

KIMEP TIMES

SINCE 1995



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Femtorship Program

Written by
Zhalgas Satekov



Today more women have achieved great success in their academic performance and career than ever before. At undergraduate, graduate, and faculty levels, women have more opportunities to participate in and impact the social culture of KIMEP University as well as its wider community. One of such opportunities is the network building that comes from female mentorship, or “Femtorship.”

The initiator and coordinator of the Femtorship Program has been the Corporate Development Department (CDD), which oversees the Alumni Association. The CDD has been successfully conducting a conventional mentorship program for students of all bachelor's degree programs for three years. Two years ago, it was decided to launch a Femtorship program in which four “femtors” took part: Kamila Lukpanova, Talita Zhumatayeva, Irina Kopylova and Zarina Aitkulova. All femtors are KIMEP alumni, qualified specialists with extensive experience in various fields such as Marketing, PR, Media, HR, IT and Business. The first alumni of the program were 8 “femtees”.

The aim of the program:

KIMEP Alumna will become a mentor for current female students in order to help, guide, inspire them on their path to career growth and overall success.

Having a female mentor, or femtor, can be extremely valuable to female students’ personal and professional growth as they can help to promote their aspirations, provide them with advice, introduce them to various networks, and act as a shoulder to lean on when things don’t go as they hoped. Female professionals have gone through it all, so they are well equipped to make sure the femtee is prepared for opportunities when they come!

In what ways might “Femtorship” be different?

“Fem” means “woman” in Latin. The concept of femtoring has its origins in feminist theory and serves as a model of mentoring aimed solely at young women. The central idea is to introduce gender competencies and the feminist perspective in different spheres to provide a more holistic response to the inequities faced by young women in their career paths.

Importance:

Having a femtor is one step female students can take to elevate their professional careers as well as form meaningful connections with women who care. Whether it is through sharing their story or giving advice, there will always be something new for you to learn. It could be intimidating to reach out to women you have never talked to before but don’t worry! Female professionals are certainly unpretentious and ready to offer their advice and direction!



My mentor gave me support and practical advice. I was very interested in marketing and entrepreneurship. Very fortunate for me, my femtor had experience in business as she founded a fashion journal. I would ask questions regarding her experience with the process, and Kamila would give significant insights. Besides, my femtor enthusiastically shared her network with me. As she had experience working with national designers, I could always refer to key contacts who helped my project on the fashion industry in Kazakhstan. Participating in the Femtorship Program helped to work on my goals, establish new networks, and get support from the person who sets an inspiring example.

Aiperi Dzhaanbaeva, (BMKT, 2022)
Femtor: Kamila Lukpanova

Hello everyone! My name is Jasmine, and last year I had a chance to become part of the "Femtorship Program". My femtor was Talita Zhumatayeva.

What can I say about this program?

This program turned out to be very useful, because for a whole year my femtor - Talita - held meetings with me, supported me in every possible way and gave me valuable advice. To be more detailed, she shared her work experience, told several life hacks during the interview, and explained how to behave properly at work. Moreover, she helped me improve my CV. We are still in touch with Talita, and she has become not just a femtor to me but also a friend. This program helped me gain a lot of experience, as well as meet very interesting people. I recommend this program to all students. In such an important period for you, you will need the help of more experienced people who will be able to guide you.

Jasmine Ablakova, (BMKT, 2022)
Femtor: Talita Zhumatayeva



This program helped me get to know femtors better. Irina helped me see what the life of a successful woman can look like in the modern world, what challenges there are at work and in the family, how to work with them and achieve what I want. Femtorship is not only specific skills but also networking and energizing from femtors. I am grateful to the organizers for gathering us and giving us the opportunity to talk with KIMEP alumni and learn more about their careers and their lives. When you are a student, you have no idea what awaits you after graduation. Such meetings help you see all the options and all the paths available to you. There were UN employees, Big 4 regional directors, government employees, PhD holders, etc. I was lucky, my Femtor was an HR and revealed a lot of insights and cases from her work. She checked my résumé and advised me on how to behave in an interview. During the Femtorship, I found a job with ideal conditions for a student. I wholeheartedly recommend this program to girls who want to meet inspiring femtors and get a boost of energy from them!

Aruzhan Kenenbayeva, (BMGT, 2022)
Femtor: Irina Kopylova

Tour de France: Tips for exchange

Written by
Anna Shin



KIMEP LIFE

In the Fall 2021 semester, I was fortunate to be selected for an exchange program at the University of Strasbourg, France. Words cannot possibly express how excited I was about this opportunity and how many expectations I had about life in one of the most dazzling and stylish countries in the world. However, reality does not always fully reflect our dreams. For sure, it was a marvelous period of my life. Nevertheless, I realize that I could have avoided some minor issues if I had been aware of them in advance. I would like to take this opportunity and narrate my story full of life hacks and tips that might help you in making your trip to France easier.

France is a unique country that amazes you with its diversity. For example, the south of France is famous for the bright, colorful, and sunny cities of Nice, Marseilles, and Cannes, while the weather and the palette of cities in the north, beautiful as it is, can be rather different. The majestic city of Strasbourg, for instance, which is located in the north is known as the capital of Christmas. It is not a secret that wine and cheese are the best there. France is a highly bureaucratic country, and, hence, you have to deal with a lot of documents. Brace yourself. French cherish their history, culture, and identity, and as a result, they might be distrustful of people who speak English. Here is my first recommendation for you: before going to France, try to learn French so that you can ask some basic questions and understand simple sentences. Naturally, preparation does not end in acquiring basic knowledge of the language. When packing bags, bear in

mind that students there, counterintuitively, do not care much about fashionable clothes. You will not need a lot of dresses, costumes, or even heels. Try to pack mostly practical and casual clothes for everyday use: this is my second tip.

Usually, traveling to France goes through a change in Frankfurt airport, one of the biggest airports in Europe. It is easy to get lost there as Frankfurt airport is huge: thousands of square meters where it is very easy to lose track. Just imagine how long it takes to go from one corner to another. Subsequently, my third tip is to have at least two hours of changing time, in case you happen to have a ticket with a change in Frankfurt airport. Otherwise, you are in danger of missing your next flight. In addition, check the day of the week on which you arrive. In France, almost everything is closed on Sundays including supermarkets, some cafes, and bars. Upon your arrival, you might want to have lunch or dinner, but it will be almost impossible to find something open on Sundays.

After some adaptation time, students tend to travel and visit Europe. Accordingly, my next lifehack would be to download your travel destination on Google maps, so that you can use it offline. Furthermore, bear in mind that Europe is not as safe as it might seem to be. Stay vigilant and attentive. There are lots of pickpockets in Paris, Belgium and Italy. I would also advise you to exploit your student status fully. For example, you can apply for a CAF (Caisse des Allocations Familiales) scholarship to pay for your dormitory fees; Turkish airlines

provide free second baggage for students only; most of the museums including Le Louvre in Paris have free entrance for students. Many other entertainment activities have discounts for students.

You might also think about buying a SIM card. My friends and I had trouble with French SIM cards, as they charge monthly payments directly from your credit card even if you do not use their service. Sometimes they charge more than you expected. Frankly, you can even live there without buying a SIM card as Wi-Fi spots are practically everywhere. Nonetheless, if you decide to get it, here is my next tip. DO NOT use your mobile Internet, and/or make calls outside of France. This might sound obvious, yet some people think that since they are in the Eurozone they can use it the same way they do in France. Of course, you can, but after that, you would have to pay a vast sum of money for the service. Before the departure back home, DO NOT forget to cancel your subscription. Even if you do not use your SIM card anymore, the provider will continue to charge you as your subscription still goes on.

Here are my main recommendations and lifehacks for your trip to France. These are some of the most practical discoveries from my experience. I hope that my recommendations will be useful during your trip and stay. Despite minor inconveniences, this adventure was incredible, and I wish everyone to live through the same wonders which I had the privilege to experience.



Interview with the new professor ALTYNAY KARABAYEVA

Written by
Gulmira Skendir



Altynay Karabayeva, an international journalism graduate from the College of Social Sciences at KIMEP University, joined the university as a professor in the spring of 2022. We have interviewed Altynay to share her experience as a student and her new journey as a professor. The interview will include five parts: student life at KIMEP, professional career growth afterwards, back to KIMEP as a professor, the course she teaches, and advice to students.

PART 1: Student life at KIMEP

— *Hello, Altynay! As we know, you are a KIMEP alumnus. Can you please describe your experience of student life at KIMEP?*

— I remember my student years as probably the most engaging ones. I have got to know new people with whom I still get in touch, and met my life partner. I am grateful to all the professors, students, and friends who were with me during my studies. I graduated from KIMEP in three and a half years because I used to take summer semesters. I never aspired to high grades. It just happened that the study process was interesting. A diploma with honors turned out to be a good surprise.

— *During your student life you were an editor for KIMEP TIMES. Can you tell us how you remember your work there?*

— In my fond memories, KIMEP TIMES had a very small team back then. We did everything ourselves with Professor Frederich Emrich helping us. We used to sit in a media lab where all the magic was happening. It was there precisely where I came up with the front page for our newspaper. We released the issues in black and white. The team spent all of their free time trying to create the design and the content for it. Certainly, those were interesting times and experiences. We appreciated the trust our professors had in us. As I remember, the content was very bold and tended to be presented from a serious perspective. Our team members conducted full investigations. For example, we knew how the money was spent, and who did the repairs on campus. I always wondered then how they were not afraid to raise such topics. Nevertheless, they showed themselves as strong future journalists.

— *What kind of articles did you use to write? Could you recall one that may have made an impression on you?*

— I was impressed by an article about the accreditation of KIMEP. At that moment, it was a very acute question, and our editor-in-chief wrote a huge article. I did not write such pieces and I mostly focused on how-to topics: “How to motivate yourself? How to organize the learning process?”, etc.

PART 2: Professional Career Growth

— *Let's move to your graduation. How did you feel after receiving your bachelor's degree?*

— As I graduated one semester early, getting a diploma was not so ceremonial. I went to the administration and they gave me the diploma. It didn't feel like I was graduating. Then, in May, we all participated in the graduation ceremony in the Palace of the Republic where we put on the robes and were solemnly handed diplomas by Dr Bang. I didn't have the same experience as all of those who graduated on time, as they planned. Right after receiving my diploma in December, I felt lost. I didn't know what to do next, whether to look for a job or apply for a master's degree. I decided to take the IELTS exam after which I began to consider various admission opportunities. I chose the University of Sheffield located in the UK. They have the best journalism faculties.

PART 3: Back to KIMEP, as a professor

— *How did it happen that you started teaching at the same university where you studied for a bachelor's degree?*

— If you look at my CV, you will see that I have worked in different places such as the British school and the cinema business. I was engaged in strategic consulting and in a PR agency. Therefore, I am always open to new experiences, and I am not afraid to challenge myself in different fields. Then, I decided to hire interns for the Privy Councilor, so I turned to the chair of our media faculty to find the opportunities. Recently, I met Sholpan Kozhamkulova who once used to be my teacher when I studied at KIMEP. She told me about such an opportunity and offered to apply. I was worried that I am not experienced enough to take the job, yet, eventually, I overcame my doubts.

— *What did you feel about returning as a professor?*

— It was exciting. It turns out I haven't been at KIMEP for 13 years. I have not visited campus at all since the graduation ceremony, although I always wanted to come, sit in the grill, or walk across the territory, say hello to the teachers. Somehow there was no opportunity as I moved to Astana. Coming back after such a long period brings back so many feelings.

PART 4: About the course

— *Could you please tell us about the course you started teaching; what is it, what is it about, and what objectives it pursues?*

— The course is called Media Design, and it combines journalism and graphic design. The scope of the course implies that students learn how to beautifully design their articles and stories, properly submit information, and make it appealing to readers. It includes not only magazines but printed newspapers as well. In short, it is fascinating how such a product attracts the attention of readers.

— *Why is this subject important for future journalists?*

— 5-10 years ago, journalists were not able to design their stories and materials themselves. My employers never asked me to do it because I could turn to professional designers. However, it was time-consuming as one has to explain the idea, wait until the draft is done, and edit necessary points. Now, since the process of publishing has accelerated further, it is essential to publish and release materials very quickly. When you can do it all by yourself, the process becomes rather efficient. I think that the trend is changing towards multi-skilled labor. Journalists are expected to prepare and design their materials. The competition is very high and new skills are essential. For a journalist, acquiring the skills of a graphic designer unfolds a lot of new perspectives.

PART 5: Wishes for students

— Our interview is coming to an end. Would you like to say something to our students?

— I would like to encourage the students to try to enjoy the learning process. You should be able to have fun. Try not to worry so often. Do not stress too much because stress bursts affect your studies. The knowledge and information that you receive could quickly scatter.

— Thank you for this interview!

— Thank you.



Let's play some table tennis

Written by
Eradzh Nasriddinov



KIMEP University is constantly evolving to meet the needs of its students. The construction of a New Academic Building and the renovation of the Valikhanov Building are just two examples of this trend. The Residence Hall, which is an integral part of the campus, has not gone unnoticed. The administration of KIMEP University has continually addressed the issues of kitchen and room facilities, the use of computer labs and internet connections. This time, however, they took the challenge of meeting students' needs to a whole different level by purchasing a new ping-pong table for students! Let's take a closer look at the backstory behind this purchase and how it actually happened.

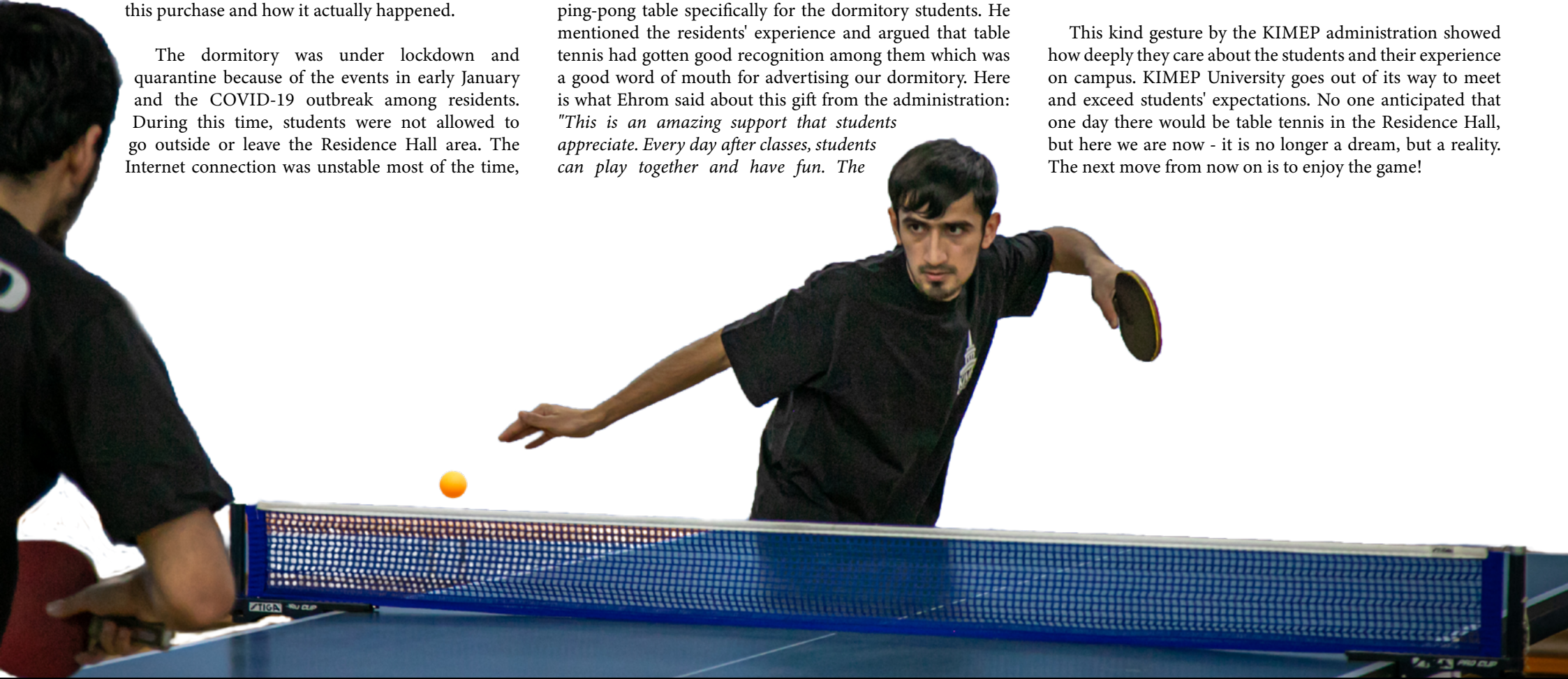
The dormitory was under lockdown and quarantine because of the events in early January and the COVID-19 outbreak among residents. During this time, students were not allowed to go outside or leave the Residence Hall area. The Internet connection was unstable most of the time,

and it was not easy for the students to entertain themselves in these conditions. That is the reason the administration of the university and KIMEP dormitory decided to bring table tennis with a couple of rackets and balls from the KIMEP Sports Center. Students were enjoying the opportunity provided until the table tennis was taken back to the sports center, once the isolation period was over.

It was then, when the reigning President's Cup table tennis champion, Ehrom Saidov, took the initiative and approached Dr Bang himself about purchasing a new ping-pong table specifically for the dormitory students. He mentioned the residents' experience and argued that table tennis had gotten good recognition among them which was a good word of mouth for advertising our dormitory. Here is what Ehrom said about this gift from the administration: *"This is an amazing support that students appreciate. Every day after classes, students can play together and have fun. The*

Sports Center has an open slot for basketball and volleyball, but not for table tennis. So, I decided to approach Dr Bang with this request, which he granted almost immediately." We also asked Ehrom about purchasing the equipment, to which he commented as follows: *"Having some experience in table tennis, I took it upon myself to select the necessary equipment. The table and net are of the highest quality, made in the USA. The administration insisted on this worthy investment so that we could get the most out of the game. Dr Bang, with his busy schedule and a lot of work, supervised and monitored the purchase of the equipment himself."*

This kind gesture by the KIMEP administration showed how deeply they care about the students and their experience on campus. KIMEP University goes out of its way to meet and exceed students' expectations. No one anticipated that one day there would be table tennis in the Residence Hall, but here we are now - it is no longer a dream, but a reality. The next move from now on is to enjoy the game!



Written by
Dilnoza Khuseynova

The Basketball Court

The basketball court on the campus is a sacred place where friends spend their time in the joy of the game. Yet, you might have noticed how time and weather have affected this temple of friendship and unforgettable emotions. It has been a while since we heard anything related to the issue surrounding it. To eliminate all the myths about the court, let us unveil its story as it was told by the university.

Not long ago, KIMEP University signed a partnership contract with an external company called Qurylys Ltd. The company has been responsible for the construction of the basketball court on the campus. The project was approved by Dr. Bang to meet students' requests and wishes.

Upon the completion of construction in 2018, the court was ready for the students' use. However, as the field is located in the open space and is exposed to weather changes and sediments, the rubber coating started to lose its ductility and toughness, creating some massive holes. A natural process of material disruption is common for all fields fixed in open space. According to the standards and partnership agreement, the Qurylys Ltd has been obliged to replace the rubber

coating of the field on a constant basis.

Nevertheless, the university claims that the company refused to perform its duties and neglected its responsibilities. Besides, KIMEP invited an independent expert to check the quality of the basketball court and its covering. The expert mentioned that the materials used for the construction were not of the best quality and did not follow some standards as well. Many have various assumptions about the reasons and motives for this negligence. Some think that the firm is getting out of cash. Others attribute the company's behavior to previous instances of a similar issue.

As the harsh state of the court has resulted in some injuries and complaints from the students, the KIMEP administration has taken active measures to address the problem. Unfortunately, since bilateral negotiations did not result in a solution, the university appealed to the court. In the aftermath of the judicial process, the Qurylys Ltd agreed to perform all necessary actions to tackle all the defects of the field. Hopefully, the basketball court will be renovated in the near future, and the students will continue to enjoy their games in fresh air.



HOW DO SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA AFFECT THE ECONOMY OF KAZAKHSTAN?

Written by
Aidana Aldabergenova



Reactions to the Russia-Ukraine war

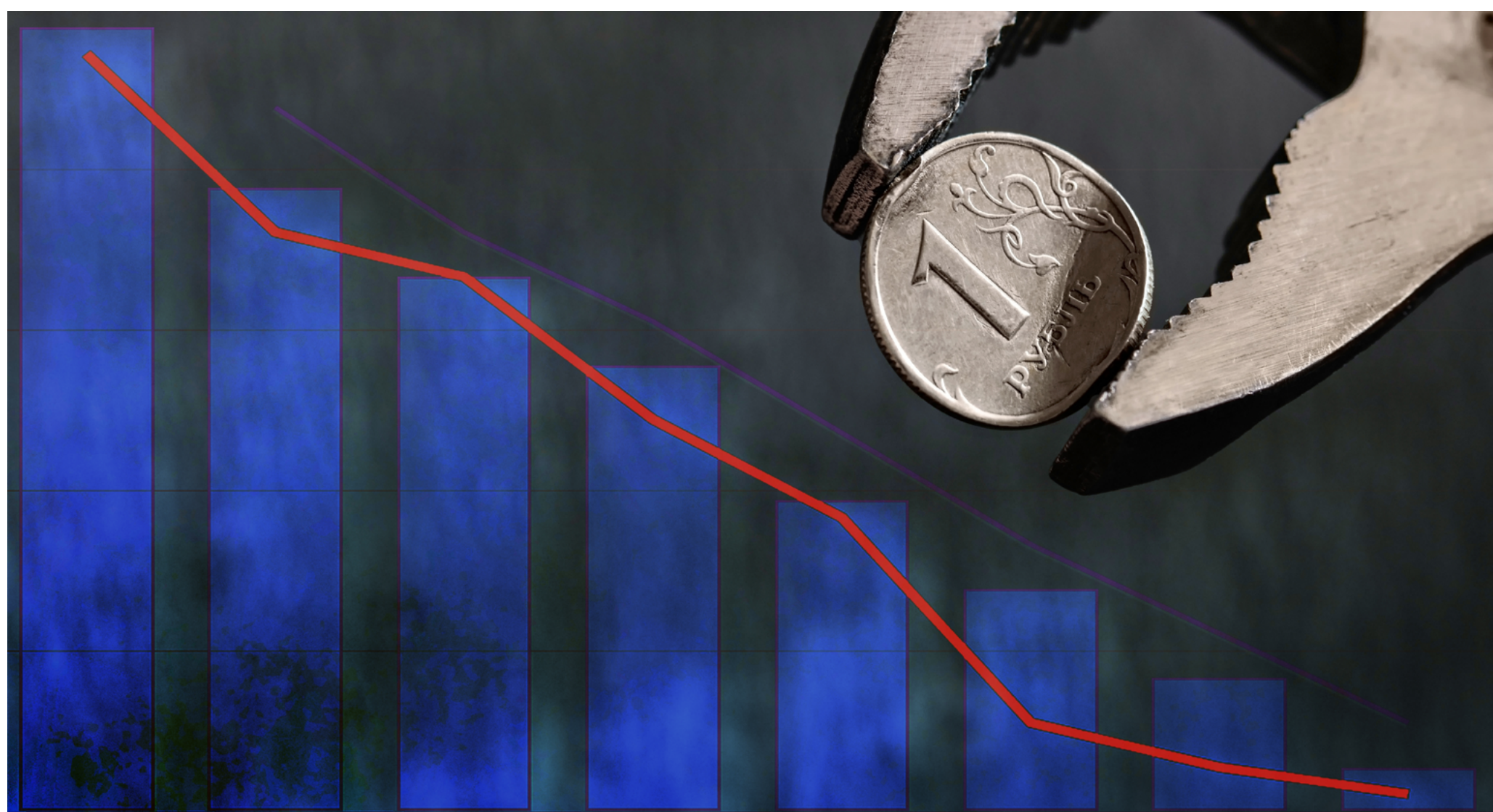
The Russian military invasion of Ukraine on February 24 has provoked widespread global reactions, both in words and in deeds. The responses began with international condemnation from the G7 (The Group of Seven, a political forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States) leaders calling the invasion an "unprovoked and completely unjustified attack" while NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said it was a "brutal act of war" that violated international law. Although President Vladimir Putin has stated that Russia has no plans to occupy the country, Ukrainian authorities

have announced that they are fighting against a "full-scale invasion."

Meanwhile, in deeds, the U.S. and its international partners, imposed sanctions against Russia, initially, to force President Putin to reconsider his military campaign in Ukraine, and eventually, it became a veritable comprehensive set of sanctions used to hit the Russian economy. The unprecedented sanctions range from comprehensive to non-comprehensive, including restrictions on several Russian financial institutions; the exclusion of Russia's largest banks, including Sberbank and VTB Bank, from the SWIFT system;

the joint imposition of sanctions on Russia's Central Bank, which prevents Russia from approaching its massive foreign exchange reserves; sanctions against Russia's financial, trade and transportation sectors; and so on.

It is well known that Kazakhstan's economy is closely linked to that of Russia since Russia is one of Kazakhstan's largest trading partners within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and economic cooperation in the energy sector, so theoretically there are several channels for sanctions against Russia to affect Kazakhstan's economy.



What's next for Kazakhstan after Western sanctions, particularly with regard to oil exports and exchange rates?

As we have been observing for about a month, and as usual, the first blow came to the national currency of Kazakhstan, which began to depreciate immediately after the decline in the value of the ruble. On the first point, it can be mistakenly assumed that the depreciation of tenge is provoked by high prices for crude oil, which is beneficial to Kazakhstan's economy, as higher oil prices mean higher export revenues and have a positive impact on GDP, demand for imports and, accordingly, reduces the value of the national currency. However, in light of recent events, the national currency is fluctuating along with the ruble as Russia's economy occupies a "special place" in the context of the economies of Central Asia, including Kazakhstan. Moreover, Kazakhstan's oil export position shifts into "uncertainty" because of Western sanctions, as the country has no direct access to the global market even with its oil and foreign investors. There is an external shock as the European Union actively expresses its political position through certain sanctions on Russian exports and imports of goods and services. It is clear, though, that the world is still heavily dependent on fossil fuels, and the representatives of Germany, the Netherlands and Italy have stated that they still heavily rely on Russian oil and gas.

Thus, the scenario in which sanctions against the Russian energy sector would still be imposed and only if somehow ways can be found to replace Russian oil and gas imports by EU countries indicates the uncertainty of Kazakhstan's energy exports. Besides, as the Russian energy minister said on March 22, the supply of up to 1 million barrels of oil per day through the Caspian Pipeline Consortium pipeline (CPC) may be stopped for up to two months because of storm damage, and certainly, the repairing of damage may be delayed because of Western sanctions. In fact, the CPC accounts for a huge portion of Kazakhstan's oil exports abroad; specifically, 60.7 million tons of oil was shipped through the CPC in 2021 and 53 million tons of oil came from Kazakhstan. Therefore, Kazakhstan oil exports are in limbo or even under threat without a definite timeline for CPC resumption in the current environment.

As noted earlier, the sharp depreciation of the tenge has a negative impact on the economy of Kazakhstan, or rather negatively affects all segments of the population, affecting inflation, thereby increasing social tensions. For example, old and new USD/KZT and USD/RUB exchange rates are

437.70 and 508.63 and 81.48 and 97.63, which is a 16% and 19% monthly drop, respectively (Trading Economics, as of March 23). Moreover, the common border of the two countries is enough to say that a price difference of 3% is a slightly big difference, but it is still better than it was in the beginning when the fall of the tenge did not keep up with the fall of the ruble at all. This phenomenon could have hit the economy even harder due to further non-competitiveness of domestic producers against Russian producers because of the cheapness of Russian goods. The only way to compete with foreign producers was to depreciate the domestic currency since other options are irrelevant because of the Customs and Eurasian Union.

As part of these events, a decline in the value of the tenge may cause prices to rise further; inflation is likely to be aggravated by expensive imports, which will not be competitive along with cheap Russian imports, thereby putting more pressure on the value of the tenge. Thus, all these unfavorable events, caused by the Western sanctions, prolonged global inflation and affected the economic situation in Kazakhstan.

OPEN DIALOGUE: Youth and the New Kazakhstan

Written by
Sofiya Khalikova



KIMEP LIFE

“The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible, and achieve it, generation after generation.”

– Pearl S. Buck.

After the Tragedy of January, the Republic of Kazakhstan saw its new dawn. The threat of losing stability and sovereignty has drastically changed the values, mindset, and growing aspirations of people throughout thirty years of independence. The January events brightly illustrated to what extent the old approach to state governance is outdated. The obsolete standards and principles of power cannot coexist with the altering mindset of citizens and the desire of young generations to participate actively in politics. Therefore, the complex long-term political, social, and economic reforms shall accompany the construction of a new Kazakhstan. The KIMEP community had its say about the vision of those reforms during the visit of the Minister of Justice of Kazakhstan on campus.

On 16 March 2022, President Tokayev addressed a special message to the nationals of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Not only has it touched the hearts of thousands of people, but it also raised issues of particular interest to the legal community in the country. I see my classmates and professors sharing their assumptions and ideas about the planned reforms in the sphere of constitutional, criminal, administrative, and international law. The public discourse mainly concerns the amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan which are supposed to forge a more representative republic. The reforms are also designed to strengthen human rights institutions and improve legislation on political parties. Drafting the amendments and laws requires a lot of legal analysis within the scope of cooperation between the government, and legal practitioners and scholars. I believe that youth should take its place in this discussion.

At any time in history, youth served as a driving force of progress. Being a law student and the President of the KIMEP Legal Clinic, I confidently claim that students devote a lot of time and effort to the building of a better society by actively taking part in voluntary projects and socially beneficial initiatives of the college.



Such activities as “Schools of Legal literacy”, Legal Book Discussion Club, Mentorship Program and “Ask a Lawyer” serve as a great supplement to the studies. KIMEP students who work with me on these projects are so bright, talented, and skilled for their young age, that I begin to believe in the better and just future we can build, including through participation in the legislative process. The upcoming cooperation of KIMEP Law School with the state institutions makes this ambition attainable.

On 25 March 2022, the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kanat Mussin visited KIMEP University and devoted particular attention to the KIMEP Law School. The Minister had a tour around the campus together with Dr. Bang, which was followed by a warm informal discussion with the most active law students and faculty of the School of Law. Students had

a chance to ask Mr. Mussin questions about the actual problems and gaps in legislation. Moreover, the above-mentioned Law School projects were described to the Minister to signify the willingness of the student community to assist the implementation of initiatives of the Ministry of Justice via student academic organizations. Most importantly, the preliminary informal agreement was reached regarding the possible cooperation of the Ministry of Justice with KIMEP Law School. In particular, in May 2022, the university is going to be engaged in the legislative work of the Project Office of the Ministry of Justice. The main purpose of the Project Office is to create a platform for dialogue and discussions regarding novice legislative initiatives. As Dr. Atadjanov, Director of the Bachelor in International Law (BIL) Program at KIMEP Law School, emphasized, the proposed plan of work will be beneficial for law students in

two main aspects. Firstly, from the academic perspective, young lawyers will effectively supplement their studies with law-making practice and learn to apply the knowledge to real-life situations. Secondly, Dr. Atadjanov spoke of the practical aspect of the cooperation by highlighting an opportunity to attract more of the skilled young lawyers to work in the state structure. Students will be acquainted with the internal matters of the legislative process, will be able to actively take part in it, and help make the boldest idealistic ideas in the sphere of legislation come true.

Mr Mussin shared his vision of the spheres which require the particular attention of the Ministry of Justice. He specifically stressed the urgency of digitalization of the legislative process. Kanat Sergeevich also claimed that he is looking for ideas from scholars and members of civil society regarding new ways of conducting an information campaign among citizens of Kazakhstan. Comic books as a source of legal information may sound absurd but can a man find an easier and more memorable way for knowledge to stay in the minds of people? These thoughts of the Minister can inspire students from different academic backgrounds to come up with ideas and contribute to the cooperation.

So what should the cooperation between the government and the student community look like? It is a significant question to answer at the beginning of the journey. “I think, this year can be used by students in order to inform the government about their own ideas, suggestions of development within the implementation of [proposed] reforms” – says Dr. Atadjanov, – “I think, it is a right and proper moment for an open dialogue to begin”.

Indeed, it is time. Time to get a voice in the build-up of the future that we will live in. As Dr. Sayapin said: “Be idealistic, be naive, and have big utopian dreams. Not all of those dreams will come true, but some definitely will. And that is the most important”. Ad astra!



History of the KIMEP School of Law

Written by
Azamat Kinzhitayev



Despite being frequently referred to as “the youngest college of KIMEP”, a lot has happened within the walls of the School of Law over the past 12 years. We decided to look back into history and get to know how the KIMEP School of Law was built and share some facts that students may have not heard before. Hence, the good old days of the Law School will be presented from the perspectives of those people

who made history itself and have been there since day one, namely Dr. Joseph Luke - former dean of the Law School and current Vice-President of Academic Affairs, and Mr. Zhanat Alimanov - Assistant Professor of the Law School as well as the founder of the Legal Clinic, Ask-a-Lawyer project, and the Mentorship Program.

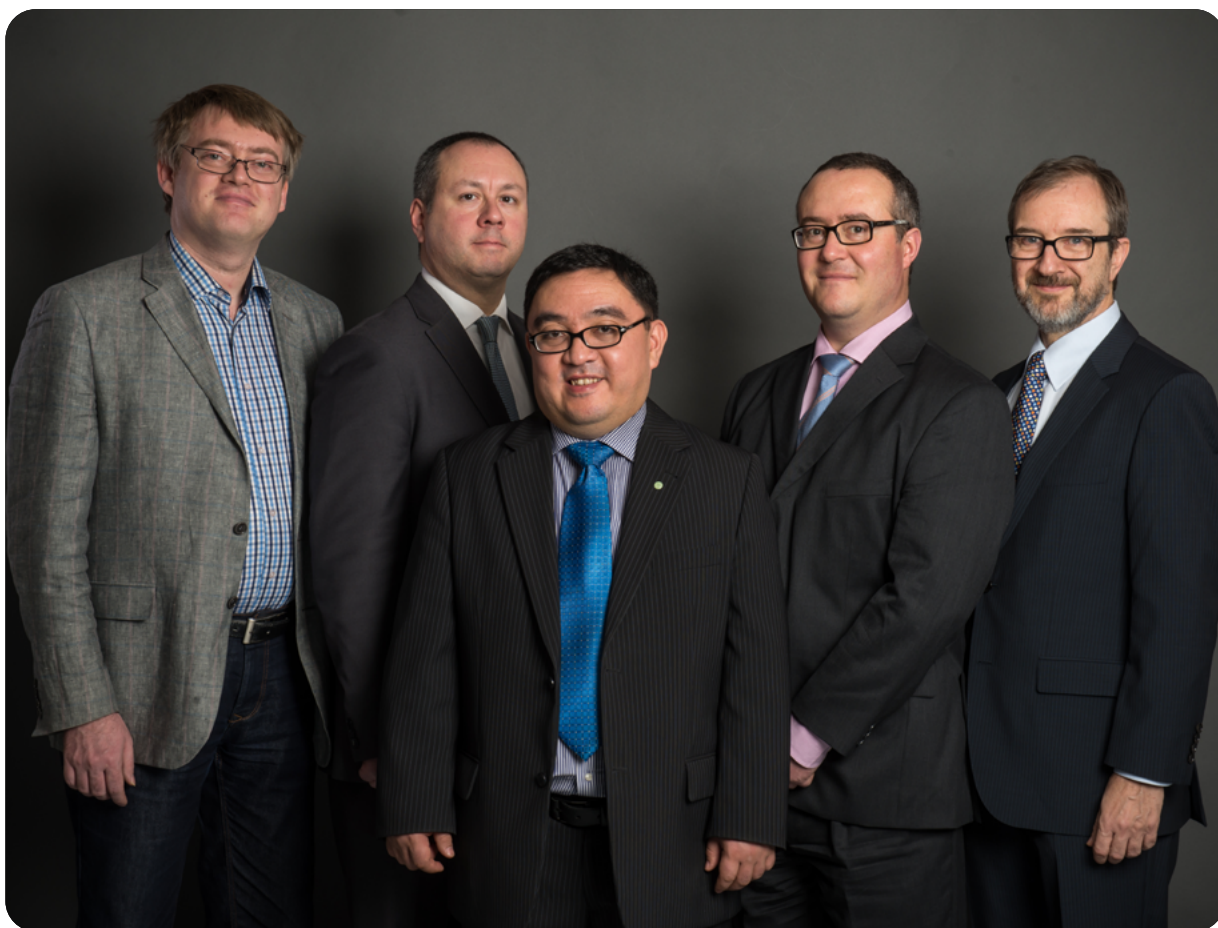
Founding the School of Law: an important mission

KIMEP first applied for a license to teach law in 2008, with its first program being the LL.M. in international law. John Wright, an American attorney with a tax specialty, was the founding dean and drafted the license submission, and among other teachers listed on the application, Zhanat Alimanov is still a Law School's faculty member. KIMEP was awarded the license and the first LL.M. class joined KIMEP in 2009.

“Providing Kazakhstan citizens with a program that was equal to those found in Western universities was KIMEP's mission in introducing the LL.M. program,” says Dr. Luke. Its curriculum wove together Kazakhstan law, comparative law, and international law. The program was a practitioner-oriented one, and its primary objective was to train students to exercise skills required by employers, such as drafting legal documents in English, thinking outside the box in analyzing issues and forming solutions to legal problems, to understand both the

letter and the substance of the law.

Consequently, the Law School has applied to the Ministry of Education and Science for a license to offer a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree program for undergraduate students in time to admit students for the 2011-12 academic year. After a year, in 2013, the undergraduate degree in International Law was introduced too. These degree programs were designed to provide Kazakhstani youth with an education in law that will enable them to acquire both the knowledge and the skills necessary to become effective practice-ready lawyers by the time that they graduate. The Law School aimed to integrate the study of substantive Kazakhstan law and international law with critical thinking and problem-solving skills, with drafting, negotiating, and advocacy skills so that the students who obtain a law degree at KIMEP will become well-trained, highly effective lawyers and business people.



The curriculum, faculty members, and first difficulties

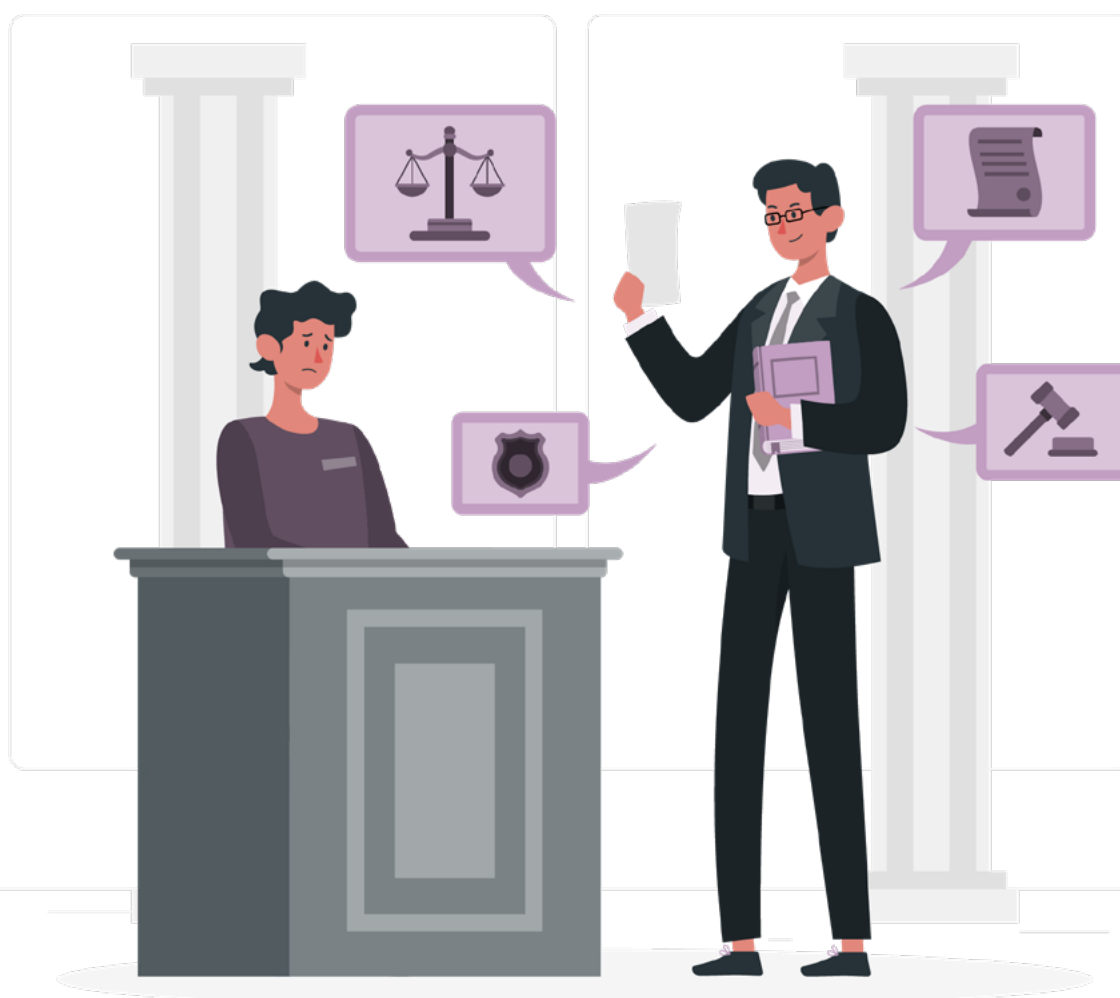
Being a college founded within the walls of a business-oriented university, the Law School certainly had some difficulties at the beginning. Dr. Luke indicated that “advertisement and convincing prospective students that the academics were important for entering into the profession were the very first difficulties” that the newly created college had to face.

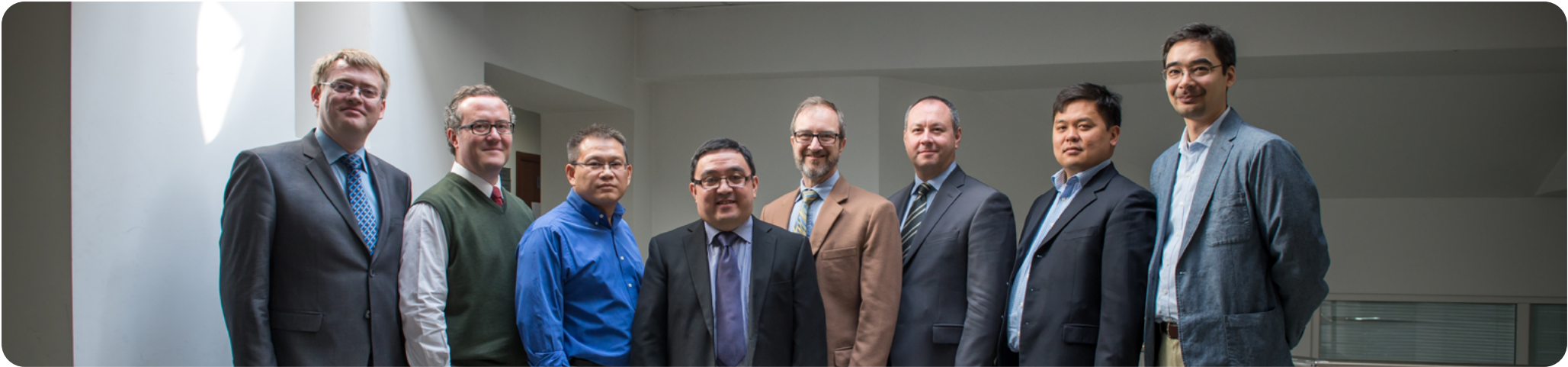
The curriculum for the programs in law was drafted by looking at similar programs in Europe and the United States, so the Law School has managed to provide innovative coursework. Professor Baideldinova introduced Animal Law courses into the curriculum in 2013 making KIMEP the first and still only university in Kazakhstan with such a course offering. Moreover, one of our law students, Ms. Shegay, was inspired to continue in animal law and received a scholarship for an LL.M. in animal law in the United States. The law school's Post-Doc Fellow, Professor Kozik, who is a contributor to the Tallinn Manual 2.0, an internationally recognized cyber law resource, taught the first cyber law courses in Central Asia. In addition, Professor Kembayev taught courses in Eurasian Customs Union law as well as European Union law. Dr. Kembayev was a

Jean Monnet Fellow, one of the few in Central Asia (as well as being awarded the Best Teacher award in 2012 by the Ministry of Education).

In 2012 in consultation with the Eurasian Foundation, the law school students and Professor Alimanov founded KIMEP's Legal Clinic which was the first of its kind in Kazakhstan. Its mission was to provide legal assistance and counsel to the indigent population. Students under the supervision of faculty provided answers to clients from the surrounding community. KIMEP received the Corporate Responsibility Award from Eurobak in 2018 for its legal clinic activities.

Besides, as part of the effort to assist students in the transition from students to young professionals, the law school began a mentorship program in 2016. In this program, the law school arranges for its top students to meet partners and senior associates of international and top local firms, and the student and partner are paired so that the partners can aid and support students in their first steps into the professional field.





The Mentorship and Ask-a-Lawyer programs: Zhanat Alimanov’s perspective

When Zhanat was a prospective student, the university that he applied to had four schools. Having no idea about local universities, their differences, and their advantages, the decision-making process was tough for him and his parents. “The decisions about universities, your future profession, schools, and majors”, says Zhanat, “are critical for your career success and impact your whole life. It is challenging and time-consuming to change your university or profession

later in life”. Afterwards, when graduating, it was challenging for Zhanat to decide on his career plans: to continue his studies (Master’s) or to work. If work or study, the questions remained: Where? What? For how long?
All of these reasons made Zhanat feel the need for a mentor, an experienced professional who can guide him, advise him, and even help him find an internship or a job. Therefore, to help students make wise choices and avoid such difficulties,

the Mentorship Program has been created. All mentors in the Program hold managing positions at successful firms and companies, they have significant and diverse working experience in different industries, so they are fully capable of advising and guiding students in their career plans. However, due to a small number of mentors, the Mentorship Program can only select a limited number of students. Partaking in the Program is by invitation only, but if you are interested in participating, taking one of Alina Davar’s courses or joining the Ask-a-Lawyer project is a good start.

The Ask-a-Lawyer project is the second branch of KIMEP Legal Clinic (KLC), responsible for online legal consultations. It was the initiative of the YurInfo Corporation, which is the owner of the website www.zakon.kz and the Paragraph database - leading Kazakhstani information website and legal database provider. They wanted to launch online legal consultations on their website with the help of local law schools. In return, they provided database licenses and advertising on their web resources. Mikhail Kolomin, their representative, came to the Law School and made this offer. The Law School decided to incorporate the project into KIMEP Legal Clinic, and, as KLC director, Zhanat was invited to lead it.

The format of the project is very exciting. Students run the Ask-a-Lawyer project as a law firm that has a managing partner (CEO), partners, consultants, and Zhanat as an adviser. It has a demanding client - the YurInfo Corporation. Because of such organization, students acquire management, client relationship, and consulting skills. The project gives many opportunities to participating students to grow professionally. I strongly recommend this project to all students who would like to experience running a firm, supervising a team, relating to a client, and consulting various people. The project recruits students each semester and contact details are available at the Law School office.



Memorable events, projects, and competitions

This year the Minister of Justice was invited to the law school where he spoke to some law school students as part of his visit. But what other significant occasions occurred over the past years for aspiring lawyers?
The law school, Dr. Luke remembered, has had many innovative offerings in its history. Professor Tomas Balco headed the Central Asian Tax Research Center (CATRC) from 2010 to 2013. He led students in many projects and KIMEP hosted several conferences, including the Tax Treaties Case Law Conference; Beneficial Ownership Colloquium; China-Kazakhstan Tax Forum, and the Korea-Kazakhstan Tax Forum.
KIMEP was the first Central Asian law school to participate in the Vis Moot Court in Vienna in 2012. Since that

beginning, the law school has sent teams to the Philip Jessup International Moot Court competition in Washington DC, and a team to the Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition in Florida (still the only Central Asian Team that has participated there). When the AIFC began its moot court competition in Nur-Sultan, the KIMEP School of Law was one of its first competitors and won several times. This year, the KIMEP Law School once again is participating in Vis and is among the schools receiving funding from the US government to support its participation. The tradition of moot court competitions is relatively new and KIMEP was among the first if not the first to introduce them into Kazakhstan. Furthermore, KIMEP has also managed to hold its own Dean’s Cup competitions on campus inviting other

law schools to participate and students have gone to ICC Lex Mercatoria Moot Court competitions in Belarus.
Dr. Sayapin arranged a conference in Germany for students in 2019: On 25 February - 1 March 2019, eight students and two faculty members of KIMEP University participated in a workshop entitled "Water Scarcity in Central Asia: Confrontation or Cooperation?", which was organized by the Ruhr University of Bochum’s Institute for the International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV), and sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). In addition, Dr. Sayapin organized a workshop on counter-terrorism and trafficking in firearms with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the fall of 2019.



Student life at Law School

Written by
Bahytzhan Maidanuly



KIMEP University offers many opportunities for young professionals who want to make a career in law. KIMEP supports its Law students with a regular mailing list of new openings, Moot court competitions, and a special Mentorship program.

Initiated in 2016, the Mentorship Program has fostered several generations of young lawyers. Its mission is to create a supportive environment in the business and legal community at the School of Law both for mentors and mentees. The Mentors in this program are distinguished lawyers who give some of their time to students in order to answer their questions and help them in their future professions. Since its inception, the program has been supported by the expertise of such mentors as Arman Tastanbekov, Managing Director of Legal Affairs, Member of the Board of Astana International Financial Center Exchange; Mukhit Yeleulov, Partner at Kinstellar LLP; Kurmangazy Talzhanov, Partner at INTEGRITES Kazakhstan; Victoria Simonova, Partner at Dentons LLP, and many others. Work with mentors takes place over 12 months. Recruitment for the project takes place in two

stages: a resume submission and a personal interview. The process takes place each fall and spring semester. Students who were able to pass the stages of selection to this program meet with their mentors on a monthly basis to discuss professional opportunities, life goals and possible plans to achieve these aims.

The relationship with your mentor depends a lot on what you and your mentor do. In other words, it is rather individual. Some mentors choose to meet with students more often than the program requires; others prefer to meet only as needed. Such aspects are governed by the mentoring agreement. Most mentors and students begin by discussing the topic provided by the Program, yet the choice of the topic is by no means limited and might be any mutually agreed upon appropriate one. For example, you and your mentor may want to discuss networking or other work-related topics apart from everything.

This program, combined with the ongoing support of the Dean of Law's Office in search for current vacancies in the legal market and beyond, helps KIMEP University students being more competitive. The University also helps students

develop their ability to plead their case in court, starting from the ordinary district court to the International Court of Justice. These skills are stimulated by various Moot court competitions, such as the KIMEP Moot court named after Zhenis Kembraev or international competitions like Jessup. KIMEP Moot court is live litigation among teams of students who represent their universities. In this competition, students show their ability to prove their positions and perform in front of judges. Each year, more than 100 people participate in this eight-hour-long event.

The incredible environment and spirit of KIMEP University's School of Law foster the growth of excellent young lawyers. Every year, step by step, Kazakhstan moves toward a brighter future, and without good lawyers, that goal is unattainable. After all, the law is a crucial aspect of a country's economic and political success.



New Associate Vice-President of Academic Affairs: Dr. Richard Linstrom

Written by
Anna Shin



KIMEP University is happy to welcome the new Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Richard Linstrom. Let's get acquainted! He is a Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) and holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree from the University of San Francisco and also attended Columbia University in the City of New York and the University of London. He and his wife, Kit Foong Lam, are based in Las Vegas (Nevada, USA) and George Town (Penang, Malaysia). In Las Vegas, he prosecuted fraud and other white-collar crimes, and did civil litigation as Chief Deputy Nevada State Attorney General. After serving as Vice President and General Counsel at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), he was head of the UNLV Singapore campus and then a dean at the American University of Phnom Penh and the Imperial International Hotel School in Vung Tau, Vietnam.

Interestingly, Dr. Linstrom didn't plan to pursue a career in higher education. Initially, he was asked to be legal counsel at UNLV, and later on started to enjoy dealing with positive aspects of law on campus, rather than negative ones such as crime.

While being in Kazakhstan for a short period, Dr. Linstrom mentioned that he appreciates and loves the hospitality of Kazakhstani

people. The history of Kazakhstan, the interesting ethnic blend and its current social transition are fascinating to him and served as a motivation incentive to come to Kazakhstan. Currently, Dr. Linstrom hopes that the greatest achievement of his career will be to further develop the academic environment at KIMEP University. Assuming that it might be his last job before retiring, he wants to make his final contribution lasting and significant. Although Dr. Linstrom just joined the KIMEP Community, he already has some plans for future projects in mind. Having education in law and experience in educational administration, the new Associate VPAA particularly focuses on the development of the School of Law. In his view, other local law schools do not provide sufficient resources and faculty members to compete with KIMEP, and, thus, our main challenge is to help people understand why KIMEP Law School is a better alternative. The reasons why KIMEP is different are the academically qualified faculty members with international degrees, standards of integrity and ethics, the alumni network, and its well-deserved reputation. Dr. Linstrom noted that most people study at university only once and it is crucial to make the right choice, since it will influence your entire

life. One more aspect which Dr. Linstrom wants to implement in our School of Law is to emphasize the opportunity for law students to receive a minor in other fields, such as Finance, Management, Marketing or Public Administration, to expand their employment options and professional development.

As an Associate VPAA, Dr. Linstrom makes decisions on an everyday basis. He says he works to make every decision based on the question of what is best for the students and what will make KIMEP better. At the end of our conversation, Dr. Linstrom has been asked to give our readers a piece of advice that could make their lives easier.

First, "embrace change because it is inevitable". Second, "you really shouldn't let other people make up your mind, as they are not you and they don't know what is happening in your heart". And finally, "use the time while you are in college to explore different things, so that by the time you are done you have a better sense of who you are and what you hope to accomplish in this life".

On behalf of the students, we wish Dr. Linstrom good luck in his new position at the university and hope the KIMEP community will leave a permanent place in his memory.

A prosperous alumnus of the KIMEP School of Law: Aigerim Raikhanova's story of success

Written by
Azamat Kinzhifayev



"If they managed to do it, what makes you think you can't? They are just humans, exactly like you!". Almost all of us heard such phrases from our parents in times when they tried to cheer us up. It is true that many students follow the experiences and achievements of other people who built a successful career and use their stories as decent examples of how significant their opportunities are after graduation. At the same time, the prosperous alumni make every university proud of itself and are certainly among the reasons why prospective students find some universities more appealing.

The KIMEP School of Law has had a lot of "high-flyers" in its history who managed to continue their education in the leading institutions of the world, build a successful career in various areas, and even obtain a

lawyer's license abroad. Among them, the story of Ms. Aigerim Raikhanova is definitely worth sharing with the upcoming generation of lawyers. Ms. Raikhanova is a 2016 alumnus who is currently working as an Associate at Kinstellar Law Firm. Prior to Kinstellar, she worked for 3.5 years at White & Case – a famous, top-tier American law firm that was founded back in 1901. Ms. Raikhanova holds an LL.M. degree from Duke University School of Law and is admitted to practice law in the State of New York.

In this regard, Ms. Raikhanova found time to answer some of our questions concerning her student years, professional experience, and even gave some tips for aspiring lawyers of KIMEP.

How has your alma mater and its teaching staff impacted your further studies and positions in top-tier law firms?

What distinguishes KIMEP Law School from other schools, is having English as its primary language of instruction, strong and experienced professors, and definitely a friendly, welcoming, and motivating environment that is different from any school in our country.

I can confidently say that the Law School and KIMEP as a whole had a great impact on my professional development. We had amazing professors from different

backgrounds having great achievements in both academia and business. Our professors are amazingly friendly and are keen to share their knowledge and advice. They advised me to consider pursuing my LL.M. degree and also shared their experience and recommendations of the law firms where to get internships or full-time job opportunities. I would suggest that you seek advice from your professors. They are in a great position to provide you with tailored advice considering your abilities and goals. In my experience, those pieces of advice turn out to be the most valuable.

Aigerim Raikhanova

Associate at Kinstellar Law Firm



Bachelor of Jurisprudence

LLB graduate of 2016

What activities were you involved in during your time at KIMEP?

During my time at KIMEP, I mainly focused on my studies and therefore all my extracurricular activities were somewhat connected to the law and the School of Law. I was a member of the Legal Clinic before it became a part of the school program for an academic internship. We were very enthusiastic about this first-of-its-kind organization helping underserved people of our community and put a lot of effort, both administrative and legal, to make the Legal Clinic a working "institution". Apart from

that, I was working as a teaching, research, and office assistant at the Law School throughout most of my time at KIMEP. I was able to gain more in-depth legal knowledge since I did a lot of research for our professors. As part of my work as a teaching and research assistant, I was involved in several projects together with my fellows from the Law School, including the World Universities Comparative Law Project for Allen & Overy and the Comparative Analysis of Anti Corruption Policies for CIPE.

What are the career opportunities for students and graduates of the KIMEP School of Law? In what areas can they implement their knowledge and skills?

There are immense opportunities for KIMEP graduates. One can work at a law firm practicing in various areas, such as Corporate and M&A, Banking and Finance, Dispute Resolution, Tax, etc. One may choose to have government-related work in the Ministries or Agencies. One may choose to start their own business. Last but not least, one may choose to continue in academia, earn their LLMs, PhDs, or other degrees both in Kazakhstan and abroad. What is important, however, is for you to understand your short-term and

long-term goals and move in that direction. At the end of the day, your success is determined only by your own effort.

All in all, I think that KIMEP is a great place for you to start building your knowledge, skills, and reputation. From what I see now, KIMEP graduates have shown themselves greatly in the legal market. Our graduates work as associates at top-tier law firms, as counsels in-house, and have their own businesses.

What pieces of advice would you give to aspiring lawyers who want to succeed in their future careers?

What kind of abilities are valued in legal consultancy?

One of the greatest things at KIMEP Law School was that specific practical courses, e.g. civil procedure, taxes, finance, legal writing, and others were taught by acknowledged practicing attorneys. I would strongly recommend that you attend those courses, give your full attention, ask as many questions as possible and learn – you will be thankful for the knowledge and skills gained when you start your professional track.

Also, it's imperative that you learn to communicate, both

verbally and in writing, in English. This will open a lot of opportunities for you, including a chance to study, work and live abroad.

My advice is to try yourself in different areas before you start your professional path. Try to get internships in different places and in different practice areas. This will help you to determine what areas of practice you like and are keen on practicing in the future.

To me personally, there are a few things that you need to

have/do as a starting point - have a solid legal background (knowledge of key laws and principles, e.g. Civil Code, LLP & JSC laws, and other laws depending on your field of interest), be responsible and trustworthy, be proactive and confident, and do not be afraid to make mistakes.

To conclude, simply do what you enjoy doing. At the end of the day, your career would most probably take most of your time, so choose what brings you joy and, hopefully, you will not get to know what burnout is. :)

Animal Law

Written by
Valeriya Tsoy



Every day, issues related to the treatment of animals become more relevant in the modern world. This dynamic didn't spare Kazakhstan. Back in the day, KIMEP University was the first establishment in Central Asia to implement a course dedicated to animal law. We decided to talk to Maria Baidildinova, the only instructor who teaches animal law at KIMEP, and asked her to share the story of the development of animal rights.

"Strictly speaking, it is not just the last decade, but several last decades that animal law becomes of ever-growing importance" - Maria notes. As a learning discipline, it was first introduced at Harvard University, in 1991. All in all, Kazakhstani Constitution reflects the values affiliated with the treatment of nature and "planet-mates", as Maria calls them. "Many countries have laws that protect animals from improper treatment. Previously the legislation of Kazakhstan in this regard was rather weak, but at the end of the last year, thanks to the legislative reform, it became one of the most progressive in the post-soviet area."

How did you come to this discipline and what experience did you have within it?

"When doing my PhD in private law, I came across several interesting court rulings in the sphere of family law. In cases of divorcing childless couples, where the ex-spouses had agreed on everything but the destiny of a commonly owned pet, the judge would apply not the norms of a division of common property, but common custody, as they do for children. I got curious about such solutions. I started "digging" and discovered the whole branch of law and legal philosophy which deals with animals. This professional interest as well as my love of animals inspired me to propose the introduction of this course into the School of Law curriculum.

During the last few years, I have collected what I think can be considered the biggest private library in animal law and animal ethics in Central Asia. Together with my colleagues, I published several articles and a book on animal law-related arguments. Last year, I was a member of a working group of the Ministry of Agriculture and of a working group of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the RK which prepared the draft law on Responsible Treatment of Animals. I can say that it is a revolutionary document, which, together with the changes to the Criminal Code and the Code of Administrative offenses, will significantly improve the lives of animals in Kazakhstan."

Could you tell us a bit about the history of the introduction of the course at KIMEP?

"The course was introduced in 2013 thanks to the support of Dr Joseph Luke, who back then was the Dean of the School of Law. Since then it has been offered every Spring semester. Initially, there were no prerequisites to the course. At the beginning of the course, I announce to the students that the only prerequisite is love and compassion for animals. I believe students enjoy this course because we talk about things that are rather unusual and different from what they study in other law courses. I suppose some students can remain unpleasantly surprised by certain discoveries. For instance, some are related to meat and fur production."

What does animal law mean as a course? And how useful will it be in the professional field?

"First, it is a legal course. It is designed for law students and it is about legal norms - both Kazakhstani and foreign - that regulate human-animal interaction. However, since laws reflect the attitude of society towards different issues, we also look at the social, cultural and ethical sides of the question. The course starts with the debate on why animals matter and why we need to protect them.

Further, we discuss different uses of animals (agriculture, hunting, entertainment etc.), and how laws regulate these relations.

This course opens your mind. It shows that law is not all about contracts and business. Apart from knowledge of the legislation, the course teaches some very important values, such as empathy and respect towards living beings. It contributes to the professional formation of a lawyer not simply as a money-earning machine, but as an inspired citizen, with an active and informed social position. All in all, I believe that Animal law teaches you how to be a human."



The Alma Review: Exploring Kazakhstani literature

Written by
Alyona Timofeyeva



On the 1st November last year, social networks in Kazakhstan reported the launch of a new online resource, The Alma Review. The aim of this project is to publish reviews on the works of Kazakhstani writers. These reviews written in English present a wide perspective on the type of sources, their importance, and the ways to access them.

In September 2022, Almaty hosted the Writing Residency. It is a gathering of events aimed at the formation of a literary community and the first experience of that kind for Kazakhstan as well as for other Central Asian countries. The event brought creative people together to work, discuss and collaborate on different topics. Apart from the poets and writers, foreign guests were also invited to the Almaty Writing Residency. Poet, essayist and publicist Christopher Merrill, as well as poet and translator Nina Murray were the moderators of the creative meetings.

"What is the relation between these two events?", you may ask. The answer is that The Alma Review is the project that got presented during the Writing Residency. As it is presented on the website: The mission of this blog is to make Kazakh literature more visible by writing reviews of new works, interviewing authors, celebrating good news, etc.

In order to realize that Kazakh literature needs support, we needed a glance from the outside. The idea to create such a blog was suggested by Nina Murray during Residency seminars dedicated to Kazakhstani artistic identity. The participants discussed the situation with modern Kazakh literature. During discussions participants mentioned several times that there is no institute of criticism in our country. That is, a rare book will be lucky enough to get a

good review. But any creativity needs a push. With lack of response, and consequent lack of push, fostering this creativity becomes difficult. With the help of The Alma Review, founding members decided to kill two birds with one stone: spurring authors to create reviews and introducing the English-speaking reader to the literature in Kazakhstan at the same time. Our authors, who are well-known abroad, can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Such a resource is a great opportunity to establish communication between the two worlds.

This approach has several advantages. Firstly, it attracts attention from foreign colleagues. It is quite possible that Kazakh authors will become a field of interest in the academic or publishing environment. Secondly, the appearance of reviews will encourage novice or insecure authors to publish their works. After all, The Alma Review writes about current developments in Kazakhstani literature. Moreover, it might break the stereotype which holds that local pieces are less valuable. The fact that Kazakhstani works are reviewed in English might encourage local audiences, who are not interested in modern literature, to reconsider their value. They might as well start thinking: "If a book has been reviewed in English, maybe it is worth reading it?"

At the time of the launch, the blog team was composed of females only - a kind of literary girl power. Nina Murray, the main ideological inspirer, has a degree in linguistics and creative writing. In addition to Nina, Kazakhstani writer Valeria Krutova participated in the launch of the project, as well as three young authors: Dana Kanafina, Aisulu Beken and myself, Alyona Timofeyeva. All representatives of Kazakhstan are graduates of the Open Literary School of

Almaty and have been published not only in local but also foreign magazines.

It is symbolic that the launch of the project took place in the same year when Kazakh Mirgul Kali became the first woman from Central Asia whose translations received a PEN/Heim grant (a grant supporting translations of literature into English. - Ed.). Mirgul translated three stories from Bakhtygul Sarmekova's book "Keyipker", which were included in the collection To Hell With Poets. This event is a big breath of fresh air for Kazakhstan in general and the literary world in particular. The main mission of The Alma Review is to support such initiatives and let the readers know about them.

The blog is based on the Wordpress platform. Reviews are still being written free of charge, but The Alma Review really hopes to receive funding soon. The crew is open to any suggestions and new names. Ideally, reviews should be sent in English immediately, but can also be sent in Russian/Kazakh: the members of the crew will translate and edit the reviews themselves.

Let the force be with Kazakhstani literature!



If you happen to have something to offer to the Alma Review, you can write to @houndart on Instagram or scan QR-code

Tolerance as an appreciation of Diversity



Written by
Savsangul Mamadloiqova

Tolerance is known as accepting the difference among people, an essential factor in the 21st century; century where human interaction on a global scale is the key to the improvement of social, economic, and personal capabilities. Diversity, on the other hand, is defined as the differences between populations from various backgrounds combined. Diversity is about recognizing such variations in culture, ethnicity, race, gender, orientation, and other human features. The culture of diversity and inclusion is widely practiced in multinational corporations and academic institutions worldwide. Now comes the question of why it is important to teach tolerance and diversity on the academic premises.

Though the debate around tolerance is highly controversial, it is important to note that tolerance is a tool that helps people to co-interact and co-exists peacefully within a given space or time. It is the core of satisfaction for human beings who can live according to their own will. One of the key points of tolerance is centered on accepting other people's lifestyles and personal preferences, regardless of whether one agrees with them or not. It emphasizes that one does not put their interests above others, just because they are different from the other. One of the strongest features of tolerant

people is that they cherish and empower interpersonal differences, rather than rejecting or ignoring them. Teaching tolerance from early childhood and practicing it at home develops the right behavior of children towards diversity and eliminates hate or jealousy towards their counterparts. Children with the right approach to tolerance from an early age are predicted to grow up happier than those who lack it. Finally, in today's world, international collaboration serves as the basis for overall well-being. Such collaboration is only possible through cooperation with different humans, whose background, culture, and socioeconomic factors have shaped their perceptions. These interactions ensure attracting various perspectives rather than sticking to one opinion only. It is known that different standpoints can bring more efficiency to the table rather than a one-sided opinion. All things considered, diversity and tolerance are the drivers of globalization and intellectual prosperity.

As one of the leading institutions in Central Asia, KIMEP University is committed to promote diversity and inclusion and attracts students from all over the world. Such an approach allows students to share their cultures and background, make friends worldwide, and broaden their networking. Moreover, it gives the drive to practice tolerance

to the differences among them and accept such variety as an advantage and an opportunity to grow personally and professionally. Besides, the university provides the "Globalization and Diversity" course which is built around the subject of the globalized world, and how it is shaped through diversity and pluralism. The course is highly engaging, as it seizes a variety of topics related to the history and continuous development of our communities. Plenty of students express their positive experiences with its modules. As one of the current seniors, Suhaylo Shodibekova, states, "working on an intensive project was one of my favorite parts of the course since it helped me get to know about the features of the globalized world and customize it to my country's context."

Finally, it is important to highlight that diversity and tolerance go hand in hand with one another, and their co-interaction is of great value nowadays. Together, they design a globalized world with a better economic, socio-cultural, and human capacity. They co-create value in terms of contributing to business innovation, advanced technology, and most importantly, a better educated and highly satisfied community.



MAYBE RED IS NOT YOUR COLOR TODAY?

COLOR PSYCHOLOGY: CAN COLOR HUES DETERMINE YOUR MOOD?

Written by
Gulshat Rozyyeva



Have you ever thought about why McDonald's has yellow and red colors? Or why do you feel calm and relaxed when you are wearing blue colored clothes?

Color hues can significantly affect your mood, emotions and even perceptions about other people. Color is a strong communication tool that has been used as psychological assistance in daily activities, starting from first dates to divorce settlements, as well as in business negotiations. So, how exactly can colors play a role in your life and how can you use color psychology to your advantage in your student life?

Without using scientific terms we can explain how the colors work in the following manner. Colors convey nonverbal communication and they subconsciously affect how people are going to make decisions. Moreover, 90% of people's decisions and impressions are also based upon the colors that their conversants are wearing.

Now, once we know the power of colors, let us discuss what colors you should wear and what colors you should avoid wearing in different social and academic events.

Our student life almost always revolves around exams and all of us wish to get A's. So is there a psychological method of achieving higher grades? The answer is yes. Color psychology suggests not exposing yourself to RED color before the exam. The aggressiveness and excitement red color conveys slows down academic performance by 20%. Then what color should we wear before the exam? Colorists highly recommend wearing BLACK and GREEN colors.

The stereotype that evolves across countries is that the students are financially unstable; and perhaps, some of us are limited by budget. No need to worry as colors can help us with our consumer behavior as well. Wearing red clothes or having red accessories will inevitably lead you to overspend, in other words, RED color is associated with impulse

buying. Yet if you wish to limit your spending consider NAVY BLUE.

University life is exciting in unique ways. We start a more independent life, meet new people, begin our professional path. We also start an electrifying experience of falling in love and having adult relationships. And as we all may know, first impressions are everything. Thus, ladies should wear RED, while gentlemen should consider BLUE. Red is a color of passion and makes the heart race, thus a good complementary will be blue which calms nerves and relaxes both partners.

Starting from the second year of university, or maybe earlier, we start seeking internships and part-time jobs. And, yes, you have guessed, appropriate colors of your attire can positively or negatively affect the success of your interviews. Our female students should acquire clothes in DEEP BLUE-REDS, BLUE-GREYS, PINKS and BLUE-GREENS. Male students should wear REDS, ORANGE-REDS and BLUES. If you do not possess any of these colors, go with any shades of BLUE as it is a universally accepted and liked color as people associate it with authority, loyalty, honesty, trustworthiness and confidence.

Being healthy is trendy and important; for those who wish to keep fit and work out regularly, color psychologists advise wearing ORANGE. Orange color conveys stimulation and enthusiasm as it is a combination of passionate RED and joyful YELLOW.

Perhaps, today is the day to be assertive or joyful, decisive or forgiving, hence, the following color scheme which will help you to achieve your goal, while subconsciously affecting your emotions. ENJOY and BE COLORFUL!

RED - strong emotions of love, passion and anger; attracts attention and conveys courage and strength. Small portions of RED are suggested at the meetings or outings along with GREEN, BLACK, BLUE and GREY.

ORANGE - message of encouragement, enthusiasm and

optimism. With its feminine energy, ORANGE sends cheerfulness and appetite. Think about McDonald's and your unexpected hunger! ORANGE with SOLID colors or BROWN is perfect for business negotiations.

YELLOW - time to be creative and think outside the box. Remember that the post-it notes and other note-pads are mostly YELLOW to encourage our brain to create. Beware that over-YELLOWING is not suggested as it may cause agitation and anxiety. YELLOW must be avoided when there is a need to suppress machismo as the color is accepted as unsophisticated. YELLOW and BLUE combinations are the best choices to stand out in the crowd.

GREEN - mother Earth's natural color of balance and growth. GREEN symbolizes harmony, wealth and prestige, hence having a GREEN interior in the financial institutions is the best choice to attract investors.

BLUE - globally liked color for its peace, loyalty and integrity. Blue ties or suits are the top choices for politicians or public officers during the campaigns and elections as BLUE conveys honesty, dependability and trust.

PURPLE - choice of extraordinaries and eccentrics. It is suggested to wear PURPLE at the trials or other court-related events, such as case hearings or thesis defenses since PURPLE shows sensitivity, compassion, support and understanding.

WHITE - calls for youthfulness and modernity. Wear WHITES confidently to parties or other celebrations.

BLACK - choice of vehicles for powerful figures as BLACK shows magnificence, mysteriousness and ominousness.

Explore Central Asia with us

The world is so small and you only live once to explore it! Living in Central Asia, we almost never think of the beautiful nature and places full of history that we can visit and capture memories in. Therefore, here is a small guide and a REMINDER that we should get to know our environment and location better in order to share it with the outside world.

Written by Zevar Mamadjonova
Illustration by Laura Rakhimova



KAZAKHSTAN

- THE HAZART SULTANS MOSQUE
- NOMADS LAND
- KAYINDI LAKE
- TURKESTAN
- BAIKONUR

TURKMENISTAN

- ASHGABAT
- DARVAZA-GAS (GATE OF HELL)
- YANKULA
- MERV
- GONUR TEPPE

Kyrgyzstan

- LAKE ISSYK KUL
- ALA ARCHA NATIONAL PARK
- SUPARA ETHNO COMPLEX
- KOL SUU LAKE
- SKI RESORT KARAKOL

TAJIKISTAN

- STATUE OF ISMOILI SOMONI
- HISOR FORTNESS
- QAIRAKUM RESERVOIR
- PAMIR HIGHWAY
- ISKANDERKUL LAKE

UZBEKISTAN

- REGISTAN SAMARKAND
- ARK BUKHARA
- THE WALLED CITY OF KHIVA
- CHORUS BAZAAR, TASHKENT
- LYABI HAUZ

Swedish wonder: CHOKLADMUFFINS

Ingredients:

Cacao - 4 tablespoons
Sugar - 2.5 dl (decilitres) - 210g
Flour - 2 dl = 104g
2 eggs
Butter/margarine - 100g
Baking powder - 0.5 teaspoon
Vanilla sugar - 1.5 teaspoon
Pinch of salt

Process:

Melt butter or margarine, whichever you prefer, and let it cool down a bit before you use it. In a separate bowl, mix two eggs and the sugar until it takes a foamy consistency. Right after, add the rest of the ingredients into this bowl and lastly, add the butter.

Get the oven ready beforehand by heating it with 200°C or 175°C if it is on a hot fan. Fill in the cupcake shapes with no more than 3/4 and put it in the oven to bake for about 10 mins.

Your delicious Swedish Chokladmuffins are ready to enjoy!

P.S. Sverige Fika is at your service! @OPM project completed in Fall 2021



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