

# ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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Dear Alumni, Partners and Friends!

It is my pleasure to present you the 8th issue of KIMEP Alumni Magazine!

Since this issue, for the first time I would like to welcome everyone. I think you will enjoy to read success stories of your former classmates, news and achievements of your Alma Mater, you will know more about the Corporate Development Department and Office of Financial Aid. I would like to share the news about establishing Alumni Chapter in Atyrau.

I believe in future you will share your professional activities and success stories.

I also would like to express my gratitude to all authors and those who worked on this issue for invaluable contribution: Adil Valikhanov, Yekaterina Andreyeva, Damina Mukitanova, Kalea Michelle Power, Katherine Herrington.

Sincerely,  
Dinara Sagindykova  
Alumni Specialist  
Corporate development department

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# MESSAGE FROM DR. BANG

**D**ear KIMEP Alumni,  
It is my great pleasure to announce that KIMEP University continues to exceed the highest international standards of educational excellence. For twenty-six years, KIMEP has been committed to providing its students with a world-class education and cultivating a learning environment that supports students' wellbeing and equips them with the skills and experience to contribute to economic and social change in Central Asia.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to our alumni community on KIMEP's renewed institutional accreditation from the Independent Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (IQAA) and the full accreditation of all 25 academic programs by one of the leading international accreditation agencies, FIBAA (Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation). KIMEP administration and faculty worked tirelessly to prepare for the lengthy accreditation process. The positive results are a testament to KIMEP's devotion to our mission. Upholding the quality and rigor of our programs to international standards ensures that our graduates are positioned to excel well beyond graduation in their desired field. This confirmation of KIMEP's elevated standing as a leading center of educational excellence will also benefit alumni in their future pursuits.

In addition to our achievements in accreditation, KIMEP continues to expand the range of academic programs it offers. It is with great pride that I announce the commencement of seven new degree programs this fall. The four new PhD programs in the Bang College of Business will offer unique and challenging opportunities for the future business leaders and educators of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Three new Bachelor degree programs have been successfully launched this fall, including the Nurali Aliyev Bachelor of Information Systems in Business, Bachelor of Foreign Languages and Bachelor of Translation and Professional Communication. With 28 different degree programs now offered, KIMEP students have more freedom to choose the best academic path to achieve their academic goals and professional aspirations.

To continue developing our world-class academic programs, KIMEP is welcoming nine new faculty members to our exceptional team in Fall 2018. These top professors will join the BCB, the Language Center, the College of Social Sciences and the DPRK Strategic Research Center for the upcoming academic year.

KIMEP remains dedicated to creating a modern and sophisticated learning environment for its students. In Spring 2018, we saw the opening of the newly-renovated West Wing of the Valikhanov Building, which is now available to the student body, faculty and staff for use. Renovations of the remainder of Valikhanov will continue through this year. Though the KIMEP Grill will be closed for construction, students and faculty will be able to dine in the new campus canteen, TAMAQ. The undertaking of capital improvement projects on campus demonstrates KIMEP's steadfast efforts to achieve academic excellence and support the well-being of its students.

Lastly, our impressive network of alumni continues to demonstrate groundbreaking work across countless fields both locally and globally. It is precisely this richness and diversity in the success and contribution of our graduates that forms the very fabric of KIMEP's growing community.

On behalf of our faculty, staff, and the greater KIMEP community, I welcome you to read more about our achievements and plans for the near future, and I thank you for taking this opportunity to stay connected to our university.

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

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# NEWS FROM THE BANG COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

## NEW PROGRAMS

BCB was awarded licenses for four (4) PhD programs in August 2017: PhD in Accounting and Audit, PhD in Finance, PhD in Management, and PhD in Marketing. During the 2017-18 academic year, BCB developed the curriculum for the PhD programs and started enrollment process to admit highly qualified students with generous scholarships. BCB is also granted licenses for a new bachelor program, "Nurali Aliyev Bachelor of Information Systems in Business" in fall 2018. With generous support for scholarships and faculty by Zhanartu Charity Fund, BCB will be able to offer one of the best IT in Business program in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. BCB further plans to launch new programs: Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Logistics and Supply Chain Management in the near future.

## NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

BCB hired 6 new international faculty in fall 2018 to reinforce the quality of its educational programs. To be mentioned, BCB hired 7 new faculty already in fall 2017 and these additional 6 faculty joining in fall 2018 will substantially improve the student-faculty ratio and the quality of programs toward world class.



**Dr. Halil Kiyamaz** joined BCB as a Visiting Professor of Finance. Professor Kiyamaz holds a PhD in Financial Economics from University of New Orleans, USA. He previously worked at University of Houston-Clear Lake and the Crummer Graduate School of Business, Rollins College, FL, USA.



**Dr. Ahmad Cheema** joined BCB as an Associate Professor of Finance. He holds a PhD in Finance from Lincoln University, New Zealand. Dr. Cheema previously worked at University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand.



**Dr. Haroon Ur Rashid Khan** joined BCB as an Associate Professor of Finance. He holds a PhD in Strategic & Entrepreneurial Finance from the Graduate School of Management, IAE, Aix-en-Provence, France. Dr. Khan previously worked at King Abdul Aziz University, Saudi Arabia.



**Dr. Dewan Zahurul Islam** joined BCB as an Associate Professor of Operations Management. He holds a PhD in International Multimodal Transport Development from University of Plymouth Business School, UK. Dr. Islam is also a fellow of Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, UK. He previously worked at the University of Newcastle and the University of Plymouth, UK.



(MOU signing: Dr. Bang and Mr. Nurali)



**Dr. Nadeem Khalid** joined BCB as an Assistant Professor of Management. He holds a PhD in Entrepreneurship and Management from the University Utara Malaysia, Malaysia. Dr. Khalid previously worked at University Utara Malaysia (UUM) and University Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP).



**Dr. Soohyun Jeon** joined BCB as a Senior Lecturer of Information Systems. He holds a PhD in Business Administration, Korea University Business School, Korea. Dr. Jeon previously worked at Korea University Business School, Korea.

## BCB RESEARCH NEWS

Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of KIMEP University, BCB organized KIRC 2018 focusing on creative and innovative economic integration facing the central Asian countries along the new Silk Road. The KIRC facilitates the exchange of ideas, values, research and experience amongst academic scholars, business leaders, and policy-makers in the areas of Accounting, Management, Economics, Finance, Taxation, Information Technology, Operations Management and other related fields. Over 150 researchers from 25 countries presented research papers in the 3 days conference. BCB also established “Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation” in spring 2018 to generate and integrate entrepreneurial thinking in all KIMEP students. The Center will promote and establish a hub for entrepreneurs, innovators, and practitioners to support their sustainable growth and contributions to Kazakhstan economy. During the 2017-18 academic year, BCB faculty members has published articles in internationally recognized SSCI index journals among others in Energy Policy, Journal of Cleaner Production, Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance, Management Decisions, Corporate Governance, and Journal of Eurasian Studies.



(KIRC 2018 Conference).



## BCB STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

In November 2018, a team of 4 BCB students, i.e., Saltanat Shakenova, Kristina Udartseva, Asylkhan Mardanov and Arailym Abetayeva participated in Changellenge Cup and won the 1st place in the English section among all the universities in Kazakhstan. In April 2018, BCB student team lead by Burhonova Nigora participated in Mars Case Competition and won the second place among all the university teams Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan ( April 21, 2018). In 2017 KIMEP team won the round of Kazakhstan and Regional Finals and went to Paris to represent Kazakhstan at the International L'oreal Final case competition. In 2018, again the team of 1 BCB student (Madina Zhenispek) and 2 KBTU students won L'Oreal case competition, were the best among 9 Kazakhstan student teams and went to Paris in mid-May to represent Kazakhstan at the Final International competition.

## INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

BCB successfully achieved the Germany-based international FIBAA accreditation, for all its bachelor, masters, and doctoral programs for the next five years. BCB also seeks a European accreditation by EPAS, an EFMD program-based accreditation system, and will be ready to apply the eligibility in December 2018.

## SUMMER IT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

BCB Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) successfully launched the Summer IT Internship Program, so-called, MethodPro Almaty 2018 on KIMEP campus for 2 months with 115 finalists selected from more than 1,000 applicants (high school and university students) throughout Kazakhstan. All the participants were free to join the 2-month long program. It provided students one-month long intensive coding education and 30 real life problems solving case competition for the second month.

# NEWS FROM THE LAW SCHOOL

Several members of the School of Law faculty were active in their research over the summer.



**Dr. Zhenis Kembayev** participated at a conference “The Legal Position of Non-Recognized States in the Post-Soviet Space” at the University of Kiel, Germany, on 12-14 July 2018. He delivered his presentation “Non-Recognized States from the Perspective of the Eurasian Economic Union”. Also, the Review of Central and East European Law accepted his article “Development

of Soviet Federalism from Lenin to Gorbachev: Major Characteristics and Reasons of Failure” and the Journal of World Investment & Trade accepted “The Emerging Eurasian Common Energy Market: What is Its Potential Impact on China’s One Belt One Road Project?”



**Dr. Sergey Sayapin** attended two conferences at the National University of Singapore, respectively, in June and July 2018. The first conference brought together about 120 leading international law scholars from different Asian countries, and dealt with challenges to teaching and researching international law in Asia.

The second one was devoted to the Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAAIL). As a result of both conferences, Dr. Sayapin was invited to join the Editorial Committee of the Brill Encyclopaedia of Public International Law in Asia (BEPILA), as a sub-editor for Central Asia. The publication of BEPILA is scheduled for 2020.



**Dr. Claudio Lombardi** presented papers at three conferences: City University London SLSA Seminar, ‘Legality with a Vengeance: The Role of Law in the Financialization of the Food System’ on May 25, 2018; 1st-4th June 2018 Harvard Law School (HLS) IGLP Conference, June 1-4, 2018, and ASCOLA Conference on The Effects of Digitization, Globalization, and

Nationalism on Competition Law New York University, School of Law on June 21-23rd 2018. He also was visiting professor in June 2018 at Trinity College Dublin, Faculty of Law, under the Visiting Professor Fund, and CELS Visiting Fellow at University of Cambridge, Faculty of Law, July 2018



# NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

## CHINA AND CENTRAL ASIA STUDIES CENTER (CCASC)

Since academic year 2017-18, the College of Social Sciences not only hosts the well-established Central Asian Studies Center (CASC) but also the China and Central Asia Studies Center (CCASC) whose focus is on Chinese investment activities in Central Asia. The Center is partner in a joint two-year project "Unpacking China in Central Asia" with the University of Agder. It has started publishing a bi-monthly newsletter, the CCASC Monitor. The public can follow activities at the Center at its homepage

<http://www.chinacentralasia.org>.

## NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Two new faculty members have accepted joint appointments at the Department of International Relations and the new DPRK Research Center, starting in fall 2018.



**Gianluca Spezza**, Assistant Professor, holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of Central Lancashire, UK. He previously worked as lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire and as independent analyst for NK News and IRIN News.



**Jeongwon Bourdais Park**, Associate Professor, holds a PhD in Political Science from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK. She previously held teaching positions at universities in Hong Kong, South Korea and France and worked as Senior Researcher for the OECD.

## EVENTS

In September 2017, faculty members of KIMEP and the University of East Anglia organized a two-day workshop "Property Rights in Emerging Economies" at KIMEP which was sponsored by the British Academy.

Activities continued at the Central Asian Studies Center (CASC) with a number of round-tables and public lectures, including the IMF presentation of the Regional Economic Outlook. A highlight in the academic year 2017-18 was the two-day conference "Contemporary Eurasia: Models of Governance, Ideology and Youth" in October 2017. In June 2018, CASC together with CCASC ran a two-day conference "Social State in Europe, Kazakhstan and China". Both events received funding from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

The annual CSS Student Conference took place in November 2017 and was entitled "Central Asia in Focus: Social, Political, Economic and Media Issues". The CSS Research Conference "Rethinking State-Society Relations: Transitions and Transformations" in May 2018 attracted international participation.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In March 2018, Aliya Tankibayeva visited the National University of Public Service in Budapest within the Erasmus Plus program. There, she gave lectures and presentations for students and faculty and initiated research and cooperation plans.

## CSS SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Since spring 2017, the CSS Special Scholarship Fund disburses stipends of around 100,000 kzt per semester to CSS master students in financial difficulties. Over this period, the fund has disbursed over 2,000,000 kzt to 15 students. The fund has been set up and financed by faculty initiative but in fall 2017 it received a sizable donation by KIMEP alumna Inessa Morzhikova.



*Inessa Morzhikova with Professor Naqvi and Dean Pech in October 2017.*

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

The CSS session at the Freshman Orientation Day in August 2018 resulted in lively discussions between incoming students, senior students and faculty members.



*Freshmen at the CSS Freshman Day event in August 2018.*



# NEWS FROM THE LANGUAGE CENTER

## EVENTS

The 8th Annual International Conference on Foreign Language and Applied Linguistics (FLTAL) took place on May 10th & 11th, 2018, at KIMEP University.

There were 104 participants from 12 countries (USA, Great Britain, Brazil, Poland, Iran, Turkey, South Korea, Serbia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) who took part in the conference, including 11 teachers from Almaty schools and gymnasiums. The plenary speakers at the conference were Dr. Jeannette Littlemore, Professor at the University of Birmingham (Great Britain), Dr. Guy Cook, Professor at King's College (Great Britain) and Dr. Robert De Kaiser, Professor at the University of Maryland (USA).

It was a wonderful conference focused on sharing research and building new acquaintances.



## NEW PRINCETON-IN-ASIAN FELLOWS

This fall, the KIMEP Language Center is welcoming for new PiA Teaching Fellows for the 2018-19 Academic Year.

Out of the many applicants interested in coming to KIMEP, Yongjian Si, Karis Cha, Andrew Tweedy, and Cody Rump stood out for their enthusiasm, dedication to teaching, and interest in Central Asia.



**Yongjian Si** is passionate about languages, linguistics and cross-cultural communication. He was born in Northern China and moved to San Diego, California when he was 9 years old. He recently graduated with an M.A. in Latin American Studies from Stanford University and is excited to spend a year in Almaty. During the year, he is looking forward to learning Kazakh and Russian while feasting on lots of beshbarmak and horse milk.



**Karis Cha** has prior experience in Central Asia, is proficient in Russian, and has experience as an SAT tutor. She hails from Northern Virginia and graduated from Princeton University with a concentration in Public Policy. She loves teaching, reading, and writing, so this is the perfect post for her!



**Andrew Tweedy** spent the 2017-2018 academic year as a first-year PiA fellow in Can Tho, Vietnam, where he taught English at a local university. He is excited for the opportunity to translate the classroom skills he built in Vietnam to his new position at KIMEP.



**Cody Rump** spent two years improving patient health literacy and education before coming to KIMEP to share his love of writing and English literature. He has had less experience living abroad than the others, but his humility, optimism, and teaching experience will no doubt help him to smoothly adjust to life in Almaty and work at KIMEP.

All four PiA Fellows are TEFL certified.

## NEW BACHELOR'S DEGREE

This academic year, the Language Center has launched two new academic programs: Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Language and Bachelor of Arts in Translation Studies. These programs will equip our students with the knowledge and skill sets necessary to meet the challenges of the globalized job market. We are welcoming our new students to KIMEP and wish them success in their studies and pursuits of wonderful opportunities in the future!



# NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDUCATION CENTER

## CELEBRATING A DECADE OF SUCCESS OF EXECUTIVE EDUCATION CENTER

For a vast business community and high-ranking governmental bodies of Kazakhstan and beyond, the 2017-18 Academic Year marked the glorious 25th Anniversary celebration of KIMEP University. This year also marked the 10th Anniversary of KIMEP's Executive MBA (EMBA) program.

What was the main achievement of the Executive Education Center of KIMEP within a decade of its service to the country? The Center gives a clear understanding that though education and advancing the system of education is generally considered a social service in public administration terms, it obviously has major economic significance: education is concerned with the development and upgrading of human capital, and quality human capital is instrumental and essential to driving the economic development of a whole society and maintaining its competitiveness in the business world and more. KIMEP University offers a wide range of programs for working professionals and executives through its Executive Education Center programs. KIMEP EMBA is an example of successful collaboration between an educational institution and business community of the country and beyond.

## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

On March 12, 2018 the Executive MBA and Mini-MBA programs received two Official Certificates of re-accreditation of the Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA), Bonn, Germany.



*Dr. Bang receives two Quality Seals from FIBAA CEO for EMBA and MiniMBA programs*

## EXECUTIVE MBA PROGRAM STUDENTS

In 2017-18, Executive MBA program successfully launched its 11th Russian cohort and 10th English cohort in Almaty. Together with the two current Astana cohort students, EMBA students are representatives in governmental, owners of businesses, top managers of leading international companies in construction, FMCG, automobile, and oil and gas sectors. It is important to highlight the achievements of our EMBA students within the past year in the program, such as:

- R11 students of KIMEP EMBA, Mrs. Marina Czhan, the owner and CEO of a construction company and Mrs. Lyazzat Kuspan, CFO of a construction company, received the Republican award of "Honorable Citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan" in January 2018 for their outstanding achievements in their spheres.
- R09 student Mr. Berik Meldekhanov, Chief accountant of KazTransGas Corporation and R10 student Mr. Daniyar Yessin, Head of the Department in Astana Akimat for Public Development of the Capital City of Astana were awarded with Kurmet Medals in January 2018.

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*Dr. Bang and FIBAA Top Management surrounded by leading representatives and students of BCB and EEC*

## EMBA GRADUATES OF 2018

KIMEP University celebrated its 26th Graduation Ceremony with more than 400 students and 2500 guests at the Palace of the Republic on Saturday, May 19, 2018. This year the Executive MBA program had 20 graduating students in total, five students from the English cohort in Almaty and fifteen students from the corporate cohort of the "KAZTRANS GAS" JSC.

Ms. Zhuldyz Kydyrbayeva from the Almaty cohort, received a Diploma with an Honor for the highest GPA among the top KIMEP graduates.



*KAZTRANS GAS corporate cohort with Dr. Bang and the faculty of Bang College of Business*

## EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS OF EEC TO EXPLORE NEW REGIONS AND NEW HORIZONS

- EEC held a unique Business Day in Almaty, on May 29, 2018 with 100 participants and business giants Mr. Margulan Seissembai, Mrs. Dana Ormanbay, Mr. Erlan Stambekov and our KIMEP professor Dr. Nurlan Orazalin. The Panel moderator was Mr. Askar Bilisbekov, Deputy Chairman of the Board at Estate Management Company JSC.
- EEC annually participates in the International KIOGE Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition; Global Exhibition in Atyrau; Shymkent Build Exhibition, Kazakh-Uzbek Business Forum in Shymkent.
- EEC Professional Platforms such as the HR Club in English and Russian, Marketing Club, Leadership Program and other professional program seminars are actively expanding their offerings to the Kazakhstani market.

The Executive Education Center of KIMEP University has over the years provided training to tens of thousands of working executives, contributing significantly to enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of management practices in Kazakhstan. In particular, Almaty's strength lies in being a financial hub of the country, in professional services and highly valued activities. All these require a continual supply of top-notch world class personnel. To preserve this competitive edge, KIMEP and EEC will continue to invest heavily into providing a world-class education to enhance the quality of teaching and nurturing talents, attracting more professionals to open professional platforms and providing high-quality executive training in the region. Through these measures, we aspire to further develop the city of Almaty into a hub of high-end management education, thus sustaining the vibrancy and competitiveness of Kazakhstan's economy and the success of KIMEP University.



*EEC Business Day 2018*



# NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

## 2018 SPRING ACCREDITATION AT KIMEP UNIVERSITY

The spring of 2018 was filled with significant events in the life of our University.

From April 11-13 KIMEP University hosted a large group of experts in academic quality assurance from the Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA), a German accreditation agency, which undertook an overview of all academic programs at the University.

Following the visit by the German experts, on April 25-27, a commission of external experts from the Independent Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (IQAA) came to the University. The commission consisted of International experts from the Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders; the Polish Accreditation Committee and Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences (Germany); as well as national experts from Zhetysu State University named after I. Zhansugurov, the National Agrarian University and the Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Astana. They evaluated the characteristics of the University as a whole, at the institutional level.

What causes foreign and domestic experts in the field of higher education to pay such attention to the University? Why do we need accreditation? How does it further develop our University? Why has KIMEP undergone the accreditation process with these agencies in particular?

In official parlance, accreditation of an academic institution is the procedure that recognizes compliance of educational services with established standards. Its purpose is to provide objective information on the quality of said services and to confirm that efficient mechanisms of improving operations are in place.

Simply put, accreditation is evidence of the quality of our academic programs and the research produced here; of our educational infrastructure, students' social life, and the whole university community; of our financial sustainability, and more.

Accreditation is categorized in two ways. It can be institutional – implying the accreditation of the University as a whole; and program-based – designed for accrediting each specific academic program (specialization).

To be more accurate – accreditation is the form of self-regulation of the university, periodical self-evaluation of its operations and the mechanism for improvement of work of all units.

Accreditation as a social phenomenon has got a long history. It came from the USA, where more than 130 years ago the accreditation of universities, schools and colleges has started. There is no unified system of accrediting the institutions of higher education, however there are the regional networks of accreditation agencies – European Network for Quality Assurance (ENQA), Asian-Pacific Network (APQN), Arab Network- (ANQAHE), and others.

As a rule, foreign countries attach a serious significance to having the accreditation certificate. In Europe, for instance, the University that does not have the accreditation is deprived of a right to undertake educational operations, to teach students.

So, what do we need university accreditation for? In Kazakhstan, having an accreditation certificate allows universities to issue state-recognized degrees. Society, parents, and employers especially, understand that the diploma should be state approved, since currently, this kind of diploma is valuable in the labor market. Possibly, in the near future, Kazakhstani universities will be given the right to issue diplomas of their own design in the context of a transition to greater academic freedom and the selection of development pathways of their own. But this is a completely different story...

Having an accreditation certificate is also important from the viewpoint of applicants' choice of university, because they inevitably face the issue of what university to choose. They ask the question "Is it worth going to a university that has no accreditation or that did not undergo re-accreditation?" The answer is definitely not, if we are talking about making the choice of selecting a major and taking a good quality education seriously. It

is worth highlighting that, in comparison with university rankings, which the students usually pay attention to, this is the most significant evidence of education quality for a Kazakhstani university.

If a student wishes to go abroad to continue his or her education, or plans to be employed overseas, one has to undergo the procedure of nostrification of a Kazakhstani diploma. In this case, availability of an accreditation certificate for their “home” university becomes especially meaningful.

The choice of accreditation agencies by our university was not an accident. The Independent Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (IQAA) is the first professional independent accreditation agency in Kazakhstan. This agency is an active member of a number of international education quality assurance networks.

FIBAA (Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation) from Germany is among the leading international accreditation agencies and enjoys international recognition. Both accreditation agencies – IQAA and FIBAA – are members of the European Network for Quality Assurance and are recognized by the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR). This register was founded by the decision of European Ministers of Education and includes agencies enjoying the trust of the European academic community.

The National Register under the Ministry of Education and Science was created in Kazakhstan and is the local analogue to the EQAR. Only the accreditation bodies included in this register have the right to undertake university accreditation in Kazakhstan. Both mentioned accreditation agencies are recognized by the Kazakhstani National Register.

It should be noted that accreditation is a lengthy process. It took 7 months – since October 2017 -- for our University to complete it. First, the contract with IQAA was signed, and then the Self-study Report was prepared. The report described the university’s mission, strategic development plan, management, academic programs, faculty qualifications, facilities and informational resources, partnership with employers, their feedback about our graduates, data on graduates’ employment, etc.

The Self-study report was prepared by a team of faculty and administrative staff, who performed the enormous task of collecting information for this report.

After getting familiar with the Self-study Report, IQAA sent a team of experts assigned with checking the reliability of what was written in the report, and most importantly, formulating recommendations to further improve university operations.

Experts paid great attention to studying the academic programs and companies hosting professional internships, and the facilities and the informational base of the university. IQAA experts visited classes, held meetings with the university management, and with faculty, students, employers, alumni and members of Board of Trustees. They were very positively impressed by their visits to the Legal Clinic of the School of Law, the Innovations and Entrepreneurship Center of Bang College of Business, the Media Lab, the Central Asia Studies Center of the College of Social Sciences, as well as their meetings with the employers – KPMG Audit LLC, and the representatives of the Official Mission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Almaty.

Upon completion of the visit, IQAA expert group prepared their report, on the grounds of which **the Accreditation Council of IQAA, on June 11, 2018, made the decision to accredit KIMEP University for the period of five years.**

**The FIBAA Accreditation Committee for Programmes met on July 6, 2018 and decided to accredit all 25 KIMEP University programs for the period of five years under conditions.**

Preparing for accreditation revealed the community-oriented spirit of our students, faculty, administrative units and management, and reaffirmed our institutional unity and devotion to the cause of our university.

More information on all KIMEP University accreditations you may find at our website [www.kimep.kz](http://www.kimep.kz)

# OFFICE OF CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

## OUR APPROACH – YES, WE CAN HELP

**Interview with Raushan Kanaeva, Director of CDD of KIMEP University**

**CDD stands for Corporate Development Department, the Department dealing with several areas important for each educational institution.**

**D: What does CDD do?**

**R:** Our Department works in several areas. First is fundraising. We are looking for funds to implement KIMEP projects and to support our students. This implies various grants and scholarships, sponsorship of various student events, such as Freshman Orientation, Convocation, and Graduation. Last year our Department made a valuable contribution in fundraising for the 25-th KIMEP anniversary, fundraising for such important events like KIMEP conferences, branded souvenirs for recruitment campaigns and many-many others events that make KIMEP life active and interesting. We are also trying to find any beneficial ways of cooperation with corporate partners. For example, Mars employees visit twice a week for a semester and do a regular class for our students. The class is called Mars Honored Marketing Course. This is a significant contribution for us as our students obtain knowledge from practitioners. There are also other Corporate Honored courses.

Second area is grant management. Many sponsors have been working with us throughout the whole University existence because our work is very conscientious and we report on every penny spent. Until we close a project we follow up on where the money goes, we watch students' academic standing, keep in touch with a sponsor. This is why we get new sponsoring companies and we maintain relationships with old companies as they hear about us as honest partners.

**D: What partners are these?**

**R:** EY, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Coca-Cola, Mars, Kcell. US-CAEF and Tatishev Foundation scholarship programs were established with our support taking into account our recommendations. And we have continued working

with them for more than 10 years strengthening our relationship. New sponsorship that we have started recently (this academic year) is Public Foundation "Zhanartu" that supports 10 students with the scholarship of the new program "Information Systems in Business". We develop strong relationship with KAZENERGY Association: each year the number of scholarships has been increasing steadily from 40 to 60 and we work hard to keep and increase this number. There are many other partners, it's impossible to list them all.

**D: Can other KIMEP departments look for sponsors?**

**R:** Yes, of course. If project initiators – our colleagues – have a good plan, and they already know who to talk to about their project, they do everything themselves. However, we do insist that our office is notified when someone from KIMEP communicates with this or that company because we can help get support from that company. In addition, it often happens that a company would receive several requests from KIMEP (from students, student organizations), which creates a negative image of KIMEP as a pushy partner. Therefore, we are now developing a new policy – all requests will need to go through our office, so that we are informed and are able to maintain a database with the history of communication with all companies.



Third area – career and employment services. We have the oldest career center in Kazakhstan. Our employees – Meruert Adaibekova and Elmira Kabiyeva – have been working in the Center since its establishment in 1996. Thanks to the work of my colleagues, our Center is known throughout Kazakhstan, and we are being approached for recommendations and trainings. I can confidently say that many other university career centers have been created in the image and likeness of ours.

**D: What is KIMEP graduate employment rate?**

**R:** Employment rate has been 93% or higher for several years now, and it is not decreasing. Remaining 7% are graduates who either have decided to devote themselves to family or those who took a gap year. Some of the universities before, and even now, require employment records from their graduates, and diploma is not issued until it is submitted. That has never happened at KIMEP. My colleagues track employment of each graduate and we have the most realistic statistics.

**D: What trainings did you do in this area?**

**R:** KIMEP was the first university to open a Career Center. After our Center has proved itself, other universities started sending requests to share our experience. In our daily activities we try to engage students from the very first year of their studies. We invite them to attend guest lectures from various companies in order for them to have a general idea of labor market in the

country; we conduct individual and group trainings, master classes in career skills development, which include first steps for writing a CV and prepare for an interview, taking internship in a company. In our office we have constant discussions with students on how to select company for employment and vacancy, how to contact employers, how to successfully pass an interview. Handouts, brochures, books on various topics on career development are available to assist students.

Every year Career and Employment Services outlines schedule of events, such as Job Fair, Speed Networking and others aimed to effectively assist students with their internship and graduates with their employment.

Fourth area is the Alumni Association. As of now around 12,000 students graduated from KIMEP. Being a successful university we want to maintain communications with them. Through newsletters and social network our office informs alumni about what is happening on campus, invites them to various events, for example, annual Alumni Reunions, which take different formats - Graduation, Family Days, guest lectures, sports activities. We keep in touch individually with some of the alumni, with others through Chapters. We are developing Alumni Chapters in the regions. They are successfully working in Astana and Bishkek, and we plan to start one in Atyrau. We are also developing a network of KIMEP Alumni Ambassadors of various years, colleges and programs. We publish Alumni Mag. It is issued once a year and you are holding the last edition in your hands. In



*Corporate development department team  
and U.S. CAEF grant representative Saule Kussayeva*

addition to organizing leisure and networking, we advise alumni on how to obtain duplicate diplomas or other official documents, as well as recommendation letters; we provide access to the Library and Sport Complex, i.e. we are the link between the University and its alumni. The main goal of our office is to, of course, to make our alumni feel part of KIMEP community despite the year of their graduation and location.

In addition, we have fifth informal area of operation, which is organization of events. For example, we have been organizing Graduation Ceremony for about 10 years in a row, and only two years ago we asked top management to release us from this responsibility because, in my opinion, it should be covered by the Marketing Department. We organize various ceremonies at the request of top management. KIMEP 25th Anniversary was completely organized by our office, and we tried to make this event unforgettable for everyone – our most active alumni, employees, faculty, regular partners and sponsors. In addition to organization of events we engage our students in various competitions, such as Changellenge Case Cup, Mars Case competition, L’Oreal Brainstorm competition, academic contests, hack fests, entrepreneurship development projects.

Our Department also invites most of the speakers of LDP program, regular classes, individual lectures, KIMEP HR Club and Marketing Club Navigator because we are most actively involved in the corporate community. We maintain memberships in the European Business Association of Kazakhstan, American Chamber of Commerce and others. We contribute to the community outreach – along with our partners we organize various socially significant projects. For example, it was our initiative to organize lectures on culture for orphans of Almaty; we organize visits of orphanages to the campus; we cooperate with the Special Olympics and with the funds supporting people with special needs.

***D: How many people are on your team?***

**R:** Six people, and everyone is covering their own area. We work very closely, so we are aware of each other’s work. We use the “one stop shop” approach. We offer companies all available opportunities for cooperation – students for internships and employment, speaking opportunities, sponsorship, scholarship programs, events planning and many other. Approach of our Department is to never say “The colleague you need is currently on vacation”, but to say “Yes, we can help”.

***D: How do you find sponsors?***

When we see interested companies we answer all their questions, organize meetings with beneficiaries of such sponsorship, with previous beneficiaries, i.e. we try to in every possible way to convince them that we are the university that deserves their support. We also seek opportunities to meet with companies and to convince them that cooperation with KIMEP is an excellent way to promote their company, to implement company’s social goals. And many listen to us. As for individual sponsors, it has historically developed that KIMEP staff and faculty, who wish to establish a scholarship or a grant, come to us. At the moment we have several faculty members who offer percentage of their salary for grants; we also have alumni who received grants during their studies and now want to help other students themselves. Fortunately, the number of alumni like that is growing every year. We also have examples of when the whole graduation class would get together and support students. For example, 2003 and 1997 graduation classes provided impressive support to several students at once to commemorate anniversary of their graduation.

***D: How did Alumni Mag start?***

**R:** This is our 8th issue already. In the very beginning we wanted to publish it twice a year, but then realized that once would be enough. We were so inexperienced seven years ago, we were just learning how to publish a magazine. We made mistakes because we were not experts in this field, but the magazine always gathered only good feedback. Alumni wanted to have something colorful about the University, many wanted to share their success stories. Now we have permanent columns – success stories, KIMEP – Family tradition, alumni reunions, alumni anniversaries, info desk. We try to find the most interesting information for our publications. It is not only aimed at our alumni, but also at those who are still considering our university as the place to study, also at our partners and sponsors. I hope you enjoy our magazine and our alumni read it with a smile on their faces remembering their time as students, rejoicing at the successes of fellow students, and learning news about their alma mater. So, I invite everybody to write for us!

**D. Thank you very much for the interview, and best wishes to your Department!**

# OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

## FINACIAL AID IN KIMEP UNIVERSITY

After a hot summer and a vacation, the quiet corridors of the buildings of the KIMEP University gradually begin to fill with life. The quickened tempo across the campus says that the new academic year has started — and, with it — a year of new aspirations, intellectual development and growth. What kind of financial support can students expect? Let's take a closer look at this question. To clarify this issue, you can get the most information from the Financial Aid Office of the university.

The KIMEP University each year increases the budget allocated for grants. In 2017-2018 academic year it exceeded 550 million tenge and in 2018-2019 it is more than 800 million tenge. In total, there are about 45 types of scholarship for university entrants and students from different countries at KIMEP University.

The policy of KIMEP is aimed at financial support of talented and smart students. University provides a great opportunity to get 50% and 25% scholarships for the current students by applying to the "Excellence Scholarship." The scholarship intended to provide assistance and financial support for socially active and intelligent students in their educational aspirations. The scholarship was included in the financial aid program of the KIMEP in 2016, which is 50%, and since the academic year 2018-2019 a grant of 25% has been added. More than 20 students that have made a contribution in the form of cultural/sport/scientific or other achievement at KIMEP University have been awarded with the "Excellence scholarship" since its initiation.

The modern pace of life contributes to the emergence of new specialties in demand on the labor market. Among the new undergraduate programs at KIMEP University are the Bachelor of Information Systems in Business, the Bachelor of Foreign Languages and the in Translation and Professional Communication. In that regard, Financial Aid of KIMEP University introduces new 100% and 50% scholarships for 4 academic years for enrolling students for Bachelor in Foreign Language and Bachelor in Translation and Professional Communication and jointly with ZHANARTU charity foundation introduce new 100% scholarships for 4 academic years for enrolling students for Bachelor of Information Systems in Business.



Another opportunity to receive a scholarship is participation in the "Graduate Level Competition." It is designed to support applicants pursuing graduate level degree at KIMEP University. 71 graduate program applicants were participated in with 100%, 75% and 50% scholarships distribution.

In addition, KIMEP University has launched a new graduate program: PHD. In that regard, Financial Aid of KIMEP University introduces new 100% grants that will cover three academic years of study.

In addition, there are various types of the financial support in such departments as HR and Admission. One of the biggest aims of Financial Aid office is to centralize several types of financial aid such as staff benefits, KIMEP Intellectual Olympiad, Graduate Level Competition. KIMEP supports its staff by providing benefits both to their children in their education and personnel itself.

The procedure for applying for a grant has been greatly simplified. The introduction of an electronic filing system is a significant advantage and now all documents can be downloaded electronically. This greatly saves time for the preparation and consideration of documents. Since now it can be done in one click on the website of KIMEP University.

The next significant factor is the possibility of an installment payment for tuition. A student or any of his or her representatives in Fall and Spring semesters can pay three installments on a specific date specified in the academic calendar. If the student makes a payment for the entire period of study at the time of signing of a contract with KIMEP, tuition cost remains unchanged until the end of study. Exceptions are retakes and registration for additional classes outside of a study program. In this case, payment is made at the price valid at the time of registration for the class. It is possible to pay for education in all second level banks in case of availability of online payment function. Among the other possibilities of financial support, there is an option of drawing up an individual payment plan. This includes up to five installments per semester by a guarantee document to the Financial Aid Office. When receiving a loan for education, "Financial Center" acts as guarantor on behalf of the student to partner banks in obtaining an educational loan on favorable terms.

Despite the fact that KIMEP University has a lot of different scholarship opportunities, there are also joint grants with various companies. The main organizations that finance our students are US CAEF, Samsung, Tatishev Foundation, ZHANARTU charity foundation and KAZENERGY Association. Every year various funds and companies sponsor our students, by providing grants in the form of full or partial tuition waivers. The amount of the grants, conditions and criteria are determined by the sponsors. The announcement of the competition and the deadlines for submitting applications are available on the KIMEP University website [www.kimep.kz](http://www.kimep.kz). Applications are accepted and grants are distributed whenever grants are offered. Financial Aid office strives for excellence and quality maximization of everything we do, and we believe that the best way for doing so is to set specific goals and make steps to achieve them. So 2018-2019 academic year promises to be quite challenging and productive.

By Kharlamova Ekaterina



# NEWS FROM THE SPORTS CENTER

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

**Dear Alumni!**

**New basketball court opened at KIMEP campus on September 25, 2018. You are welcome!**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PERIOD	ACTIVITY
FALL SEMESTER 2018	
SEPTEMBER	
Beginning of September	Welcome party for incoming International students by BIS
September 13, 2018	Convocation ID 2018
September 13, 2018	Planting tree by Tree Huggers
September 15, 2018	Mini-football tournament among KIMEP students
September 21, 2018	Welcome party in Residence Hall
September 21, 2018	Fall in Fest by Art revolution
September 22, 2018	Table tennis competition among KIMEP students
OCTOBER	
October 2018	Speed Networking
October 6, 2018	Arm- wrestling competition among KIMEP students
October, 2018	American Football, Bishkek "AUSA"- Almaty "KIMEP"
October 13-14, 2018	Football tournament by KASD
October 19, 2018	Mini KVN in Residence Hall
October 19, 2018	Small Free Library
October 23, 2018	KSA Presidential Debates
October 25, 2018	KSA Elections
October 27, 2018	Sherlock Holmes Quest by KAFC
October 27, 2018	President's Cup 2018 Ping Pong Challenge (KIMEP students, staff, faculty, alumni + Almaty students)
October 31, 2018	Halloween in Residence Hall
October 2018	Issue of KIMEP Pie mag #21
NOVEMBER	
Beginning of November	KSA Inauguration
November 4, 2018	Tennis Tournament by KASD
November 9, 2018	Miss KIMEP by KFI
November 10, 2018	Alumni reunion in Atyrau
November 10, 2018	Chess tournament among KIMEP students
November 16, 2018	Corporate Awarding Ceremony
November 16, 2018	International Students Day by BIS
November, 2018	International competition on mini- football and table tennis, Czech Republic
November 24, 2018	Open city Special Olympics Games: Ping Pong Challenge, dedicated to the Day of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

November 29, 2018	Mr. KIMEP by KISA
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## DECEMBER

Beginning of December	Farewell party for International students by BIS
December 6, 2018	Basketball tournament among men's teams dedicated to the "Independence Day of the Republic of Kazakhstan"
December 8, 2018	Volleyball tournament among mixed teams dedicated to the "Independence Day of the Republic of Kazakhstan"
December 14, 2018	New Year party in Residence Hall
December 14, 2018	Independence Day

## JANUARY

January 19, 2019	Ping Pong tournament among KIMEP students
January 26, 2019	Chess tournament among students of JSC "KIMEP University"

## SPRING SEMESTER 2019

### FEBRUARY

February 2019	KFI Top Model
February 23, 2019	Arm-wrestling tournament among KIMEP students

### MARCH

March 2019	Lunch with Alumni Ambassadors
March 2019	Book Swaping
March 2019	Poetry evening
March 30, 2019	Volleyball tournament among KIMEP students
March-April, 2019	American Football, Bishkek "AUSA"- Almaty "KIMEP"
March-April, 2019	Nauryz and Family Day

### APRIL

April 5, 2019	Job Fair
April 2019	Stars on Ice 2019
April 2019	Cultural Festival
April 2019	KADA Annual Concert
April 12, 2019	Basketball competition among KIMEP students dedicated to Nauryz
April 20, 2019	CrossFit and Arm-wrestling competition among KIMEP students dedicated to Nauryz
April 21, 2019	City Marathon 2019

### MAY

May 2019	Alumni Reunion
May 10-18, 2019	International ping-pong tournament, Istanbul, Turkey
May 18, 2019	Graduation
May 24, 2014	Mini-football tournament among KIMEP students

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# VALERIY DORJIYEV'S FAMILY

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OUR INTERVIEWEE, VALERIY DORDJIEV, SHARES HIS SUCCESS STORY, AS HE WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SEVERAL BANKS OF KAZAKHSTAN, THE HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT OF "EURASIAN BANK" JSC, AND HE STARTED SHAPING BANKING AUDIT IN THE KPMG INTERNATIONAL AUDIT COMPANY. BEING 1995 KIMEP GRADUATE, HE SHARES WHAT THE UNIVERSITY HAS TAUGHT HIM.

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I was waiting for my interviewee with restrained excitement. It is not often you get a chance to talk to a person who was at the origin of the banking system of Kazakhstan. I was hoping to hear an exciting and inspirational success story to share with our readers. Before he even entered the room he gave the impression of a very energetic person: the sound of fast and confident steps, accompanied by his voice, was coming from the hallway. 'Here'? he asked when opening the door to the room where I was sitting. While we were introducing ourselves I managed to note his lively and piercing gaze. His phone screensaver is a Buddhist temple from his native city, he prefers green tea over coffee because "one needs to watch their health". As a result, the first brief conclusion is spiritual and physical health, which is an interesting start to our conversation. I hit play on my audio recorder and here it went.



**Damina: Can you start with telling me a little about yourself?**

**Valery:** I guess I am already at this age when I can tell a lot about myself! I was born in Kalmykia. If you'd drive to Atyrau, Kalmykia will be on the other side of the Caspian Sea across the Volga River. We are people of the Soviet era, and in the Soviet times, the best was always outside of the national federal and union territories.

The best education was in Moscow and Leningrad (current Saint Petersburg). Now everyone is leaving abroad for education, but during the Soviet times, the tendency was to go to these metropolitan cities, which had the best universities. Leningrad was considered the northern cultural capital with many museums and ancient architectural monuments, and Moscow was the capital of the Soviet Union with the fast-paced life filled with many different events and exhibitions. This is the reason I chose to study in Moscow. I graduated from the Moscow Institute of Architecture specializing in the Architecture of Residential and Public Buildings. Current academic standards for majors and higher education as a whole have changed. Before the Soviet Union had the definition of 'specialized universities'. These were universities that determined the list of subjects used to teach a major in all Soviet universities. Architecture as the major that was taught in Kazakh Academy of Architecture and other construction universities, as well as anything else related to architecture, was determined in Moscow, in the Moscow Institute of Architecture. Textbooks on architecture, design and landscape were written by professors, whose lectures I attended. By the way, I had a real thirst for knowledge, and perhaps it started with that Soviet school.

Right now high school students go through UNT (Unified National Testing), which is a multiple choice testing and it sets a passing level for university admission. The Soviet Union had a very interesting method – if your high school diploma contained 4,5-5 points, you had to take only two entrance examinations for 9 points (to get grades 4 and 5) to enter a university. When I graduated from high school I've had 4,75 points, which I used to enter the Moscow Institute of Architecture.

At that time the Institute had mostly students from Moscow, with less than 10% of out-of-town students. By the way, entrance examinations for out-of-town applicants were separate. When I was being admitted the competition was 8 applicants per spot, for Moscow residents the competition was 2,7 applicants per spot.



Right after two examinations, 10 spots for out-of-town applicants were filled, including by me. Interesting student time that was! I graduated in 1990 with honors, which gave many privileges for a young specialist in the Soviet Union.

**Damina: How did end up moving to Almaty after Moscow?**

**Valery:** My wife, Zhanna Dzhanaeva, is Kazakh. We studied together in the Moscow Institute of Architecture, she is an architect as well. We are an artistic family! We are the same age. She transferred to the Institute from the Kazakh Academy of Architecture and was on her 4th year already. I went to university after the army service and by the time we got married I was only in my second year. After Moscow my wife did not want to go to Kalmykia - very severe climate and issues with drinking water – so she suggested going to Almaty. Alma-Ata, as the city was called before, was the greenest city in the Soviet Union; mountain water was flowing through irrigation ditches, fresh air, expanding the city. We decided that our career as architects in this city will be in demand and we will be able to fully implement our creative ambitions – all that we learned from our Moscow professors.

I really like the profession of an architect – it is a very creative profession and the word "Architect" from Green translates as "the Main Builder". This is a specialist who manages and understands all construction processes, designs and supervises construction and selection of construction materials. In Almaty, I started working in Almatygiiprogor. I was in the workshop that was designing a hospital for those disabled by war and for

Afghani soldiers. The hospital was planned to be built on a large field near the Hospital No.7 in Kalkaman. It was supposed to be funded by the Soviet Union. As a young specialist, I was given new tasks and I was able to design individual blocks. As a result, the title page of the hospital project had my name on it as one of the authors, which also included the head of the workshop and head project architect. Unfortunately, the Soviet Union collapsed and the project stayed on the shelf.

The collapse of the Soviet Union was rough – loss of focus, change of values, creating new statehood through the recession. During these difficult times (end of 1992 – the beginning of 1993) the competition was announced to develop the national flag and symbols of Kazakhstan. I was interested, so I participated in the competition for designing medals and orders of Kazakhstan. One of my designs won, so my wife and I are the authors of the “Dank” Order. Back then we were not awarded with certificates of authorship, but an article about the competition results was simply published in “Kazakhstanskaya Pravda”. Since then the design of the order was a bit stylized and introduced new details. I believe that this was a beautiful end to my first profession as an architect, in the sense that was able to show my creative ambitions.

Later on, I saw an announcement about KIMEP master’s program – a new opportunity for a number of professions that have become unclaimed with the collapse of production. It was a unique experience and new knowledge because nobody knew what a master’s program was. So, I entered KIMEP in 1993 to spend two amazing years in study and interesting communication to shape new mentality and understand new economic laws. By the way, at that time essay was one of the admission requirements. The question was – how is it supposed to look like? After all, there were no essays in the Soviet Union. We were taught to write compositions on a given topic, but essays required us to show skills of logical thinking and healthy ambitions. On top of that, the essay had to be at least four pages printed on a computer that had just started appearing in the former Soviet Union. Computers were far from Pentium and we had to also show computer literacy. It is only now that young children can easily handle the latest gadgets, for us computer skills were something out of space. By the way, the average age of students who studied with me was 32. We had candidates of sciences, one doctor of science, a group from Yakutiya, and even one deputy. Some of them stayed in Kazakhstan – Valentina Grigoryeva, who has HR business, and my classmate Yuri Dubodelov, who married Tamara and has a good family.



I would like to point out that our 1995 MBA diplomas were signed by the facsimile of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. I don't think that every MBA graduate in Kazakhstan had a diploma signed by the president. As a result, love for new knowledge in business and management promoted me to study again, so in 2005 I was admitted to the DBA program, which had a joint program with the Russian Academy of National Economy under the Government of Russia. I graduated in 2008 with DBA degree. It was a different experience with the quality and relevance of new knowledge and skills.

**Damina: Which KIMEP faculty do you remember?**

**Valery:** There were many interesting foreign faculties. It's hard to remember them now, but I remember the subjects themselves because they were absolutely new to us – Principles of Accounting, Marketing, Business Behavior, Macroeconomics. I remember professor Williamson who taught Managerial Accounting, and I really liked young professor Lan Wu, whose principles of macroeconomics were very interesting. By the way, he later married our classmate Anastasia.

**Damina: Did you use this knowledge in your work?**

**Valery:** Of course! This was a new thing. No one before explained the specifics of the private sector economy because the Soviet Union had a five-year, planned national economy. Now there are managers, top managers, specialists in particular industries and enterprise, but in the Soviet Union almost all graduates were specialized in a specific field or enterprise – education was only specialized. In KIMEP I realized that I really liked marketing, microeconomics and analytics. For example, the concept of "5 Rs" of marketing still remains in my memory, and the concept of demand and supply in microeconomics are the basis for business.

In view of the fact that the language of instruction was English (first in Kazakhstan), and new joint foreign companies and representatives started to open in Kazakhstan, the demand for our new knowledge was very high – many people were able to get a good job and high salary. Besides new knowledge, KIMEP provided a stipend of \$20 each month, which was very good money at that time. We were supposed to pay \$200 per year for our studies, which was a very large amount at that time. Even one or two dollars was a decent amount. 1 kilo of lamb was \$1,3 at the market, given that not all had meat on their table at that time.



After realizing that life is changing irrevocably, my spouse also decided to gain new knowledge and a new profession, so she entered KIMEP in 1995 after my graduation. At that time tuition has already gone up to \$300 per year, which she paid off out of her salary after graduating. Back then we understood why KIMEP was interesting – it had new knowledge and new people who accepted their life challenge, and who we have been friends for many years.

By the way, it was very interesting to argue with our international faculty because we had a different mentality – the basis of perception and thinking. After one of the tests, we realized that our logic of persuasion was useless in these disputes. In one of the classes, we had a business case where we were divided into several groups. In my opinion, it was a brilliant test that showed the difference between the thinking of Soviet people with life experience and professional knowledge and western mentality of our faculty. And the test was this: a passenger plane crashes in a desert. The list has forty items that remained on the ship, out of which you are allowed to take only five. The task is to survive in the desert after the crash. Each group had to reason their choice. The test said that the nearest city was about 40 kilometers away, it's 45C during the day and no water. All groups, based on their Soviet mentality, decided to fight for survival and walk to the nearest settlement. The five items that were selected: vodka to keep warm at night, chocolate to eat, matches to make fire, tent to hide from the sun and compass to show direction. That list of 40 items had a large canvas with a red cross on it and small round mirror. As a result, the correct answer to the test from our foreign faculty was the following: we must take shelter under the wing of the plane and stay at the crash

site, lay out canvas with the red cross on top of the plane so that it could be seen from a flying plane, take mirror and give signals if help appears far away. American logic – if the plane took off on a given route and did not get to its destination on time, you need to stay at the location of the crash and make signals because others will be definitely be looking for you within your flight route. And the Soviet logic, especially in the current time of crisis, was that no one will look for us, we must take destiny into our own hands, bring matches, knife, tent and walk forty kilometers to the nearest settlement. One of our students had calculated that we would have been able to walk 40 kilometers in two and a half days if we walked in the desert at night when it's cooler. This is how KIMEP broke our Soviet stereotypes of fighting for life.

Another unique thing about KIMEP is the acquired understanding of not being able to study on your own like it was in the Soviet universities. In all subjects, we were broken up into groups to do group tasks. As a result, some very strong bonds were formed, and the groups continued to study together in the following semesters. A lot of us still have group friendships, because group members respected each other and each had their own strengths that were used in their work, each group member had their own function or role in a group task and has been assistance in studying a complex subject – creative person, administrator, design of text or presentation.

This group work helped me in my second year because after my first year I started working for Agroprombank. I thought it would be my internship for the summer, but at the time there were developing a new bank system and it so happened that they offered me a full-time job with good pay. So, during my second year at KIMEP, I was working and studying full-time. It was a very interesting time!



### ***Damina: How did you have time for everything?***

**Valery:** I attended all key lectures, and my KIMEP study group has helped me with the rest. I had good creative ideas, which were probably due to my first education. All of us carried discussions in our groups and the most important thing was to divide our assignment into individual small blocks. We always managed to finish everything on time. Elmira Kabiyeva, who is now working at KIMEP, was an active member of our group and helped me a lot. As a result of this group work I was able to keep my job, so three months after I graduated from KIMEP I became one of the four deputy chairmen of the board of Agroprombank. I was 32 years old. I would like to note that Agroprombank was the second bank in Kazakhstan after the National Savings Bank in terms of the number of branches and district offices, and it employed more than 4,5 thousand people. With this new position, I got a personal vehicle, private office and secretary, as well as new professional horizons and opportunities and to develop managerial skills.

What else do I like about KIMEP? It's impossible to mess around. I studied in the Soviet institute where you could skip lectures for half a year, then take notes from somebody, study for tests or exams on your own, and pass them. At KIMEP, your final grade for the subject is accumulated throughout the semester. So, it made it impossible to skip a class or not complete your homework from the previous lecture because your grade will go down if it is not submitted on time. This means you had to always be present during lectures and tutorials, study in the library, and talk with your instructor in order to understand to how to properly complete your assignment as there were so many and all were in English.

So, when the time came for my relatives to continue education after high school, I said that KIMEP was the best educational institution in Kazakhstan taking into account that language of instruction is English. My son Alan and my niece Kaliya Khisametdinova graduated from KIMEP's bachelor program. By the way, my niece was a part of the very first undergraduate enrollment, graduates of which were also very well employed in major commercial structures. My son graduated from BAE after my niece, but after his first year of study, he took an academic leave for one-year study program of Chinese in Beijing. After that, he returned and completed a 3-year program in two years, so he was able to graduate with those enrolled in the same year as him. Later, he worked for a major Kazakhstani company in Beijing for several years, and knowledge of Chinese has really helped him.

***Damina: What is he doing now?***

**Valeriy:** He is currently the president of the National Association of Blockchain and Crypto-Technologies. This is the new area of business, so he is engaged in new innovative projects in blockchain and crypto technologies development in Kazakhstan in cooperation with international partners.

***Damina: And where else besides Agroprombank did you work?***

**Valeriy:** After Agroprom bank, in 1996 my classmates - Gaukhar Iskakbayeva and Dina Turkina invited me to KPMG, where they already worked. Kazakhstani office represented by Janat Berdalina, the Managing Partner was searching for the professional with banking experience to develop the banking audit services – this was an interesting task of organizing the field of banking audit in the local office of KPMG, when such players as Artur Andersen, Coopers&Lybrant, Ernst&Young, Pricewaterhouse, Deloitte&Touche were already working actively on this market. Well, after 1.5 years I left KPMG due to my own personal reasons. At the end of the 1990s and in the beginning of the 2000s, I was the head of Zamanbank in Ekibastus city, then came back to KPMG to my old position and continued to do the banking audit. In 2004 the shareholders of «Texakabank» JSC invited me to be its head and to become the Chairman of the bank's Governance Board. During the years of work in this bank, I formed an excellent team of professionals, which demonstrated a constant growth of parameters. In 2007 this bank was sold to Sberbank of Russia, which was searching for possibilities to enter the Kazakhstani banking market, and the benchmark for selling the bank was set as 4 capitals – there was no such a case on the market before. For the recent 9 years – till the end of 2017 I worked in "Eurasian bank" JSC – in its Audit Committee and as a head of Internal Audit Service. This was a good managerial experience.

At the moment I started to form lecture materials based on my professional experience, on the academic knowledge obtained and on my managerial skills – I continue to read lectures in Caspian Business School under the Caspian University, at its MBA program. There is an understanding that it is necessary to restructure business education so that the knowledge it gives would be relevant long after graduating, since the processes in

economics and in various business spheres are changing very rapidly. There is a need for constant update of one's knowledge, and now the international business environment actively impacts the growth of personal skills and qualification requirements. When communicating with younger colleagues, who come to be employed nowadays, I face the issue of what I call "obsolete knowledge" given by some Kazakhstani universities - the modern professional can't use such knowledge due to its low relevance and competency. Rephrasing Lewis Carroll's "Alice behind the Looking-glass": "...it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place" - this is the law of modern times for business education.

***Damina: And what helped you make the right decisions during your work?***

**Valeriy:** Perhaps – the feeling of confidence and responsibility. Independence should be raised in people since their childhood. I, myself, after graduating from the secondary school at the age of 17, all at once left my native city to study, and never came back to where things are always comfortable and where everyone understands you. Now I am 55, at my life path, I already got used to making my own decisions and to understand that a wrong decision results in a loss of time, that there will be a need to start resolving that issue again, and this is as a whole results in losing the rhythm of life. Then I very carefully followed the work of my direct supervisors and their style of management – one should learn the best skills this way, this is a good experience. Hence, when you see how decisions are made in business, you start learning to make decisions yourself, because you learn how they work. You have to learn to "read" people and to assign people to places of their comfort, where they know what to do and how to do it efficiently. Thus, you create a good, positive psychological climate in your team – so, this way they will do more, than if they would be in uncomfortable positions.

***Damina: And now, finalizing our interview: what would you wish to our University?***

**Valeriy:** My main wish to KIMEP is – to remain the best business school, so that KIMEP would keep its brilliant past in its history, and have even a greater future, full of constant development in the sphere of business education!

# SAULE KAKIMOVA, MA 2000

## SUCCESS STORY, OR HOW TO MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE

Traditionally, our society is accustomed to perceive that successful people are mostly men. However, the times are changing, and today it's rare for a person to argue that a career is less important for a woman than it is for a man. At the moment, the stories of successful business women are relevant and very popular.

In Kazakhstan, breaking stereotypes and becoming a successful woman is harder, since people are influenced both by the Asian mentality and by a number of other social reasons. So, what should a modern business woman be like? Attractive, hard-working and goal-oriented. All the qualities of a successful business lady can be found in KIMEP University graduate Saule Kakimova (MA, 2000).

The foundation for her success story was set back during her secondary school studies. Young Saule took part in city-wide and regional Olympiads in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. She graduated from a Kokshetau high school with a golden medal.

In 1995, Saule graduated the Valikhanov Pedagogical Institute with distinction, with the Teacher of Mathematics and Informational Science specialization. Despite the socio-political complications in the country during those years, after completing an apprenticeship at Al-Farabi Kazakh State University, Saule Kakimova enrolled in post-graduate level studies at the university, in the Differential Equations department. Subsequently, she continued her studies at KIMEP in the MA (Master of Arts in Economics) program.

While at KIMEP, Saule started to teach a preparatory course for GMAT test at KIMEP. This test is required for admission to the MBA (Master of Business Administration) program at any university, including KIMEP. After graduation, she stayed at KIMEP to teach. For Saule, teaching is not only an opportunity to witness the growth of her students, but also a necessity to constantly develop her own professionalism and personality. She worked as an adjunct professor at



KIMEP's College of Continuing Education. As a GMAT teacher, Saule Kakimova trained several hundred KIMEP students and several dozens of unaffiliated students to study abroad.

In order to reach success in a certain professional sphere, one has to correctly set their life goals. So, the more complicated the goal is, the better results can one reach. This is what happened in the life of Saule Kakimova.

Gradually, she came up with the idea to create her own company. So, 11 years ago, the business lady implemented that idea together with Rustam Abdusalamov.

In 2007, she became the director of ABSALAM training center. ABSALAM company had a team of competent trainers to prepare students and professionals to take exams necessary for admission to undergraduate and graduate programs of Kazakhstani and international



business schools and universities (GMAT, GRE, SAT), as well as to receipt of prestigious international financial certificates — CFA, FRM and others.

The CFA is the gold standard of education; it confirms the highest level of competence in the sphere of finance. It is based on ten disciplines intertwined with finance. Despite massive theoretical knowledge, CFA is an applied course. Each discipline should be studied not as a standalone sphere of knowledge but in connection with other disciplines, which allows integrating that knowledge for practical application. CFA certificate confirms that its owner possesses a wide range of knowledge and skills necessary for qualitative analysis and for making efficient decisions in various spheres of finance and investments. By the assessment of experts of the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the demand for CFA holders in Kazakhstan amounts to at least 400 (1 professional per one target company), meanwhile at the moment there are only about 90 charter holders in Kazakhstan. The company started to prepare professionals to take the level 1 CFA test in 2008, to take the level 2 in 2014, and since 2016, the company prepares professionals to all three levels of CFA qualification. As of today the company helped to gain a charter to 7 charter holders!

At ABSALAM, the training process is represented by regular classes and trainer support. The program of each of three levels at the preparatory courses takes 3 to 6 months. The program is built upon 4 principles: understanding, revision, repetition and refinement. The special feature of the training course program is the availability for all those wishing to take it, regardless of their educational background.

Years 2013 and 2014 turned out to be important periods in Saule's life – she gained the FRM (Financial Risk Manager) qualification in 2013 and the CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) charter in 2014. After gaining the charter, the demand for her services as a teacher and as a trainer has grown significantly.

Saule Kakimova spends 14 hours a day working, sometimes without weekends. Of course, as a CFA holder, she gets various job offers. She cooperates with various companies and renders advisory services – for instance, to such companies as BakerTilly Kazakhstan Advisory of ATF Bank and others.

As a high-class professional in the world of finance, Saule held several dozens of trainings for such large companies as Samruk-Kazyna, Samruk-Energo, Kazakhstan Development Bank, Astana Finance, KIMEP University, Keden Trans Service, Talgo Limited (Dushanbe), KazTransGazAimak, Kazatomprom-Damu, First International Oil Corporation LTD, Air Astana and others. Her success is not limited to this – Saule constantly takes part in various business projects as an analyst and expert.

Saule Kakimova takes part in various projects of companies that she accompanies. Nevertheless, teaching will always remain among her lifetime priorities. Saule “recharges” people with her inner energy, inspires everyone to make their own life and to make use of every precious minute.

Saule Kakimova's lifetime motto is: unique knowledge is the best investment!

# ULAN ALIMBEK, BSC 2013

## LIFEHACK

### AROUND THE WORLD: HOW TO TOUR HALF THE WORLD WITHOUT GOING BROKE

#### TRAVELER, VISITED 33 COUNTRIES

I have traveled since my childhood: for a certain time I lived in Borovoye, then in Ulytau, even in Shymkent – near Aksu-Zhabagly natural reservation park. In my childhood, I went on beach vacations and other standard trips for Kazakhstanis – Turkey, United Arab Emirates. From the age of 12, I started to visit camps of Kazakhstan and of CIS. Back then, namely, I travelled alone and this became the start of my adventures.

I am very curious, therefore travelling suits me. I like to get to know other countries, to discover something new, to see how people live in various corners of the world. I have visited 33 countries.

I was really impressed by the USA and by Norway. I went to America via the Work & Travel program — I was able to work and to travel as well. In Norway, I was enchanted by its nature – green plants and water everywhere. Of course, living is expensive, but nature just carries you away.

Before travelling, I write down the goal of my trip – what I want to do, see and try. When you plan right, you don't spend that much. You don't need to earn millions; you simply have to save. Some people can also travel for free – hitchhikers, for instance. I tried to hitchhike several times, or to spend a night for free somewhere, but because I have a beard, people did not want to make contact with me. That's why I started to travel at my own expense.

My least expensive travel was when some Norwegian guys came to Kazakhstan to shoot a small video about various parts of Asia. They needed a guide who spoke Russian well. I travelled with them from Almaty to Novosibirsk for free, spent six days on the trip and flew back on a plane. I spent zero tenge on my trip because those guys paid for it all.

My advice regarding low-cost travelling:

Decide for yourself: will this trip be cheap or do you plan to travel in grand style? Set a goal for the trip and plan



your vacation in advance. You either travel and see a lot of new things, or spend ten days in a comfortable hotel on the beach. Additionally, you can buy affordable tickets two months in advance.

Search for tickets for several days or weeks. I use several web sites and search for tickets for three or four days, since the price may go down on certain days. You may consider last minute deals – usually these are the cheapest-priced flights.

Use Couchsurfing and live with local people for free.

Use Airbnb, since it often offers discounts and promotion sales. Visit the hotel's website – sometimes it is cheaper to book a room there.

Take a tent with you and live in it. However, there is a high risk of being robbed.

Travel by bus instead of a taxi. Taxi is better only when you are travelling with children or with oversized luggage.

Originally appeared in Russian [www.the-village.kz](http://www.the-village.kz)

Don't take a lot of clothes with you. A large suitcase means a lot of hassle in the airport, extra costs and nerves, as well as the fear of losing your things. A backpack is the best option.

Try cadging, but it is better to sell your talent – make performances, for example. This advice would suit the ones who like to have a real low-cost vacation. Europeans would take it fine, but in Asia you will get weird looks.

# INTERVIEW WITH MARKHABA SAILANBEK, MAJ 2018

## Why did you choose KIMEP?

I've always been interested in learning languages and wanted to work in an international environment. KIMEP University was one of my goals even though I graduated from the professional music school, Republic Specialized music school for talented children named after Kulash Baiseitova, and I was a laureate of many republic and international music contests.

One of the outstanding advantages of KIMEP University is its North American system of education in English. I believed that only KIMEP could be a reason worthy to change my career. So as I believed in KIMEP, KIMEP believed in me – I won a 100% scholarship!

## What memories stand out from your time at KIMEP?

Undoubtedly, the first day at KIMEP was the most bright and full of emotions: from pride to panic! As a musician with an absolutely different type of education, I wasn't prepared for the KIMEP environment. I mean, during my first class in KIMEP, all the students were discussing in English some economic and political issues of the country so enthusiastically with our Canadian lecturer that I forgot I knew English! But I reminded myself that this is exactly what I was looking for and I knew I had to work really hard to lift myself up.

## Do you have any memories of outstanding professors?

At KIMEP, each class and instructor left memories for me. But there is one particular person who increased my interest in journalism – a professor of the Department of Media and Communications, Saltanat Kazhimuratova, whose open lectures with the top representatives of Kazakhstan's media landscape were not only informative but also effective – everyone who attend her classes accomplishes a lot of practical tasks and gain professional skills, establishes useful connections. My involvement into my new profession started from the classes of Saltanat Kazhimuratova!



## What is your current job and when did you start? Any advancement or promotion since you have started your job?

My current job is a mix of both of my professions – I am an artist of the legendary Kazakh State Academic orchestra named after Kurmangazy and at the same time a PR manager at this organization. I received this offer several month ago, and now we are preparing to hold an international conference in Almaty with the participation of the general secretary of Turkcoy, Unesco, and we are also expecting guests from Russia, Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. In addition, I am negotiating with the embassy of Kazakhstan in Madrid, Spain to organize our concert tour to Spain in November.

### **How did a KIMEP education help with your job?**

A longstanding reputation as one of the best universities with North-American style of education where all the classes are taught in English, KIMEP definitely changes your level of responsibility – when people get to know you are a KIMEPian, they automatically expect the best results from your work, so they rely on you more. It gave me the opportunity to shift my position quickly. At the second year of education at KIMEP, when I came back to continue my music career and started working in the Kurmangazy orchestra, our director, who has a new model of management and a creative, perspective thinking was very interested in my education at KIMEP, so after my thesis defense I was immediately engaged in all the administrative operations.

I've always wanted to be involved in the organizational issues of the orchestra and wasn't interested in only playing music. However, at this moment of my life my achievements in music are also important for me. After a current state attestation, I managed to change my position in the orchestra from the third to the first seat. I'm very proud of this because not everyone can pass the hard competitive examination to become the artist of the Kurmangazy orchestra.

### **Did you stay in touch with your classmates and if so, how often do you see them?**

Yeah, I try to stay in touch with my classmates and, if it is possible, to meet with them somewhere for coffee, but, unfortunately, most of them are continuing their education abroad or working in other cities, so it is possible mostly with the help of social media platforms to share news about each other. Last time we met in Astana at Expo-2017.

### **What would your advice be to current students?**

Dear student, KIMEP University will open different doors for you, try to use every opportunity it gives while studying. However, define your best skills and talents to have a clear direction when you will be graduating and don't forget to listen to your heart. Do what you ever desire, not what is prestigious!

### **How do you stay calm and focused? Do you do anything outside of work to help you with this?**

One day when I was working in China Pipeline Petroleum and studying at KIMEP, someone send me - "15 Rules of Motivation for Harvard Students." If you've never seen it, you should Google it immediately! Great words at the right time, straight to the mind!

Also, when I lose confidence in myself or I am stressed about something that I can't take control of it, I like to play piano, especially Chopin's "Revolutionary Etude." Those who know this composition, will understand). It calms me down immediately and my thoughts become really clear.

### **What are your ideas on happiness and success?**

I remember once I was talking with my classmates at KIMEP and at that time I was working in China Pipeline Petroleum Corporation. She asked me about my previous education and my current job, so when I said I was a musician, but working as an office manager in a big international corporation and now studying international journalism, she looked at me and said: "You should be in harmony with yourself and only after that you will understand what to do". You know, sometimes one phrase can change someone's life and that was this moment. Since that day I started to listen to myself and now I am where I've always wanted to return and doing what I've always wanted to do. My idea on happiness and success is harmony in every aspect of life.



# INTERVIEW WITH KAMILA LUKPANOVA, BAIJ, MPA 2011

KAMILA LUKPANOVA – THE DIRECTOR OF VISITALMATY TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER OF ALMATY TOLD MANSHUQ.COM ABOUT HOW TO GET AN EXECUTIVE POSITION IN A STATE-MANAGED PROJECT WITHOUT CONNECTIONS, AND HOW TO WORK ON DEVELOPING THE CITY THAT IS ONLY BECOMING “YOUR OWN”.



## «VisitAlmaty is not only a project for tourists»

The work that I do right now is “trendy.” Today there are lots of people who care about their own city. I always keep an eye on what is going on in Almaty. Really a lot of interesting things take place – young activists arrange forums of ideas, they gather to have round-table discussions on important topics, together they search for answers to the main question: how can we make our city even better? At a certain point of time this issue became really important.

I joined the team of VisitAlmaty in April of last year. This is a completely new direction – the municipality was not involved in similar projects before this. Our main job is to promote Almaty’s brand and to inform tourists about the city. In addition, we do everything to make the city attractive to its guests.

I believe that VisitAlmaty is not only a project for tourists. The project is, basically, for the whole city itself – if we can organize everything well, the citizens will have a double gain from that.

THIS IS A COMPLETELY NEW DIRECTION – THE MUNICIPALITY WAS NOT INVOLVED IN SIMILAR PROJECTS BEFORE THIS.

VisitAlmaty does everything that may help in bringing tourists into our city – both international and Kazakhstani ones. One of our spheres of

work is the city systems of

information and orientation for tourists. For instance, we are in charge of all information points – in the airport, at the railway station, at Abai Avenue (corner of Dostyk Street) in our VisitAlmaty center. This year we will open two more information points. And if you take a global look at it – we work on correctly informing and advising the guests of our city. The second direction is marketing and PR. For example, recently we launched an Almaty-wide advertisement campaign - “Learn your city better!”, and also a Kazakhstan-wide campaign “Me and you – on a weekend in Almaty!”; very soon we will launch a campaign aimed at international audiences. Also, VisitAlmaty does separate analytical work – how many tourists visit our city, who are they, where do they come from, what rankings our city is a part of.

## «Being industrious and stubborn at the Universiade»

I was invited to the VisitAlmaty project after being noticed at the University Olympic Games (Universiade). There is a long story about how I joined that major event.

I always wanted to work on such a project. Especially, after the Sochi Olympic Games, I was watching it and admiring the work of Konstantin Ernst, who was Producer General of the opening and closing ceremonies.

I thought: “So, somebody ‘out there’ worked to make something creative and tasteful?”

Everything started with a billboard. I was walking along Nauryzbai Batyr Street, and around the corner of Kurmangazy or Shevchenko I saw a big billboard with gigantic hockey players. I thought: “So, somebody ‘out there’ worked to make something creative and tasteful?” After I understood that this was the advertisement for the upcoming Universiade, I all at once called my friend, with whom I studied in England (I graduated from a master’s program in a Warwick University). He was the only one in my list of candidates to have at least some relation to public bodies. So, I called to get his advice – can I really join the Universiade organizing team, and, if yes – how? After a number of accidental things I responded to a vacancy in HeadHunter, thinking that it may have a relation to Universiade, then I got a refusal, then I got to know that this was a vacancy of Olympic Committee in Astana, and that the refusal was an error in the system – so, finally, I got to be interviewed by the directors!

First I was a consultant, then - the head of the unit of protocol of cultural events, then I became the deputy director or organization committee of the Universiade. Together with my team I was responsible for the whole cultural program, for all non-sports activities, including 300 volunteers, the hospitality program, and, of course, opening and closing ceremonies.

So, I took the most direct part in organizing the Universiade. The most important experience that I gained from this project was that, by being industrious and stubborn, you can succeed even if you are young and don’t have any connections. Therefore, I always say: if you really work – you will definitely be noticed and supported.



## «Almaty is the city of opportunities»

Now I work on promoting the city, which became mine 12 years ago. I came to Almaty in 2006. I got to KIMEP and started studying there. Twice I tried to move to Astana, but I did not succeed – neither the salary level, nor any other lucrative conditions convinced me, so our capital did not become “my city”.

Moving here from Aktobe (I graduated from high-school there, and I was born in Uralsk) I knew very little about Almaty and about this part of the country in general – just like many “westerners” of our country. We thoroughly learned all Russian cities bordering the North-West of our Republic – Orenburg, Samara, Saratov. I was well acquainted with Moscow – it takes only 12 hours by train to get to the Russian capital from my native city. Yet, Almaty was always a very distant city for me.



Next year I will be able to bravely say that I am from Almaty.

Well, after coming here I fell in love with the city once and for all. This city became the first of all the city of opportunities for me. And my student years became the most significant and interesting period of my life.

By the way, I lived for 12 years in Uralsk and for four years in Aktobe, and this year it will be 12 years since I moved to Almaty. This means that next year I will be able to say that I am from Almaty (she laughs). This is a special city, taking into account that not only work aspects, but my personal life, as well, is connected to it. Yet, my relations with the west of the country are not over – my parents and all of my relatives live there.

### «It is okay to search for yourself»

I was always a fan of major, large-scale projects. Events are the love of my life. It all started back in high-school. I was a member of a city Young Leaders Association, and once, with my other classmates – there were six high-school students altogether – I organized a five-day camp for one hundred kids just like us. Now I remember that and think – how is it possible for school kids to organize something like that? Yet, we were supported by our parents, and this was great. Maybe, it was because we were not afraid of anything.

So, you don't have to be scared by experimenting and searching – when else will you do that, if not in your youth?

I have had diverse experiences. I tried various spheres of project management. I always thought that when you change your job and search for something for yourself, there's nothing to be afraid of. The main thing is to not drop out; finalize what you have started, take your experience and move on. So you don't have to be scared by experimenting and searching – when else will you do that, if not in your youth?

I have projects that I am working on besides my main job because they are dear to my heart. My old idea is to arrange and to rearrange city spaces. I always thought that there is no necessity to build something new. There are lots of objects that should be simply given a second life. And the first of such objects which we rearranged was the Zhambyl City Youth Library on Nazarbayev Avenue. We found a sponsor to renovate and to completely modernize it. This May we opened an upgraded library, now it is administered by the Administration of Culture and Archives of Almaty.

I can tell for sure – with the right planning, one can find time for work, personal life and self-development. The most important thing is not to get scattered and to focus on the main thing, and what the main thing is – that's for everyone to decide on their own.

Photos: Vladislav Lyan (reporters\_kz)

Text: Gulmira Kussainova

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# INTERVIEW WITH NAZERKE AIBAR, BSC 2016

## ORGANIZES FIRST SCO YOUTH CONFERENCE IN CHINA

Nazerke Aibar (Zarlykhanova), KIMEP Class of 2016, who is currently pursuing her master's degree in Chinese Studies in Economics and Business at Peking University, was one of three members of the organizing committee for the first Model SCO [The Shanghai Cooperation Organization] Youth Conference. Three bachelor's, 17 master's and 2 PhD students from 12 countries attended SCO Model-2018 held at the SCO Headquarters in Beijing on June 3, just a week before the leaders of the 18-nation Eurasian group met for their annual summit in China's eastern coastal city of Qingdao. The activists of the SCO Youth League tried to model a SCO summit.

The participants exchanged views on a broad range of international and regional economic development issues as well as on prospects and measures for intensifying youth policy cooperation in the SCO space to further strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between SCO member states. Their ideas were incorporated into a joint communiqué which was presented to the SCO Secretary-General Rashid Alimov.



The conference was highlighted in more than 20 mass media sources of 8 countries including CCTV, CGTN, Shanghai Cooperation Organization official website, TASS, etc. After the conference, Nazerke was interviewed by China's largest international television channel CGTN as a representative of Kazakhstan to talk about the youth perspective on Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The screening was broadcast as part of The Point with Liu Xin, a 30-minute current affairs program on CGTN. In the interview, Nazerke provided her feedback about the conference and expressed her expectations about the upcoming annual SCO Summit in Qingdao, China on June 9-10, 2018.

By Anisa Atalova  
President of the U.S.-CAEF Alumni Association

# INTERVIEW WITH FIRUZA HASANOVA, BSC 2016

## Why did you choose KIMEP?

There were three main reasons for why I chose KIMEP University to pursue my bachelor's degree. First, it is the best business school in Central Asia with a European system of education, which I was specifically aiming for. Second, I received a full scholarship for four years. Third, KIMEP University has partnerships with a number of prestigious universities around the world, which gave me opportunity to travel.

## What memories stand out from your time at KIMEP?

1. The people that I met. I am talking about ALL people: professors, students, roommates, staff members and, most importantly, my friends.
2. KELT! It was probably the most entertaining part of my student life.
3. The dormitory! Duh! I was among the lucky ones to live in dorm.
4. My exchange year in Turkey. I had a blast and met amazing people. I also fell in love with Turkish cuisine.

## Do you have any memories of outstanding professors?

Michael Conrad! Here is what he said that I still remember. "When the world is falling apart, act and look your best." I often repeat this to myself.

Jonathan Jay. I took Mr. Jay's Academic English-Speaking class when I was a freshman. Each class, Mr. Jay would give individual written feedback to each 22 students in the room. I used his technique after I graduated from KIMEP and started teaching public speaking classes at a language center. One day, two of my students' parents approached me and said they have never met any instructor who cared so much about their students and they also asked me to never leave my job. I am still in touch with Mr. Jay.

## What is your current job and when did you start?

I am an Associate Recruiter in Wimmer Solutions Inc. located in Seattle, Washington, USA. I do recruiting services for Fortune 100 Companies, mainly for technical jobs such as Software Engineer, Tech Project/Program Managers and Data Analysts. I started my journey in recruiting about a year ago.

## How did KIMEP education help with your job?

I would say the language part helped me a lot, since I work in an English-speaking environment.

Since KIMEP has a large international community, I got used to intercultural interaction, so I am comfortable now when it comes to interviewing people with different backgrounds and nationalities.



## Did you stay in touch with your classmates, and, if so, how often do you see them?

I am still in touch with some of my classmates, although most of the news I hear comes from Instagram (of course). A couple of my classmates live in the US, so I see them once in half a year for a road trip that we look forward to.

## What would be your advice to current students?

Please, please practice your knowledge. I am a firm believer of learning by doing. But back at KIMEP I wasted a lot of my time on movies, clubs, and lazy days. After I graduated, I didn't have a single internship or even an understanding of business in real life. So, I had to start from zero. Experience is the key to your future career.

Network! Make connections with your professors and classmates. You never know when these will come in handy. Trust me – networking might account for 70% of your success in the future.

## How do you stay calm and focused? Do you do anything outside of work to help you with this?

I have a therapist. Her name is Nature. At the end of the week, when I feel my brain is about to explode, I put on my boots, take my backpack and go to the mountains. After a hike, I have dirty feet, messy hair, an exhausted body and a calm mind.

## What are your ideas on happiness and success?

How many times have you heard the phrase "do what you love"? A million? Well, here you go! One million and one time. Do what you love! Easy to say, right? All I want to say is, at the end of the day, you should be a little closer to your goal. And what I mean by goal is what YOU really want and not what society preaches.

## Anything else you would like to share with the KIMEP community?

KIMEP has a special place in my heart. Please keep this spirit!

# INTERVIEW WITH ANATOLIY OGAY, BSSPA 2010 AND TATYANA KIM, BSC 2007

## STORYTELLERS FROM ALMATY TO HOLLYWOOD

KIMEP alumni Anatoliy Ogay and Tatyana Kim, have once made a rapid and risky decision which not only changed their job direction. It has changed the destination point from Almaty, Kazakhstan to Hollywood, California.

This past May Anatoliy and Tatyana brought their own theater production named OTOSOTR, a solo performance about the WWII, to their hometown in Almaty. The full house performances took place on the Big Stage of ARTiShok Theater.

During the whole month of August, the monodrama was showcased at Underbelly theater – one of the biggest venues of Festival Fringe in Edinburgh.

The tour of OTOSOTR continues and will be shown at UNITED SOLO – the World's Largest Solo Theater Festival in New York, USA on 27 October 2018.



### **Why did you choose KIMEP?**

**Tatyana:** KIMEP was the only university I considered enrolling to because my older sister has already been halfway through her education at KIMEP. Somehow I ended up always helping her with marketing assignments and it's where I thought – this can be great.

**Anatoliy:** somehow I formed my relationship with KIMEP very early. Once when I was around 14 I happened to be in a dark and gloomy bar with graffiti on the walls. We came to a live acoustic concert of some local rock artists. Later I learned it was what we now know as Fun Club. I think that's when KIMEP grabbed my interest. But honestly, I'm thankful to my parents who stated that I must get accepted to KIMEP.



### ***What memories stand out from your time at KIMEP?***

**Anatoliy:** The feeling of belonging to something bigger than just you as an individual is very present at KIMEP. I liked it a lot. I felt it on many levels starting from the opening speech of Dr. Bang during university life, then through student organizations and of course class group projects. Every time there was this challenge to find common ground with people you end up working with. It is very exciting and I picked up a lot about human communication during my time at KIMEP.

### ***What is your current job and when did you start?***

**Tatyana:** We work in multimedia, whether it is film, advertising, photography or music. I was lucky to understand during my time at KIMEP that storytelling is a powerful tool to create – it's started with marketing and advertising and evolved into me being on the other side of the camera using the same old tool – storytelling. Now we complete big budget advertising campaigns, travel around the world, share our work and network for future projects. This year alone we traveled across Europe for the photoshoot for a jewelry brand I work with, spent a month in the UK with OTOSOTR theatre production, and as I'm answering this we are in Amsterdam on the biggest conference for video production. So this is what we do, connecting different mediums of art in different parts of the world.

### ***How did KIMEP education help with your job?***

**Tatyana:** Marketing classes with life-like projects really put the first building blocks of who I am today in the professional world of advertisement. But that's the boring part. Most importantly, KIMEP helped me to understand what I want and what I don't want to do with my life. It really helped me to shape my personality - I feel when you are 18 years old all you need is to find a community of like-minded people - whether it's based on classes, hobbies or level of geekiness. I was lucky to find friends for life with whom we shared so many great memories then and now we share lots of work/play relationships.

We keep in touch with most of our classmates and KIMEP alumni always find each other, even on different continents.

### ***What would your advice be to current students?***

**Anatoliy:** Be proactive and participate in social events. They make your days brighter. Sit on the front row, there's nothing interesting in the back. Also, you didn't pay that much money to sit in the back, use every penny wisely. Ask questions. If you don't understand something, ask. If something isn't clear or you want to know more – ask. Be curious.



***How do you stay calm and focused? Do you do anything outside of work to help you with this?***

**Anatoliy:** I meditate. It can take different forms and duration. A good meditation for me is 20-25 minutes of a guided meditation. If time allows I use Insight Timer app. If there isn't much time and there's no room for personal space around, I could just breathe. Also, I like looking outside a window and become a witness of life. It calms me down.

**Tatyana:** I never stay calm, that's just my personality. But I tend to switch between activities to stay focused. Also, I hike almost every day on the mountain right behind our house in LA.

***What are your ideas on happiness and success?***

**Tatyana:** If you can spend a whole week all by yourself and not get crazy - you are already a wholesome, complete, and beautiful person. The more we explore the topic of happiness, the more we see it comes from the inside. A lot of people tend to distract this by going outwards. There is a beautiful resource [gaia.com](http://gaia.com) if someone is really interested in exploring the concept of happiness.

**Anatoliy:** And... Success comes with happiness. Happiness doesn't come with success.

***Anything else you would like to share with the KIMEP community?***

Let's reach out to each other. We love to work with people from our community.

This year your monodrama OTOSOTR received the INNOVATION AWARD at the Asian Arts Awards in Scotland from Edinburgh Festival Fringe commission. The monodrama was distinguished by National British mass media.

***What does this Award mean to you?***

**Anatoliy:** It means that art from our region is interesting to the foreign audience. We are very proud to have been part of the Fringe alongside very talented and diverse roster of artists presented this year in Edinburgh. The award helps us getting the word about the show out there, putting our names on the radar for those who are interested in theater and learning about other cultures. And that essentially was our goal – sharing a story from the part of the world people hardly heard of.

***Did you expect to receive it?***

**Tatyana:** This brings us back to the question about success. One step at a time - the progress is a success for us. We definitely expected something great for that process. We received an experience and an award.

Why do you think you were given such an honor? What achievements from the current year are you proud of?

**Anatoliy:** The work really stood out and was unique in its form and topic at the Fringe. We prepared a good supporting campaign for the show and anyone who was somehow interested in finding out more about it would find a lot of different supporting materials, how the show came about, etc.

The spiritual growth that happened that year during the preparation and realization of OTOSOTR and a couple of other projects is something we want to continue working on.



# NURLAN ZHAMESHOV, BSC 2009

## KIMEP GAVE ME MUCH MORE THAN A PROFESSION

Nurlan Zhameshov graduated in 2008 with a BA (Finance) from the KIMEP Bang School of Business (BCB).

In 2011, Nurlan completed an MSc degree (Accounting) with distinction at Essex Business School at the University of Essex, UK, with his Master's thesis published by the International Journal of Accounting and Finance (2011).

### **Current position: Finance director, ADAL FOOD Company**

Each of us has something to be grateful for to our kin – parents, brothers and sisters, friends, our teachers and instructors, who came to our life's path in one way or another – for the fact that every one of them, intentionally or not, contributed something important to our lives. Some of them gave us love and support, some – valuable lifetime professional and personal experience. We ourselves become the ones we are in many ways thanks to these people.

A human is more receptive of such an influence during his or her youth when conscience is open for new ideas and personal qualities and value foundations are still in the process of being formed. During such a period of my life namely, I became a KIMEP student with a finance major. I dived into a completely new environment: a new format of studying, new disciplines, new people, a new level of responsibility and self-discipline. Adapting to it was not easy, yet very interesting. This was my first valuable experience gained at university. Back then, particularly, for the first time, I really felt the full degree of responsibility for my own future and the importance of self-motivation and hard work.

I believe that KIMEP creates not only competitive professionals – the best ones in the jobs they do but also sets a high standard for Kazakhstani higher education as a whole. Being one of the strongest universities in the country, KIMEP gave me a sustainable academic basis and a wide range of theoretical and practical knowledge that allowed me to successfully work in my sphere in international companies.

After completion of my undergraduate program in KIMEP, I, without any exaggeration, was equipped with all the necessary knowledge and skills to start working in the sphere of my specialization. Besides a firm practical preparation, I also had self-reliance and a professional thrill, the desire to demonstrate the leadership qualities that I was able to develop while studying in the university. This allowed me to continue my studies at the graduate level, by "Bolashak" international program in University of Essex – one of the best UK universities for research in the sphere of economics and social sciences.

Today I can confidently state that KIMEP University gave me much more than just a profession. It gave me a moral and ethical capstone, a part of its spirit – the spirit of robust, earnest competition and of striving to continuous development. KIMEP made me a responsible leader, it brought up inside of me the principles and values I stick to as of now: honesty, hard work, orientation to goals and results, responsibility, striving to objectivity. I hope that throughout my life I will go with these qualities, that KIMEP developed in me.



# LOVE STORY OF SARSENBAYEVS

## THE LOVE STORY OF DARMEN (BACTA, 2017) AND KARINA (BSC, 2016) SARSENBAYEV

I want to start this story with the fact that members of my family are also graduates of KIMEP; that's why I knew everything about its perfect conditions and comfortable system. Since I was in high school, my choice fell on this university without any thoughts. However, I couldn't imagine that KIMEP would play such an important role in my life; it gave me a lot of knowledge, reliable friends, opportunity to work (part-time in Registrar's Office) and the chance to find the love of my life.

In Spring 2015, I registered for the Management Accounting course, and there I met a tall and smart guy whose name was Darmen. This subject was taught by our favorite teacher who joked that it's better to look for a soul mate within the walls of the university. At that time, I didn't suspect that we would become exactly those people, since our story began only after graduating from KIMEP.

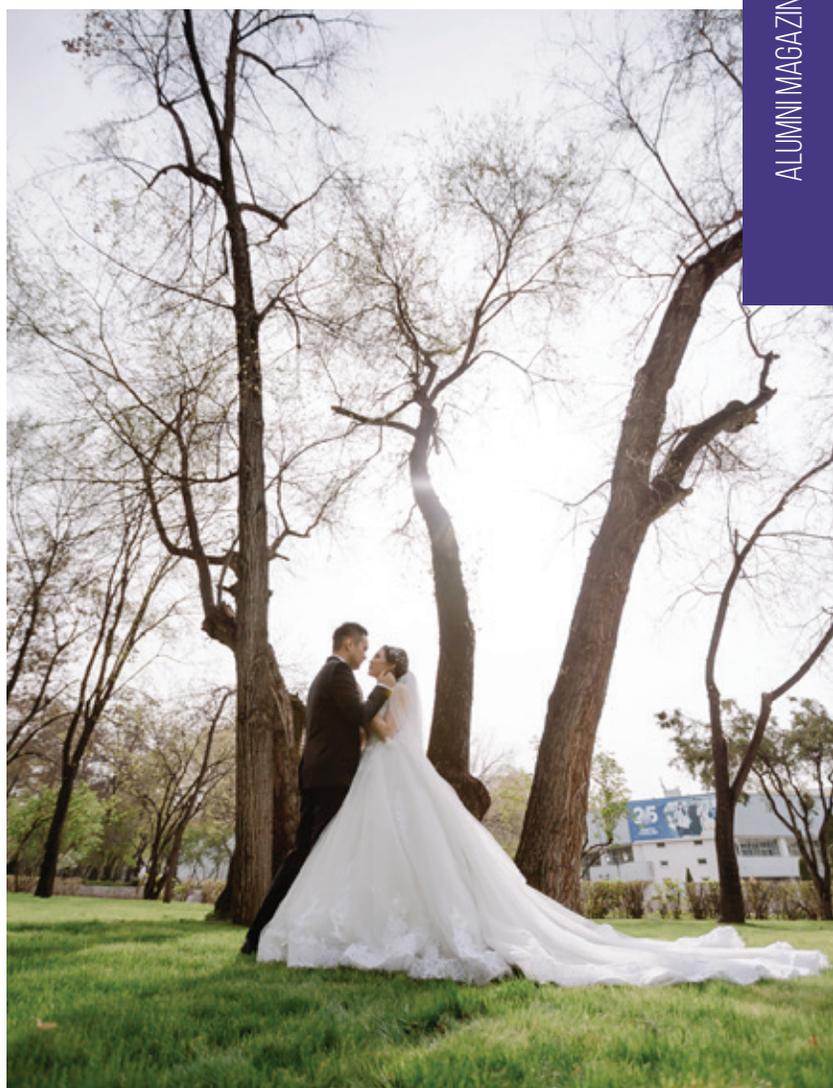
In September 2016, we met each other at the university when I came to receive my diploma. The next day, Darmen invited me to go to the cinema. After watching a funny comedy, I remember we were walking and telling stories from university life. In addition, we discovered how many things we had in common, starting from the music we listened to and ending with our almost similar surnames with a difference of only one letter (Sarsenbayev - Sakenbayeva). That evening, we took a long time to say goodbye, and after our first date we became inseparable. It was the beginning of our story.

After more than a year, in November 2017 Darmen was offered a job at Tengizchevroil company as an accountant. At the beginning of December, he traveled to Atyrau and promised to come back in three weeks. My emotions were running high — on the one hand, I was glad that he was offered the job of his dreams; on the other hand, I was disappointed that we would have to live in different cities.

On December 30, 2017, I was sitting in a cafe with my best friend and we planned that after our dinner

we would go to the airport in order to meet Darmen. Suddenly, my best friend disappeared and, in a minute, my closest friends and my brother came out of nowhere and started to congratulate me and gave me flowers. I sensed that someone was standing behind me and I immediately turned around. It turned out that Darmen had arrived a day earlier than told me. He dropped down on one knee, pulled out a jewelry box with a ring from his jacket, opened it and asked me to marry him. I thought it was a dream. It was the happiest day of our lives.

April 14, 2018 was our wedding day, and our teacher became our special guest. I am grateful to KIMEP for the good education, my first work experience, faithful friends and for my beloved husband. I am incredibly happy and thankful for my destiny!



# ILMIRA BEKNAZAROVA, MA 2015

## A LETTER TO MYSELF 10 YEARS AGO

Dear me,

You would not believe it, but I am writing to you from the biggest island in the world, where summer starts in December, where jacaranda trees burst into purple blooms, and eucalyptus scents the air; where you can see a koala sitting on a tree in a park next to your house; where you can enjoy breathtaking sunrises and sunsets on the beach; where people live in balance with the unique flora and fauna. In 10 years, it will be your place of residence, and you will have traveled here through your joint efforts and achievements.

There are some essential things I want you to know:

- Don't worry about grades too much, but still keep getting good marks as it is a sign that you are capable of organizing yourself, forming goals, and achieving them successfully.
- Don't waste your time on fears and frustrations; don't consider negative people or negative emotions as it ruins your spiritual balance and emotional sustainability.
- Be crystal clear with your desires and dreams; focus on them and work hard.
- Learn to make connections more easily; build a network and do not forget about your friends — the real ones, since they will support you through the hard times and the good.
- Be grateful for every moment, since this is your time for wonders to be discovered and freedom to be used wisely.

Always stay curious and love your life with a big smile on your face,

Yours faithfully



# BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCILS

In Spring 2017, the Bang College of Business organized the annual meeting of the Business Alumni Advisory Council (BAAC) with the support of the Corporate Development Department.

The aim of the BAAC is to bring BCB and alumni together to create a forum to advance the mutual interests of both parties. As Kazakhstan's leading business school, we are committed to developing the business leaders of tomorrow. To do this and to ensure the critical human capital needed to advance our society and move the Kazakhstani economy forward, we need the feedback and invaluable expertise of our prominent graduates.

At the last BAAC meeting after the BCB report, participants discussed recommendations regarding KIMEP marketing strategy, connections with companies, internships, innovations and entrepreneurship, fundraising and the ability to set up an endowment fund to accumulate alumni donations and many other important issues.

We are thankful to alumni who came and shared their visions on the development of KIMEP. The Council plays a vital advisory role in the Bang College of Business. We value alumni advice on strategic and operational input for the school, as well as feedback on our curriculum and its relevance to business and industry. We believe the BCB will work on all of the recommendations that were put forward at the meeting.

If you have any ideas or interest in attending the next meeting and becoming a BAAC member, please contact the Corporate Development Department ([cdd@kimep.kz](mailto:cdd@kimep.kz)).

# OPEN AIR ALUMNI REUNION



Corporate Development Department organized the Alumni Open Air Reunion on May 26 on the KIMEP campus. Once again, KIMEP welcomed alumni and their families and friends to enjoy a concert, delicious food and a feeling of warm reunion with other former students.

The guests had a chance to promote their projects and startup ideas in the Professional Corner, which was organized specifically for this purpose.

People were taking photos at the press wall with their former classmates, many of whom they hadn't seen since their graduation ceremony years before. Everyone was a bit nostalgic about student life and their alma mater, yet former students were happy to see each other again and meet each others' families, as well.

After that, at 7 pm there was an after party which took place at Teplitsa Café. The guests received free complementary drinks and a 15% discount for all purchases.



# ALUMNI REUNION 2008-2009 (10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY)

## ANNIVERSARY REUNION OF KIMEP GRADUATES

Let's congratulate the Class of 2008-2009 on their 10th Anniversary!

After 10 years, the KIMEP Class of 2008-2009 is back at their alma mater as KIMEP alumni. The reunion was a nostalgic evening of reconnecting and reminiscence which brought together more than 50 graduates. Alumni reconnected with faculty, friends and university memories. The atmosphere was strengthened by the hugs of KIMEP classmates, the smiles of friends, dances, songs, a sense of commonality and unity, and the never-ending spirit of life known to all KIMEPIans. The reunion once more proved that we will always stay young, ambitious, curious and growing because we are KIMEP alumni.



Thanks to everyone who attended the alumni reunion of the Class of 2008-2009. It was a fantastic event and a great opportunity to catch up with old classmates.



# ALUMNI REUNION 2003 (15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY)

KIMEP CLASS 2003 REUNION WAS HELD BOTH IN ALMATY AND ASTANA IN JUNE 2018. IT WAS ORGANIZED BY THE FORMER STUDENTS THEMSELVES USING WHATSAPP GROUP CHAT



After the graduation former students tend to lose contact with their classmates, as every one of them has their own path in life. KIMEP is always encouraging former students to stay in contact with each other by organizing events and meetings for alumni. However, sometimes alumni don't need their alma mater's intervention to gather and to celebrate their memories of the university.

June 2018 was 15 years since Class 2003 graduated from KIMEP, and alumni reunited yet once again. As the former students live in different cities, it was decided to organize two meetings – in cozy restaurants of Almaty and Astana. More than 30 alumni got together, took pictures, laughed and talked about university days and had a lot of fun.

Recall that the Alumni 2003 were the founders of Rakhmet scholarship fund for KIMEP students.

# CLASS 1997 DONATION

## THE CLASS OF 1997'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE RAKHMET SCHOLARSHIP FUND

At one of the class meetings, the idea of helping talented students from low-income families was announced. The idea was approved by the class representatives. The information was spread in social media, and the Rakhmet chat was set up by our alumni. During the summer months, two million tenge was collected. CDD, jointly with the Financial Aid Office, provided a list of students who needed scholarships the most. After thorough consideration of the candidates, the Organizing Committee of the Class of 1997 selected two students for the Rakhmet scholarship. Those students held not only achievements in education, but they also worked in several positions in order to pay their tuition fees. Their goal was to get a degree at KIMEP University.

One of the Class of 1997 representatives supervises the academic status of Rakhmet scholarship holders with the aim of helping them in their career development. In her letter to Alumni Magazine, she shares her own story and lifetime lessons that helped her to become successful.

First of all, I would like to greet this special group of people that is reading this letter – presidents of the largest and the most reputable companies, founders of startups that will change the future of the modern world, tactful and powerful geo-politicians — basically all of you, KIMEP students. These are the roles that you will take on.

Twenty years ago, I did not know yet that I would belong to this special cohort of people – KIMEP graduates. In 1995, it seemed to me that there was nothing left in my life, other than the old suitcase of belongings that I was carrying away from the apartment of my former husband. No family. No work. No goals in life. No money.

My mother made me submit an application to KIMEP. The money for the application fee was lent to me by a complete stranger whom I met at an exhibition and I told about my situation (and this was one of the most incredible acquaintances of my life!). For me, this situation bears a special meaning, since it made me understand one of the rules of life: it doesn't matter if you are well-off

financially at the moment or not, the main things are to believe in yourself, to believe that miracles do happen, and, of course, to take active actions to implement those miracles!

Nowadays, I am very grateful to my mother for the fact that she insisted on my enrollment in KIMEP, but, of course, my major words of gratitude are addressed to KIMEP, since that was the institution that gave me a new start in life — all the opportunities to fulfill myself both in my professional sphere and in my relations with other people.

We all are born to be happy and successful. This all comes with having a beloved profession and a community of likeminded people around you. Due to the special approach to studying at KIMEP and due to my own unique system, I developed personal leadership, team working skills, the ability to quickly find necessary literature; I learned to structure and to analyze my decisions and actions. I can list a lot, yet in my view the main thing is leadership. Without this quality, it is hard to find a job you like and to gather a proper team around you.

Back when I worked at Ogilvy&Mather advertisement agency (after graduating from KIMEP) as a usual key clients manager, I heard a remarkable quote from David Ogilvy, the founder of this company: "When hiring people lesser than we are, we become the company of dwarves. When hiring people greater than we are, we become the company of giants." I took this as a rule for myself when I became a top manager and gained the opportunity to select and to hire people. In 2002, the management of STADA German international pharmaceutical company entrusted me to open up its representative office in Kazakhstan and to become its head. I had to start the business from scratch, yet we've been expanding dynamically. We have gained strength, and under my leadership we have opened up five more representative offices in Central Asia. Now, I can proudly state that from the 600th position on the market, which we possessed when I was just starting off in STADA, we have grown to become a leading company – for many years, already, we have taken our place in the top ten leading pharmaceutical companies in Kazakhstan and

other Central Asian countries – this is the main merit of my team. “Cadre are all-important” – this old slogan does not lose its relevance even today. “The leader’s task is to have more leaders, not to have more of those who follow the leader” – said Ralf Neider, the American lawyer. This confirms Ogilvy’s idea about the company of giants, and I was able to become practically convinced of the truthfulness of these phrases.

There are several lifetime lessons that helped me to achieve everything I have now.

I am not interested in becoming the richest body at the cemetery. No matter how banal this might sound, it is important to enjoy what you do. Steve Jobs said: “Sort yourself out and understand what it is that you like. This is as directly related to your work as to your personal life. Work will take up the majority of your life, so the only way to self-respect is to do what you believe is worth major efforts. And the only way to do this work is to enjoy what you do. Do not stop in your search!”

Your passion will give you a clue to your mission. It is a great mission that makes a person great – be it Martin Luther King, Frodo Baggins or Sponge Bob. And remember – the mission is always possible!

The final thing – there will be a lot of opportunities in your life, and KIMEP University is one of them. Still, it is only up to you to figure out how to use these opportunities. There is a well-known joke about two shoe sellers who went to Africa. The first one came back and said: “There aren’t any market opportunities to sell shoes in Africa – everyone is barefoot!” The second one came and told his bosses: “I saw great opportunities to sell shoes in Africa – everyone is barefoot!”

Therefore – do not forget to open the door when great opportunities will knock!

And remember – great deeds are waiting for you! I wish you braveness, perseverance and self-confidence!

Olga Yemtseva  
General Director for central Asia and Mongolia  
STADA German Pharmaceutical Company



# ZHANNA SAGYNDYKOVA, MPA 2006

## WITH LOVE TO KIMEP: EDUCATION RESEARCH ANNUAL GRANT BY ALUM-2006

I graduated from KIMEP in 2006. I consider KIMEP as not just a university, but as my home. KIMEP gave me knowledge and totally transformed my life.

Although it is now almost 12 years since I graduated from my Alma Mater, I still remember the lectures by Dr. Richard Faillace and Dr. John Clark and my first "A+" on "Political Science" class.

My interest in education policy brought me to KIMEP and it was the university where the first deep knowledge in this sphere was gained, and where my interest was augmented even further. I will never forget the very first lecture at KIMEP which was given by Professor Richard Faillace and started with his words: "Congratulations, you were admitted to the best university in the country." This inspirational message became a start for my exciting journey towards academic, personal and professional development.

As a KIMEP student, I was interested in participating at various local and international conferences, events and research projects, and it was KIMEP who always helped me with financing my projects and trips. I am still very grateful to KIMEP for this support, and I think that it is now my turn to give back.

Just as KIMEP helped me years ago in implementing my ideas, I want to support the current students who I know are talented, smart and bright. Besides, I consider it very important to develop research in the education sector here in Kazakhstan. Actually, these two were the reasons for me to establish the Education Research Annual Grant which aims to support those KIMEP students who are interested in educational research projects. To stay in line with the purpose and the idea of this Grant, it was announced among the students studying at KIMEP College of Social Sciences undergraduate and graduate programs.

This year, there was quite a tough competition for the Grant. It was pretty hard to choose one winner since all the research proposals and essays were very strong, the candidates demonstrated solid research skills and deep interest in education. In addition, the participants showed their dedication to education development in the country: the topics of their research proposals were all interesting and suggested different solutions and perspectives for current issues in education. After the very careful consideration of all submitted application materials, the finalist was ultimately appointed and the Grant was awarded to Guldauren Sabirova. I am happy to congratulate Guldauren and to wish Guldauren success in her further research in education. I am also very grateful to all the students who participated in the contest: "Certificates of Appreciation" were awarded to Safina Zakhanova, Aigerim Magzumova, Kamil Alekberov and Liana Abisheva.

For the upcoming years, I hope to increase the amount of the Grant through a fundraising campaign: I am planning to invite other KIMEP alumni to join and to contribute. I very much hope that other graduates who benefited from the knowledge given by KIMEP will also decide to donate.

Of course, I am very proud to be a KIMEP graduate, and I also believe that this Education Research Annual Grant will contribute to education development in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Thank you, my KIMEP. I am always thinking about you with great love and gratitude in my heart.

# CONTACT US

## WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

- Have you changed your job, email or phone number? Update your contact information electronically: [cdd@kimep.kz](mailto:cdd@kimep.kz) or <https://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](mailto: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.

- 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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