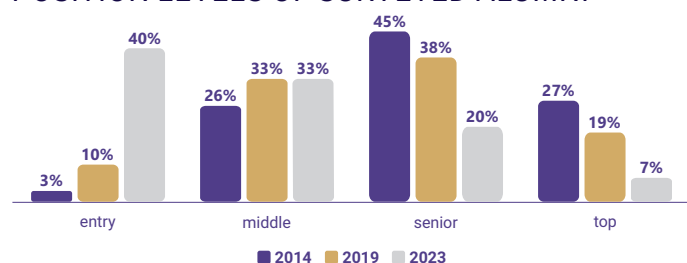
RESPONSE RATE (out of reached): 56% of 2014 alumni, 69% of 2019 alumni and 82% of 2023 alumni

EMPLOYED (including full-time/part-time work, running a business, freelancing, maternity leave and combining work with studies): 89% of 2014 alumni, 86% of 2019 alumni and 82% of 2023 alumni

EMPLOYED by FOREIGN entities: 30% of 2014 alumni, 41% of 2019 alumni and 50% of 2023 alumni

CREATING JOB PLACES: 334 jobs created by 2014 alumni, 461 jobs by 2019 alumni and 53 jobs by 2023 alumni

POSITION LEVELS OF SURVEYED ALUMNI



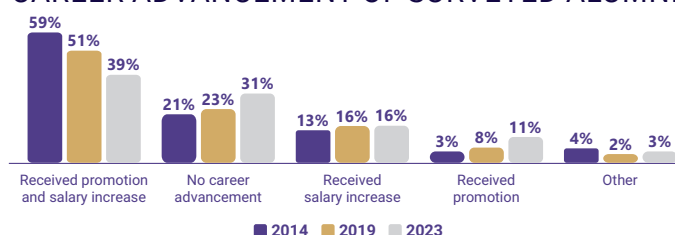
TOP 5 INDUSTRIES EMPLOYING MAJORITY OF KIMEP ALUMNI OF 3 COHORTS:

- Accounting/Auditing
- Banking/Finance/Insurance
- Oil/gas/mining
- FMCG
- Sales/Retail

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS:

- Overall satisfaction with contribution of the university to professional development was rated 4.16 out of 5
- 95% of 2014 alumni, 92% of 2019 alumni and 96% of 2023 alumni would recommend KIMEP to prospective students

CAREER ADVANCEMENT OF SURVEYED ALUMNI



PROGRAM OUTCOMES BY COLLEGE: BENEFITS GAINED UPON GETTING A KIMEP UNIVERSITY DEGREE

- ✓ **Bang College of Business** graduates expressed higher satisfaction with advanced academic knowledge, advanced knowledge of English and increased professional self-confidence and personal satisfaction.
- ✓ Surveyed graduates of **College of Human Sciences and Education** appreciated advanced academic knowledge and applicability of gained knowledge in practice.
- ✓ Alumni of **College of Social Sciences** identified advanced knowledge, ability to communicate concisely, clearly and accurately with others and increased professional self-confidence and personal satisfaction as top benefits acquired upon getting their KIMEP degree.
- ✓ **School of Law** graduates were more satisfied with knowledge of legal matters, policy, theories and case studies, increased professional self-confidence and personal satisfaction and ability to persuasively construct and defend an argument.



ASSIYA KUZBAKOVA STORY ABOUT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Hello everyone! My name is Assiya Kuzbakova. I participated in a student exchange program during Fall 2023 at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, and I can confidently say that it was an unforgettable and truly life-changing experience.

Initially, I hadn't planned on going to Hong Kong and had listed this university as a backup option. But as life would have it, sometimes destiny chooses us, not the other way around. During my time there, I constantly discovered new things about myself and changed rapidly in the process. The same can be said for my friends - we all arrived as completely different people.

During the first few days, I was scared. I was terrified of being completely alone, unsure of even the most basic things - like where to turn for help if something went wrong. I was afraid to go anywhere without internet access and didn't even know where to get a SIM card. I feared getting lost with no way out of the situation.

I cried because I found myself in a completely unfamiliar environment, far outside my comfort zone. But looking back now, I realize how necessary that experience was for me. Those moments of fear and sadness gave me the motivation to face my challenges and start figuring things out on my own.

Studying abroad gave me the opportunity to experience life in a different country. There were moments that felt overwhelming - like when my phone died and I found myself stranded in a remote village three hours away from the city, with no landmarks and no English speakers around. But there were also moments of awe and admiration for the incredible diversity of this place, where a bustling metropolis coexists with stunning natural beauty - jungles, mountains, and the sea all in one.

I learned what it's like to live with unfamiliar people and gained many new acquaintances. Even though many were also Kazakhs, their worldviews were surprisingly different. I also experienced the loss of an important friendship, which taught me that sometimes our social fears can come true. Yet all of these were valuable life

lessons that played a major role in my personal growth and character development.

In my 19 years of life, I've learned to truly enjoy my own company and find just as much joy in solitude as in a big group. Walking alone through completely unfamiliar places helped me develop a strong sense of self-sufficiency. I often explored the city on my own simply because I wanted to see everything and many of my friends were busy. I was afraid at first - but I pushed through, and eventually realized how empowering it is to be independent.

One of the most heartfelt memories for me was my visit to Disneyland. It might sound cliché, but I genuinely felt like a little kid in a fairytale for an entire day. My mom gifted me the ticket for New Year's, and although I couldn't find anyone to go with me, it turned out to be for the best. I completely immersed myself in the magic and wonder of it all, and it was a perfect ending to a beautiful chapter of my life - my exchange semester.





JOB FAIR

KIMEP UNIVERSITY: EMPOWERING FUTURE THROUGH CAREER EVENTS IN 2025

In 2025, KIMEP University reaffirmed its commitment to student career development by organizing a series of impactful career events, bridging the gap between academia and industry. These events provided students with invaluable opportunities to connect with leading employers, gain industry insights, and enhance their professional skills.

KIMEP JOB FAIR 2025

Held on April 4, 2025, the annual KIMEP Job Fair was a cornerstone event, attracting 40 prominent companies from diverse sectors, including FMCG, audit, hospitality, trade, production, insurance, and law. Notable participants included McKinsey & Company, Adidas, PepsiCo, AstraZeneca, AMWAY, Carlsberg, Samsung, Grant Thornton, Coca-Cola International, EY, KPMG, Nestlé Food, British American Tobacco, Air Astana, and many others.

Over 350 students engaged directly with industry professionals, exploring internship and employment opportunities. The event featured a CV Clinic, where career consultants provided personalized feedback on resume writing and interview preparation, empowering students to confidently navigate the job market.



SPECIALIZED CAREER DAYS

Throughout the year, KIMEP University hosted several industry-specific Career Days, tailored to students' academic disciplines:

- **Media & Communications Career Day (January 31, 2025):** This event brought together top media and marketing agencies, providing students with insights into the industry and opportunities for internships and employment. Our partners like Alteco Partners (Kursiv Media), PANPRO Agency, Genesis CSP, Internews, Tengrinews, DASM Group, CITIX, Brave Talents, er10.kz, NoTo Agency, Okori Kazakhstan (partner of Dentsu), Netpeak Kazakhstan, PR-Agency "Tayny Sovetnik"/Tidam, IZI, Httpool, We Project/The Tech, Admixer/B2B Digital Advertising&| Marketing, TAN Media Group participated in the event.
- **CSS Career Day (February 27, 2025):** Focused on Economics, International Relations, and Public Administration, this event connected students with organizations such as the Benelux – Kazakhstan, Akimat of Medeu District of Almaty city, Agency for Civil Service, Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Regulation and Development of the Financial Market, JUSAN analytics, TAITRA, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Samruk Qyzmet, Almaty Tourism Bureau (Visit Almaty), The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), DAMU Fund, Airba Fresh, Anavate Partners, Air Astana, Siemens Kazakhstan, Emerging Markets Group KZ, BGDN.



- **CHSE Career Day (April 10, 2025):** Targeting students in Foreign Languages, Translation Studies, Cognitive Science, Psychology, and Educational Policy, this inaugural event featured 18 companies, including 18 companies and organizations took part in the event: New Generation School, High Tech Academy, Nazarbayev Intellectual School, Bilimkana International High School, Daryn Innovation School, JOO High School, Shoqan Walikhanov Private School, IELTS Online, IDP Center, InterPress, Genai Corporation, Verigram, MARS, Greenwich Education, Steppe&World Publishing, China National Petroleum Corporation, Halyk Bank, EY Academy.
- **Speed Networking 2024: Bridging Legal Education and Professional Practice:** On November 8, 2024, KIMEP University's School of Law, in collaboration with the Career Center, hosted its annual Speed Networking event. This initiative provided a dynamic platform for 17 selected law students to engage directly with leading legal professionals, fostering meaningful connections and offering insights into the legal industry. The event featured representatives from prominent organizations, including Baker McKenzie Kazakhstan B.V., Unicas Law Firm, KPMG Kazakhstan, EY Central Asia, Tukulov & Kazigulov, Centil Equitas, Dentons, Kinstellar, Artyushenko & Partners Law Firm, GRATA Law Firm, PwC Kazakhstan, Deloitte, Morgan Lewis, Air Astana, TOO Rödl & Partner, Magna Law Firm. Structured in a rapid-rotation format, students engaged in brief, focused conversations with each professional, allowing for personalized interactions and immediate feedback. This format not only enhanced students' networking skills but also provided them with a clearer understanding of various legal career paths and industry expectations. KIMEP University takes pride in being the only law school in Kazakhstan to offer such an innovative networking experience, underscoring its commitment to bridging academic learning with practical professional exposure.



CAREER PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT COURSE: SHAPING FUTURE PROFESSIONALS

KIMEP University's Career Center, in collaboration with industry partners, proudly continued the "Career Planning and Management" (CPM) course – a comprehensive program designed to give students an early start in building their career paths. Open to students of all majors and years, the CPM course is especially valuable for those preparing for internships, approaching graduation, or seeking clarity in their career goals.

The academic year-long program includes 10 interactive sessions focused on self-assessment, career exploration, goal setting, skills development, and job search strategies. With the support of industry experts, students are equipped not only to enter the job market successfully but also to develop long-term career management habits.

Upon successful completion, students are awarded a Certificate of Completion, marking a significant step in their transition from university to the professional world. More than just a "how to get a job" course, CPM is a strategic investment in lifelong career success.

CAREER EVENTS 2024–2025AY: BUILDING PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

The 2024–2025 academic year at KIMEP University is marked by an intensive and diverse series of 54 career events designed to empower students for their future careers. Organized by the Career Center in partnership with leading companies and industry experts, these events are carefully curated designed to guide students through every step of their professional development.

The calendar includes a wide range of activities such as guest lectures, masterclasses, company visits, panel discussions, career days for specific industries, and large-scale events. Students benefit from real-world advice on career planning, skills training, resume building, interview preparation, and personal branding.

Through these events, KIMEP University reaffirms its commitment to bridging education and employment, preparing students to enter the workforce with confidence and competence.



Nº	Date	Event
1	Sept 6	Career is an Object of Management by Madina Bilyalova, career coach
2	Sept 20	Modern Trends on a Labor Market by Rakhima Makhmudova, HH expert
3	Sept 24	Career Talks: EY Guest Lecture, Audit Department
4	Sept 27	Mock Interview with Air Astana, CITIX, Deloitte
5	Oct 10	Master Class: 'CV Writing' by Alfiya Mustafina, Career Consultant
6	Oct 22	Career Talks with PwC
7	Oct 18	Self-Assessment. Identifying Your Professional Talents by Nazym Osserbayeva, HR Director at Farel
8	Oct 23	Career Talks: Career in State Bodies (Agency for Regulation and Development of the Financial Market of Kazakhstan)
9	Oct 29	Career Talks: BCG Company Presentation and Case Cracking
10	Nov 1	Developing SMART Model by Zaure Nurova, HR of EY, KIMEP Alumni
11	Nov 2	TALENTFORBIZ-ALMATY – Turkish Job Fair
12	Nov 4–8	KPMG Career Week: Tax, Audit, Finance
13	Nov 5	Career Talks with Bayer: Finance in International Companies by Elmira Makypova, CFO, KIMEP Alumni
14	Nov 8	Speed Networking with Law School
15	Nov 20	Career Talks: Career Opportunities in State Bodies – Mr. Daniyar Bylkylov, Deputy Akim of Medeu District
16	Nov 21	BI Group: Visiting Company
17	Nov 22	Developing a Professional Resume. Cover Letters. Recommendation Letters by Meruyert Adaibekova, KIMEP Alumni, Career Consultant
18	Nov 28	Career Talks: Deloitte Presentation, Audit Department
19	Nov 29	How to Become an Inspiring Leader? by Gulshat Sadykova, HRD of Starbucks, KIMEP Alumni
20	Nov 29	Job Search Strategy, Job Search Techniques by Olzhas Suleimenov, EY Consultant, KIMEP Alumni
21	Dec 2	Career Talks: EY Presentation, Audit Department
22	Dec 5	Career Talks: KPMG Presentation, Deals Advisory: Infrastructure and Debt & PPP
23	Dec 12	IT Dar Holding: Visiting Company
24	Dec 14	Test and Interview for EY Legal Department
25	Dec 19	EY Coffee Chat with EY Team
26	Dec 21	#Case4Success Case Championship with JTI and Invictus KZ



27	Dec 23	PwC Christmas Day
28	Jan 17	Successful Interviews by Arailym Mukhamadi, HR Business Partner, BTS Digital
29	Jan 30	Media & Communication Career Day
30	Jan 30	Career Talks: Panel Discussion – 'Professionals VR InfoBiz' with KIMEP Alumni
31	Jan 31	Networking. Personal Branding by Ablai Yussupov, General Director, Yussupov Marketing & Consulting
32	Feb 6	ACCA Virtual Career Fair
33	Feb 7	Emotional Intelligence & Resilience by Yelena Lazareva, Executive Coach, MCC ICF
34	Feb 21	Industry Visit: Insight from Inside, PwC
35	Feb 27	CSS Career Day
36	Feb 27	Career Talks: Building a Standout LinkedIn Profile by Aygul Iskhakova, EY Central Asia
37	Feb 27	CV Clinic by Career Consultant, Meruyert Adaibekova, KIMEP Alumni
38	Feb 28	Personal Career Plan Development by Ainur Amanzholova, HR of BAT, KIMEP Alumni
39	Mar 12	Info Session: An Idea Championship CCI KZ x EFES
40	Mar 13	Career Talks: Successful Interview by Dauken Kuramys, Founder of ABD Academy, KIMEP Alumni
41	Mar 13	Career Talks: IZBASSAR Internship Program Presentation – Kazatomprom
42	Mar 13	Job Search in the Financial Sector by Alexandra Polimatidi, Career Consultant, ICF Coach
43	Mar 13	Career Talks with L'Oreal by Anna Lemets, Recruitment Manager
44	Mar 14	Company Visit: EFES Kazakhstan
45	Mar 14	Career Talks: EY Test + Interview, People Advisory Services
46	Mar 14	Company Visit: EFES Kazakhstan
47	Mar 14	Career Without Mistakes / Building Your Future by Vladimir Kim, Beeline Product Team Lead, KIMEP Alumni
48	TBD	EY Test + Interview, People Advisory Services
49	Apr 4	Time Management: How to Manage Your Time Effectively by Vladimir Kim, Beeline Product Team Lead, KIMEP Alumni
50	Apr 10	KIMEP Job Fair 2025
51	Apr 10	Training: Career Without Mistakes by Vladimir Kim, KIMEP Alumni, Beeline Product Team Lead
52	Apr 16	CSHE Career Day
53	Apr 24	Motivation and Self-Development: Building Your Future
54	TBD	Presentation by the Taobao & Tmall World (TMW) Team



PODCAST: AI WON'T REPLACE, IT WILL ENHANCE: KIMEP GRADUATES' PERSPECTIVE ON THE FUTURE OF ANALYTICS, TECHNOLOGY, AND EDUCATION

Raushan Kanayeva: Welcome to the KIMEP Alumni Talks! I'm your host, Raushan Kanayeva. Today we are going to talk about one of the most important topics of our time - the present and future of Artificial Intelligence.

We are joined by two wonderful KIMEP alumni. Let me introduce Leila Bashimova, a 2015 graduate of the Bachelor in Finance program. Today, Leila is the CEO of "DataBoom", a leading company in analytics and AI-based online education. Back in her student days, she was an active participant in competitions, case championships, and various academic contests. I'm very happy to see her again - we haven't met since 2011!

Also with us is Olzhas Suleimenov, a 2022 graduate of the Bachelor in Public Policy and Administration program. He was an incredibly active student - he represented KIMEP at debate tournaments, participated in the mentorship program first as a mentee and later as a mentor, and eventually founded his own company, "Agartu Space", focused on business automation with AI.

Yesterday, for example, I used ChatGPT several times: I drafted an email to a partner, brainstormed ideas for this podcast, and in the evening I asked what I could cook with the leftover cream I had at home. ChatGPT even gave me a recipe! What about you? What were your latest ChatGPT prompts?

Leila Bashimova: Let me start. I often use ChatGPT to structure my ideas, including when preparing for this podcast. I usually upload my notes and links to AI-related research articles. I don't like saving dozens of bookmarks, so I just throw everything into ChatGPT - my thoughts, ideas, links I've recently read. It organizes everything very neatly by topic, which is very convenient.



Raushan: And in everyday life? Do you also use AI for personal matters?

Leila: Yes, sometimes it's very helpful, especially when I need creative wording for birthday greetings.

Raushan: Oh yes, I do that too! For example, I write a prompt: "My friend lives here, has these traits, please create a birthday greeting." And the results are amazing.

Leila: Exactly, and the most important part is variety. Before, I had one template for everyone: "happiness, health, success." But my family is huge - I have 26 cousins - and every week we celebrate 2-3 birthdays. It felt wrong to congratulate everyone the same way. ChatGPT really helps me with that.

Olzhas Suleimenov: We took it even further. At my previous job, we made a list of all employees, their positions, and recent achievements. We gave this to ChatGPT, and it generated unique greetings for International Women's Day. We had many female colleagues, and it turned out to be a very creative and personal way to congratulate each one.



Raushan: And yesterday, what did you ask ChatGPT?

Olzhas: Yesterday, I decided to try out a new function. ChatGPT helped me run a deep search - essentially, a very fast consultant that finds and analyzes sources, summarizes the key messages, and even provides recommendations. I asked it to create a tool for personal productivity, and it delivered a powerful summary with references to American universities, companies, and industries. It's very impressive for brainstorming. Of course, I don't think it should make final decisions for us, but as a support tool, it's fantastic. Since my work is directly connected to AI, I use ChatGPT every single day - from drafting emails to helping me stay focused and resilient in business.

Raushan: Until recently, we all relied mostly on Google, online libraries, or subscription-based services. But now AI has become our everyday assistant - helping us create images, videos, texts, speeches, even suggesting outfits or recipes. Today, during this podcast, I want us to reflect: as KIMEP alumni, what should we do now and in the future to stay ahead, to use AI wisely? Some people fear AI, others completely trust it. I know, Olzhas, you're one of those who seem fearless. Is that right?

Olzhas: It's an important question. Of course, I have concerns. But I believe it's about how you manage them. What matters is how you frame your prompts and how you use the tool. I think Leila captured it very well - she said she approaches AI with caution, and I respect that. Because AI, like any technology, can be used for both good and harm. It's essential to have a clear risk strategy and understand its limitations.

Leila: I agree. I believe there must always be a "human in the loop". We cannot fully outsource our critical thinking to AI. Current LLM models still produce mistakes - sometimes up to 60-70% of outputs may include false or misleading information. That's why fact-checking is crucial, especially in sensitive fields like medicine. AI can speed up drug discovery, reducing timelines from decades to weeks, which is a huge benefit. But we still can't let AI handle such processes end-to-end without human supervision.

Olzhas: Exactly. Even in the example I mentioned earlier, biases exist - both in how we phrase prompts and how AI interprets them. I actually want to publish the research I generated yesterday without editing it, so people can see what ChatGPT produced in just 3 minutes. If AI can already do this today, imagine what it will be capable of tomorrow. It's both exciting and a little unsettling.

Raushan: And what about the future? What do you think will happen with neural networks in 5-7 years? What kind of future awaits us? I already see that marketers, copywriters, and many others are losing their jobs and need to adapt or retrain. What do you think, Leila?

Leila: I believe that good professionals should not be afraid of losing their jobs. AI itself does not take jobs away. But those who learn how to work alongside AI and integrate it into their daily tasks may replace those who don't. One way or another, we all need to adapt.

In 5-7 years, I think AI will continue to integrate into our lives simply because it's convenient. Of course, there are alarmists who stress the risks, and I agree we should be cautious. But in education, for example, AI can play a very positive role. Tools like "Secretic AI" already exist to support learning - you can ask it questions, and sometimes it even asks you questions back to deepen your understanding of a subject.

The main risk I see is that young people will grow up with AI from birth, and they may become too reliant on it. We cannot delegate our critical thinking entirely to machines. Critical thinking must remain human. All AI-generated results should be questioned, because doubt is one of the cornerstones of learning.

Olzhas: That's a very important point - learning. But let me highlight two big problems with AI. First: it lies. Boldly.

Olzhas: Exactly - no shame at all. And what's worse, I've seen people blindly trust it, both in business and in everyday life. That's dangerous. As Leila rightly said, if there's no human in the loop, then we're in trouble. AI should never make the final decision - it should only support us in making one.

The second problem is that people don't know how to use it. They don't understand how the technology works. AI doesn't "know" the meaning of words. It only predicts the next likely word.



Raushan: So what should people know then?

Olzhas: They should know how to work with the tool. Many people tell me: "I tried it three or four times, didn't like it, and quit." But they don't realize that AI needs context. The more context you give it, the better it performs.

Right now, huge money is being made by companies that build context into language models. Take, for example, "Cursor" - they embedded an LLM into a coding environment, giving it access to the entire project folder. Now the model can generate code with full awareness of the project. This company, with only 20 employees, is valued at over a billion dollars.

Another example is "MidJourney". With just 20-25 people, they trained a model to generate images, turning text into visuals. Today, the company is worth billions. Every month, new startups emerge by creating unique contexts for LLMs.

So, yes, AI lies. But if you provide strong context, you can reduce errors and make the technology much more useful. That's why many companies are now focused on context engineering. It means writing more detailed prompts - with conditions, background, and details. The better the context, the better the result.

Leila, what's your take on this?

Leila: I agree. The key now is to make AI communication more natural, so people can just ask questions in plain human language without worrying about "perfect prompts." Of course, you see lots of online courses teaching prompt-writing, but in the end, the true value is in learning how to ask the right questions.

Raushan: Yes, there are even marketplaces selling prompts now.

Olzhas: That's true. But ultimately, everything comes down to how you formulate your request. The quality of your question determines the quality of the answer. And remember, LLMs are trained on human-created data, which means they inherit human biases and stereotypes. That's why many AI models tend to give the "most popular" or "expected" answers.

Leila: Exactly. That's why critical thinking is so important. Models like ChatGPT are designed to give you answers that sound agreeable. DeepSeek, on the other hand, will argue with you until the end, even when it's wrong. That's why regulation and human oversight are necessary at the early stages.

Let me share two studies with you. The first was conducted at Microsoft, involving around 400 employees using "CoPilot". Interestingly, Microsoft, despite being a major OpenAI shareholder, openly published the results. They found that about 60% of employees admitted to blindly trusting AI outputs. Over time, this reliance weakens their critical thinking.

Raushan: So people get too relaxed?

Leila: Exactly. The second study was at MIT. Groups of employees were asked to write essays. One group had to rely only on traditional sources - libraries, research, and their own knowledge. The other could use AI. The AI group produced more creative essays, but these were highly educated individuals using AI as an assistant, not as the main author.

That's where AI shines as a brainstorming tool. It throws out ideas, sparks directions for further thought, and helps expand perspectives. But the development of those ideas must still come from humans.

Education - both early and higher education - is what nurtures that ability. And in those studies, people with higher education still demonstrated stronger critical thinking, even when AI was in the mix.

Raushan: I also recall that in one of the studies, researchers measured brain activity. The participants who used AI showed significantly lower activation in key brain areas, almost "frozen." Meanwhile, those who wrote essays without AI had highly active regions "lit up" with energy.

Olzhas: Let's return to the question of the future. Personally, I don't trust people who say "everything will change." I tend to believe those who say "things will remain the same." That, I think, is a more reliable way to predict the future - to focus on what will survive. And usually, what has lasted a thousand years will likely remain.



Human needs - not only basic ones but also curiosity, the drive for creativity, for building businesses or making art - will always stay. The question is: what exactly within those processes will change? For example, in companies, firing a key employee is often a mistake. Employees carry organizational memory - they know what has happened before. That context is extremely valuable, and I believe it can also be integrated into AI models.

Once, ChatGPT asked me: "How are you different from me? I generate words based on context, and so do you." That made me think. Perhaps our role is to train people to use AI to stimulate, not replace, thinking. For example, essay writing - AI is now a challenge for education. But instead of banning it, we need to adapt assessment methods. Studies show the brain is less active when using AI. So, the task is: how do we make the brain work "while" using AI?

I don't know the full answer yet. Maybe through interviews and oral exams - making students explain and defend their ideas. If we had brain sensors on right now, I'm sure ours would be glowing - because we're brainstorming and recalling knowledge from memory.

Raushan: Exactly, right now we're fully relying on our memory, not Google or ChatGPT.

Leila Bashimova: Yes, we're pulling information from long-term memory, short-term memory, things we read yesterday or last week. That process itself is training.

Olzhas: I'm more on the conservative side here. Like in the Soviet Union: you draw a ticket and answer orally. I think oral exams and interviews are very effective because you can't cheat - you either know the subject or you don't. The challenge, of course, is how to scale that.

Leila: And with every new technology comes counteraction - regulation. Right now, there is no global framework for AI regulation. The EU has made attempts, but in Kazakhstan, for example, no legislation exists yet. At the same time, our government is actively investing in AI initiatives, and many officials are techno-optimists.

Let's not forget: 22 Kazakhstani engineers are now working in "Higgsfield AI", one of the world's top 185 AI startups, specializing in video generation from text prompts. They already have over 2 million users, 200,000 paying customers, and a valuation of \$100 million

with venture funding from Silicon Valley. That shows Kazakhstan's growing role in the global AI ecosystem.

Still, we need both optimism and caution. Conservative voices like Olzhas's are valuable - to remind us of risks we may not fully see yet. Research on brain activity is just one example: it shows why we must give special attention to education at every level - primary, secondary, and higher. Young minds need to develop critical thinking before they immerse themselves in AI. Schools and universities should filter and regulate AI use, ensuring students don't lose the ability to think independently.

That also means creating tools to detect AI-written essays and set thresholds for acceptable AI use, so students don't outsource all their thinking to machines.

Raushan: Speaking of regulation - President Tokayev promised to sign an AI law in the first half of this year. Since we're recording this in the last week of June, do you think he will sign it? Have you seen the draft?

Leila: Unfortunately, no, we haven't seen the draft yet. But I think there's more awareness now than a year ago. Even some of the hype and alarmism in the media may be helpful, as fear sells stories but also highlights real risks. Regulation is necessary - not to stifle innovation, but to ensure AI truly serves humanity. If people start delegating decision-making to AI and it makes mistakes with harmful consequences for health or well-being that must be addressed in law.

Olzhas: Absolutely. The goal should be to regulate usage so that people don't exploit AI for harm, but use it for good. I think Kazakhstan can learn from the EU's framework. For example, banning the use of AI for facial recognition, or restricting it from processing ultra-sensitive personal data. On the other hand, our government is even considering taxing ChatGPT subscriptions - while Saudi Arabia, for comparison, offers free Pro subscriptions to all citizens. That contrast is both funny and sad. Instead, we should create incentives for entrepreneurial, positive applications of AI.

Raushan: Many of our alumni are parents. Leila, you have a daughter. How old is she, and how do you approach AI use in your family?



Leila: She doesn't know about ChatGPT yet. She's almost six and will start school next year. For me, it's very important that in school she learns critical thinking - reading, analyzing texts, writing essays by hand. Handwriting and note-taking activate different brain areas, which helps memory and comprehension. Studies show this clearly.

But she already uses AI - through Yandex Alice. She asks it questions like: "What is thunder? What is a hurricane?" It's fascinating to see.

Raushan: I was talking to friends, and one said homework with kids has become so hard. Sometimes the only way to solve complex math problems is with ChatGPT.

Leila: Yes, I've heard the same. Exams and tests are becoming harder due to competition for limited places. But I don't think education should go further in that direction. The priority should be ensuring students graduate with critical thinking skills - the ability to search for, read, and analyze information themselves before they turn to AI.

Actually, OpenAI has already introduced some features to encourage this. For example, sometimes ChatGPT gives two different answers to the same question and asks you to choose which you prefer.

Raushan: Yes, I've seen that - it then gives a full breakdown of the response.

Leila: Exactly. That's a clever way to re-engage critical thinking. You have to compare, evaluate, and decide which answer fits best. It would be great if more models were designed to ask follow-up questions, challenging users to think more deeply. And I've noticed ChatGPT often adds disclaimers: "This information may not be accurate. Please verify with the original source." That's another way to remind us not to outsource responsibility entirely.

Raushan: When we talk about AI in business, we usually think of Google, Facebook, or Meta. But what about small Kazakhstani businesses? A sole entrepreneur, a little café with just a cash register and maybe a CRM system - Olzhas, what advice would you give them? Where should they start?

Olzhas: I think for small and medium-sized businesses, the key is to realistically evaluate the technology and understand where it can be applied. Today, the areas most easily replaced by AI are those involving analytics - cases where large amounts of data can be structured into context for conversations with AI "assistants" inside your business. Many even give them names.

For small businesses, there are usually two main data sources: a CRM system and an accounting system. By analyzing these, AI can save a lot of man-hours. We've had experience with this ourselves: we connected our spreadsheets to a language model, and it started generating insights like, "These sales earned this much, the plan was this, do you want me to draft a message for them?" Or: "This client promised to return but hasn't - should I remind them about your service or discount?"

Why is this area being replaced first? Because it's far from the customer - it's closer to decision-makers. It's low-risk: AI provides drafts and snapshots of performance, while humans still make the actual decisions. For deeper insights, tools like Power BI are great, and Microsoft is already embedding language models inside those products.

But one of the "worst" areas to delegate to AI right now is sales. Sales is deeply psychological, based on soft skills, relationships, and context. Especially in B2B, it's not something AI can handle well. A study by Antal showed that IT specialists are no longer the most in-demand - sales professionals are. My hypothesis: the further you are from the client, the easier you are to replace. The closer you are to customers, decisions, and risks - the harder it is for AI to replace you.

Leila: I agree. We don't trust AI with sales yet. As we discussed off-air, AI has a built-in bias to "please." If you connect it directly to WhatsApp to chat with customers, it can hallucinate - inventing products, prices, or features that don't exist. We've tested this: it will say, "Yes, we have that course," when we don't. That creates reputational risks.

But AI is excellent for initial customer qualification. It can ask basic questions: Are you an individual or a company? What course are you interested in? What's your goal? Then, once the conversation moves to price or specific details, it hands over to a human manager. This saves time - because initial qualifying questions are always the same.



So, AI won't replace sales managers entirely. But it can replace the "first-step managers" who used to sort leads. A bot can now do that in seconds.

Olzhas: Looking more broadly, AI is excellent at "formatting content". Philosophically, there's "content" and "form." Humans provide the content - ideas, strategy, meaning. AI is great at shaping that into forms: reports, posts, visuals.

That's why marketing is one of the first areas being transformed by AI. People create content plans, define key messages, and AI generates the posts or visuals. But - paradoxically - AI still struggles with design and layout. A social media manager can often do better.

Raushan: Olzhas, you just killed half the startups that generate posts and visuals for SMMs.

Olzhas: (laughs) But they're already using AI behind the scenes. The opportunity for them lies in improving technical tasks and workflows. Wherever there's low risk, AI fits easily.

Leila: Yes, but here's the problem: AI outputs are "stereotypical". If you generate a company name, logo, website, or content plan and just publish it raw, it won't stand out. It will be unoriginal, uninspiring - because it's based only on what already exists. There's no "soul".

Olzhas: And soul is critical in business.

Leila: Exactly. That's why you must embed your "unique idea" - your competitive advantage. For example, at Data Boom, our strength compared to other edtech schools is human support. Many online schools put students into groups of 100–200 people with only a few mentors. That lowers quality.

Our mentors, on the other hand, are our certified alumni. They've passed Microsoft exams, earned international certificates, and most importantly, they share our mission: to help each student understand. If you're shy, you can message them directly. If you're stuck, you can schedule a call. That human factor makes all the difference.

Our average student used to be 35 years old - working professionals: accountants, economists, marketers, IT experts. For them, shifting from Excel to Power BI can be tough. But with a mentor guiding them, they succeed. And yes, we also integrate Microsoft Copilot features - like live translation in PowerPoint. Imagine presenting in Russian, while subtitles simultaneously appear in Kazakh and English. That's the power of AI - making knowledge more accessible.

But ethics and regulation are equally important. Microsoft, for example, requires constant confirmations that its AI won't be misused. Companies understand the risks.

Raushan: AI startups are popping up daily - in healthcare, education, business. I recently learned about one that records coughs and uses AI to classify them, helping diagnose lung conditions in remote areas. That literally saves lives. From Kazakhstani startups, I'm inspired by Agartu Space - born at KIMEP - a mentoring platform connecting alumni with students to support their career goals. Olzhas, which startups inspire you?

Olzhas: First of all, my own company inspires me (smiles). Because mentoring is premium education - learning directly from experts. At Agartu Space, we asked: What if we use AI to scale the most human thing - mentorship? Imagine if every learner had a project, worked on it with AI support, and then brought it to a human mentor, already prepared. That saves time and deepens learning.

The second area that inspires me is healthcare. Diagnosis is a natural field for AI: it thrives on large datasets, symptoms, and patterns that humans often miss. It's already being used in medicine, insurance, and banking for risk assessment. In Kazakhstan, startups like Serebra AI are specializing in diagnostics. The potential is huge.

Finally, I believe Kazakhstan has a unique opportunity. Just like our banks - Kaspi, Freedom - leapfrogged Western systems by building digital infrastructure from scratch, we can do the same with AI. In some industries, like medicine, adoption may be slow, but that's exactly why we should be bold. Innovation thrives where things are uncertain and unexplored.



Leila: For me, it's inspiring that Higgsfield AI, founded by Kazakh engineers, reached the global top-75 AI startups. That proves our talent can compete worldwide. And yes, medical startups inspire me most. Because when health is at stake, you see the real impact of technology.

Of course, healthcare moves slower because risks are higher - lives are on the line. But even so, AI speeds up processes like drug discovery and diagnostics. What used to take months or years can now be done in minutes.

And let's not forget agriculture. AI is quietly transforming it too - with drones monitoring crops, finding lost equipment or livestock, even identifying breeds by wool type. It's the unseen but essential side of AI: making food production smarter and more efficient.

So yes - from healthcare to farming to education - AI is already reshaping our lives in ways we sometimes don't even notice.

Raushan: Let's wrap up with the final question. For over 30 years, KIMEP has been graduating marketers, lawyers, accountants, and auditors. Now we also have Cognitive Science, as well as a brand-new School of Computer Science and Mathematics. Our graduates work in many different industries. What advice would you give them on making AI a super-effective tool for personal growth, happiness, and well-being?

Olzhas: First of all, just start using the most accessible tool on the market - ChatGPT. Don't expect the perfect answer after the very first prompt. The key is to critically analyze the output, refine your request, and keep iterating: the second, fifth, tenth prompt. That's when you'll unlock its real power.

Once people learn how it works, they'll discover features like "Projects" in ChatGPT - essentially folders where you can upload presentations, data, and documents. This provides context, and the quality of responses improves dramatically.

Next, try "Deep Research", which is another powerful feature. And then, look up AI startups valued at over \$1 billion. You'll see not only OpenAI, but also MidJourney, Cursor, Higgsfield, and many others. Study how these tools solve different problems - and build your own personal toolkit.

Even in accounting, there are AI plugins. For example, in 1C Accounting you can install an AI extension to analyze or generate financial reports. The market is wide open right now. Beyond Big Tech, many smaller companies are creating niche AI solutions. That's exactly how our mentoring platform works: it provides a "context window" for mentor-student relationships.

The trend today is moving beyond just generating text - to multi-agent systems that "act" on your behalf. For example, searching for clients, analyzing tenders, or gathering opportunities. That's where the future lies. And one more thing: it's not AI replacing people. It's people who know how to use AI who will replace those who don't.

Raushan: So auditors and lawyers don't need to retrain?

Olzhas: Auditing is actually one of the riskiest and most creative professions. Same with finance. I believe these fields will remain in demand precisely because they require responsibility and creative judgment. What we'll see is a growing demand for professionals who are not IT specialists but who "understand" IT tools - including AI.

What you must not do is ignore AI altogether. The technology is already here, and it's efficient. The sooner you start experimenting, the sooner you'll see how it transforms your work.

Leila: I completely agree. Especially in areas like audit and law - as a top manager, I would never delegate such critical work entirely to AI. Not yet. Why? Because AI companies don't take responsibility for their results. If an AI-generated audit contains errors, regulators will hold "you" accountable, not the AI. You'll be paying the fines, not OpenAI.

So yes, AI is an excellent assistant for routine tasks - but final responsibility, signatures, and liability must remain with humans. This is why in the next 5-7 years, auditors, lawyers, and creative professionals will remain irreplaceable. AI gives stereotypical answers based on majority patterns. True creativity, originality, and accountability are still human domains.



Raushan: Then how should our graduates - regardless of profession - use AI for their own effectiveness?

Leila: Use it as a helper. Automate the repetitive tasks so that you can focus on deeper research, strategy, or more ambitious projects. Right now is the perfect time. With AI handling routine work, even small teams - or individuals - can launch impactful startups. We've seen examples: 22 engineers building an AI company valued at hundreds of millions.

So my advice to students and alumni: treat AI as a tool to create something meaningful, something that makes a difference for humanity, and something that we can all be proud of as Kazakhstani innovators.

Olzhas: And please, don't ignore it. I've seen mid- and large-sized companies say, "ChatGPT hasn't really changed our processes." But that's because their systems are already mature and rigid. For new entrepreneurs, it's the opposite: it's easier to build fresh processes "with" AI from the start than to retrofit it into old ones.

I believe we'll soon see startups where websites have no pages or buttons at all - just a chat interface. You'll simply say what you want, and it will be executed. That's the direction we're heading.

Raushan: Thank you both for this fascinating discussion. We've talked about fears, myths, and realities of AI. What's clear is that AI is not about replacing people - it's about our future, our efficiency, our curiosity, and our ability to make life more interesting and fulfilling.

Olzhas: On a personal note - I have a younger sister, she's 16, and right now she's choosing her university. She's leaning toward KIMEP because I shared with her my own path - how you can build real projects here, gather teams, even secure funding. That's the beauty of KIMEP.

I believe education in the AI era should not be about writing essays for the sake of it, but about "building things": applying to a university, starting a community, launching a project. It's like iterative development in IT - you don't know what step 35 will look like, but you must know the next 3-4. That's the best way to learn.

Leila: And of course, I must add a small product placement. If anyone wants to study AI fundamentals in just five weeks - learning Microsoft tools and real applications for daily work - we offer a course at Data Boom. We'll even prepare a special promo code: KIMEP.

Raushan: Wonderful. And let me also highlight KIMEP programs. We now integrate AI across disciplines - in Cognitive Science, Psychology, and especially in our new School of Computer Science and Mathematics. With world-class professors and talented students, this faculty is becoming a hub for Kazakhstan's IT and AI community. I invite all alumni to join us in building an AI and tech community at KIMEP - to discuss risks, opportunities, and how we can use this technology more effectively together.

Leila: Thank you, Raushan. That sounds inspiring.

Raushan: Thank you both.





AI AND THE JOB MARKET 4.0: WHY TOMORROW MIGHT BE TOO LATE BY RUSTINA OSSODOYEVA



Rustina Ossodoyeva (BSc Finance, Class of 2009)
Co-Founder and CEO, PRORSUM 4.0 | EdTech
Entrepreneur | Futurist | Adaptive Quotient Coach

A graduate of KIMEP's Bachelor of Science in Finance (Class of 2009), Rustina has built an impressive international career. Currently based in London, she serves as the Co-Founder and CEO of PRORSUM 4.0, an educational technology company focused on helping individuals and organizations develop future-oriented competencies and adaptive thinking in the age of artificial intelligence.

I'm sitting in my office on Old Street in London. It's morning. Outside, the city is bustling, sunlight spills across my desk, and a cup of fragrant coffee sits beside me. Everything seems ordinary. People are going about their day, rushing to work, texting, catching the last quiet moments before the day begins. They're smiling. And most likely, they have no idea that the jobs they're hurrying to may soon disappear much sooner than we imagine.

According to the World Economic Forum, 92 million jobs will disappear by 2030. Vinod Khosla, one of Silicon Valley's most influential tech investors, believes that 80% of all "economically significant" tasks will be automated. And 87% of company executives agree: if employees aren't reskilled, they will be replaced by AI agents.

This is no longer a prediction - it's already happening.

Microsoft, Google, IBM, Amazon, Meta, Dell... tens of thousands of layoffs. PwC, Deloitte, KPMG, and EY are already replacing junior analysts and assistants with algorithms. Artificial intelligence doesn't get tired, doesn't make mistakes, doesn't get sick, and doesn't ask for time off. Amazon's CEO Andy Jassy openly stated that AI will "reduce the total number of corporate jobs" in the coming years.

Recently, I had a layover in Cologne. Rushing between flights, I wanted a coffee. It wasn't served by a person but by a robot barista. No lines. No mistakes. No words.

At that moment, I clearly realized: even the entry-level jobs, those first gigs, internships, stepping stones are vanishing.

Now imagine: thousands of students with great diplomas, polished CVs, and strong motivation... unable to find work. According to Final Round AI, the U.S. entry-level job market has shrunk by 27% in the past two years. In Europe, youth unemployment reaches 28%.



What used to be a “foot in the door” now demands three years of experience and a portfolio. But a student can’t have that yet. It’s a true Catch-22: to get a job, you need experience. But to get experience, you need a job.

But that doesn’t mean everything is hopeless. On the contrary it means it’s time to wake up.

Because while old jobs disappear, **new ones are being created**. According to the same WEF report, over **170 million new roles** will emerge by 2030. Even today, companies are searching for: AI analysts, Metaverse architects, Organ bioprinting engineers, Algorithm ethicists, Neural interface designers, Digital hygiene coaches, Sustainability managers and many more.

These are not roles you can “study for directly.” There aren’t always faculties for them. These are hybrid roles, at the intersection of tech, thinking, communication, design, biology, and sociology. Jobs that don’t just require doing but connecting. Jobs that require not rote learning, but critical thinking. And perhaps, these are the roles you were born for.

Here’s what I want to say to every student reading this:

1. Learn how to learn.

Not for the grades but for the understanding. For adaptability. The world is changing too fast. No one will hand you a ready-made plan - you’ll have to build it yourself.

2. Don’t bet on your diploma - bet on your skillset.

At PRORSUM, we tell students honestly: “A diploma is just paper. You still have to know how to sell it.” Today, what matters isn’t what’s written on your CV, but what you can actually do: Solve problems. Learn fast. Communicate clearly. Collaborate. Adapt.

Your skillset is your currency. It’s what sets you apart from those who can be replaced by AI.

Not your title or your status, but your real-world, result-driven capabilities.

3. Create a footprint.

Your portfolio, a personal project, a Telegram channel, an internship, a blog, an initiative - all of that tells your story better than a one-page résumé ever could. Make sure you have something to show.

4. Find your intersection.

You are unique not because you’re “the best,” but because you’re different.

A lawyer who can code. A finance professional building neural networks to assess ESG risks. A journalist curating media content for AI assistants and voice tech. An economist modeling future cities in the metaverse. These are the people of the future.

5. Be flexible.

Don’t be afraid to step off the path even if it’s clearly drawn. Sometimes, the dream is waiting just off the main road.

6. Develop T-shaped skills.

Be a pro in one area, but open to others. Depth and breadth - the ideal combination that AI still can’t replicate.

I’m not writing this to scare you. I’m writing this because I believe in you - you’re capable of far more than you think. You just have to start. Not “later.” Not “in September.” But today. Look honestly at yourself. Ask the uncomfortable questions. And start building something of your own don’t wait for someone to hand it to you.

Let this text not be a source of anxiety but a starting point.

Let it not paralyze but propel.

Because this world needs you real, bold, alive. Not cookie-cutter. You.

And maybe just maybe this AI-powered world isn’t against you. It’s for you.

Not so you just “work” from 9 to 6.

But so you become a creator of the future in the age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



KIMEP ALUMNI ENDOWMENT FUND'S GALA DINNER

The KIMEP Alumni Endowment Fund (KAEF) continues to grow thanks to the strong support of the alumni community and its commitment to making quality education more accessible.

In the 2024–2025 academic year, 9 new students received KAEF scholarships, selected through a highly competitive process.

The 2025 Gala Dinner was attended by approximately 60 guests and served as a key fundraising event for the Fund. The charity auction was a highlight of the evening, raising a remarkable ₸26,000,000. Among the most memorable items were boxing gloves signed by Gennady Golovkin and another pair signed by Manny Pacquiao, both of which generated enthusiastic bidding. Following the auction, 7 new sponsors joined the program – a significant milestone in our growth.

We also gratefully acknowledge the collective grant from the Class of 1998, which will go toward supporting a new scholarship recipient.

Throughout the year, KAEF has remained actively engaged with its students, providing mentorship, academic support, and networking opportunities.

Scholarship recipients have taken part in volunteer activities and capacity-building events, strengthening their sense of community and leadership.

KAEF's work would not be possible without the continued generosity of our alumni and partners. We are deeply grateful for their belief in the power of education and their role in shaping the future of KIMEP.





ALUMNI REUNION 2024: INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND UNBREAKABLE KIMEP BONDS

On November 8, 2024, KIMEP University proudly welcomed back its graduates for the Annual Alumni Reunion, held in the New Academic Building. This year's gathering was dedicated to the themes of innovation and entrepreneurship, providing a special platform for alumni to present their business ideas and share insights with fellow professionals and old friends.

Despite rain, heavy snow and challenging traffic in Almaty that day, more than 100 KIMEP alumni braved the elements to reconnect with classmates and the university community. Their enthusiasm turned a cold winter evening into a warm and memorable celebration.

The event featured inspiring talks from distinguished alumni speakers — Olzhas Suleimenov, Ruslan Dmitriyev, and Yerzhan Ismagulov — who generously shared their experiences and encouraged graduates to pursue bold new ventures. We also thank Aida Yesmagambetova, who not only gave an inspiring speech but surprised everyone with an energetic DJ set, turning the reunion into a true party atmosphere.

A special note of gratitude goes to our talented host, Adil Smanov, whose charm and positive energy brought everyone together and kept the evening lively and heartfelt.

Throughout the reunion, alumni enjoyed reconnecting with old friends, discussing new business ideas, and making valuable new connections. Lively networking sessions, warm conversations, and the showcase of entrepreneurial projects highlighted the vibrant and innovative spirit that defines KIMEP's alumni community.

This unforgettable evening reminded everyone of the value of staying connected — not only to each other but also to KIMEP, the place where so many friendships, dreams, and ambitions first took shape.

We are proud of our graduates and deeply appreciate their dedication, resilience and continued support. We look forward to seeing even more faces and new ideas at our next reunion — hopefully under sunnier skies!





KIMEP ALUMNI REUNION ASTANA 2024: A SHARED VISION FOR TOMORROW

By Saltanat Kerimbayeva, BSS 2007, Head of KIMEP Alumni Chapter in Astana

KIMEP University is more than an institution of higher education — it is a home where we grew, learned, and forged lifelong friendships. Since 2007, a growing number of KIMEP alumni who moved to Astana have come together regularly to celebrate our shared values, experiences, and ambitions. What began as informal gatherings has evolved into the annual KIMEP Alumni Reunion Astana, a vibrant celebration of community, continuity, and collective vision.

The 2024 KIMEP Alumni Reunion Astana brought together alumni across generations, along with university leadership and emerging professionals from various sectors. More than just a reunion, it served as a dynamic platform for dialogue, collaboration, and forward-thinking engagement focused on Kazakhstan's future.

This year's theme is "The Future" - explored how emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and shifting societal values are reshaping our world. The program addressed how KIMEP graduates are uniquely positioned to lead these transformations with purpose and integrity.

We were honored to open the event with a keynote address by Dr. Chan Young Bang, President of KIMEP University, who expressed deep gratitude for the

continued strength and unity of the alumni network. He emphasized that the spirit of KIMEP extends far beyond the classroom and that our collective achievements embody the university's mission: to deliver world-class education and cultivate leaders who drive positive change in Kazakhstan and beyond.

Dr. Zhuldyz Smagulova, Dean of the College of Humanities and Education, shared powerful insights into the future of education, highlighting the evolving skill sets necessary for success in a technology-driven world.

A major milestone of the event was the presentation of the KIMEP Alumni Endowment Fund (KAEF) an initiative aimed at supporting future students through scholarships. Proceeds from this year's reunion were donated to the fund. For many of us, KIMEP was a launchpad for opportunity; now, we have the privilege of opening doors for the next generation.

The Reunion featured inspiring talks from distinguished alumni, reflecting the diversity and dynamism of our community:

Zangar Boztayev (BSc 2014), CEO of Genesis CSP, spoke about artificial intelligence in video production and the future of the creative economy.





Elvira Konakhbayeva (BAE 2007), Managing Director for Strategy and Sustainability at KEGOC JSC, offered insights on digital transformation and sustainable development in Kazakhstan's energy sector.

Nariman Absametov (BSc 2009), Acting CEO of Tau-Ken Samruk JSC, discussed economic diversification and the future of resource management.

Aigerim Janalinova (BSc 2010), Founder of Aspan Life and the Jump Start Social Projects Incubator, highlighted the growing role of social entrepreneurship.

Nurken Berkinbayev (BSS 2008), General Director of Yildirim Holding Kazakhstan, spoke on industrial strategy and Kazakhstan's global positioning.

One of the most engaging sessions was a Business Negotiation Workshop led by Yernar Zhanadil (BSc 2006), Chairman of the Management Board of the Astana International Financial Center Authority. His practical strategies offered immense value to young professionals and aspiring entrepreneurs.

For the first time, the reunion featured a Startup and Business Pitching Session, where alumni presented their entrepreneurial ventures:

Bakhtiyar Rakhimov (BSc 2007), Commercial Director of the BIXL LLP;

Guldana Temirkhan (BSS 2010, MBA 2022), Director of the KazAgroMedia Marketing Agency;

Ramazan Slamkhan (BSS 2015), U.S. Representative of Qaz Trade, Director of Business Development, Kazakhstan Cultural Business Association of North America;

Aigerim Nurgaliyeva (BSc 2008), Founder of SUPERME Beauty Salon Chai, Co-Founder of FLOWSELL IT startup;

Aishat Tastaganova (BSc 2013), Founder of Khan Rai Travel Agency;

Samal Koizhanova (BAIJ 2016), PR Manager, Grey Cardinals PR Agency;

Olzhas Begaly (BFIN 2018), Executive Director and Partner, Agroinsurance LLP;

Talgat Bekmagambetov (BSc 2016), Filmmaker and Video Creator.

This reunion was made possible through the efforts of many. I extend my sincere gratitude to Yernar Zhanadil, Nurken Berkinbayev, Samal Koizhanova, and Bagdaulet Torekhanov for their leadership and organizational support. Special thanks to Ospan Ali, renowned photographer, for capturing the spirit of the event.

We are especially grateful to Zhanibek Baigabelov (BSc 2006), General Director of Kazakhmys Smelting, Chairman of the Board of KLMZ, and Chair of the Atameken Machine-Building Committee, for his generous sponsorship and continued support of KIMEP Alumni Astana.

As we look to the future, I am immensely proud of how far we've come, not just as individuals, but as a united, purpose-driven community. The KIMEP Alumni network continues to grow in strength and impact, and together, we are shaping Kazakhstan's future with vision, innovation, and heart.





MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 2024–2025: EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH AI AND ALUMNI SUPPORT

The 2024–2025 academic year marked an important milestone for KIMEP University's Mentorship Program, which continues to grow and innovate to support our students on their journey toward personal and professional success.

Since the beginning of Fall 2024, the program has integrated a dedicated online platform to manage mentor and mentee registrations. A unique feature of this platform is the use of Artificial Intelligence: AI helps students clearly formulate their goals for working with a mentor and matches them with the most suitable alumni mentor based on their specific needs and aspirations.

Thanks to this digital enhancement, the Mentorship Program has supported over 140 students and engaged more than 50 alumni mentors this year alone. Together, they have held over 660 mentoring sessions, providing invaluable guidance, insights, and networking opportunities.

This year has been a pilot phase for the platform, and our developers are now working on updates and improvements to make the mentoring experience even more convenient and effective for both mentors and students in the coming year.

A special highlight of this cycle was the Mentorship Program Award Ceremony, which took place on June 12, 2025, where alumni mentors were honored with Certificates of Appreciation for their dedication and impact.

Another remarkable aspect of this year's success is the close integration of the Mentorship Program with the Leadership Development Program (LDP). This year, LDP proudly celebrated its 15th anniversary, highlighted by a dynamic LDP Forum held on April 17–18, 2025. The forum featured inspiring KIMEP alumni speakers, including:

- Dulatbek Ikbayev, Managing Partner at McKinsey Central Asia
- Dana Inkarbekova
- Saken Zhumashev
- Zaure Rozmat
- Aisha Shayakhmetova
- Aisana Ashim
- Ainur Umaeva
- Zaure Nurova

The forum was expertly hosted by Kirill Meister and Ilyas Ibraimov, who ensured a professional and engaging atmosphere throughout the event.

A special guest of honor, Gennady Golovkin, received an honorary doctorate degree from KIMEP's President, Dr. Bang, making this celebration even more memorable for the KIMEP community.

If you are interested in becoming part of this transformative Mentorship Program and supporting the next generation of KIMEP leaders, please reach out to us at cdd@kimep.kz.

Together, we continue to shape the future of our students and uphold the strong spirit of the KIMEP Alumni community.





CONTACT US

WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

- Have you changed your job, email or phone number? Update your contact information electronically: cdd@kimep.kz or www.kimep.kz/portal/account/registeralumni
- Keep up to date on events, news, contests, and more via e-mail.
- Get together with alumni in your region or who share your interests.
Build your professional networks and connect with Alumni through KIMEP official pages on Facebook @kimepalumniassociation and Instagram @kimep_alumni_association

ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES

If you would like KIMEP to highlight your professional or community service activities, personal or family achievements, we will be happy to include your profile in alumni-related publications.

Please contact cdd@kimep.kz to participate

SERVICES FOR ALUMNI

KIMEP is proud of its Alumni. The success of the Institute depends primarily on the success of its graduates. KIMEP is pleased to offer the following list of benefits for its Alumni, and encourages Alumni to take advantage of the following services.

- Financial aid for children of KIMEP alumni: 5% coverage of tuition
- 10% discounts for the trainings of Professional Development Programs (PDCP) of the College of Continuing Education of KIMEP, as well as foreign language courses and preparatory courses for the children for the admission to KIMEP.
- Free access to the information resources of the KIMEP Library.
- Free entrance to the KIMEP Sports Center
- Rental of the conference halls of KIMEP with 20% discount for the conferences, trainings and seminars
- Career and Employment Center offers its services to help alumni to find good candidates among KIMEP graduates for work or students for internships opportunities.





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