

ALUMNI

MAGAZINE



VOLUME 10
2020-2021

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Dear alumni, partners and students of KIMEP University, You are reading our 10th issue of the Alumni magazine, timely coinciding with the Volunteer Year in Kazakhstan. Our students from the first year of study learn about volunteerism. They see advertisements on campus recruiting volunteers for various events at university, city and country levels. They are actively involved in charity projects during student life. Moreover, we are very pleased to know that after graduation our alumni continue to help others. In the process of preparing this issue, we focused on finding volunteers among graduates, we conducted several interviews, but then the quarantine broke out. We all found ourselves in new conditions of uncertainty and expectations, faced with difficulties of self-isolation and budget cuts. We continue to work at a distance, that is why this issue is supposed to be in electronic format only, but then we changed our decision and now you are holding a hard copy of the magazine as usual.

In the magazine, you will find interviews with alumni who have been volunteers for many years and continue to invest in the noble cause, the development of culture, society, improving the lives of people. You will learn who and how became a volunteer during quarantine. We kindly offer you the information on how KIMEP opened new specialties during distance learning format, how the meeting on the first anniversary of CDD mentorship program was held via ZOOM, what difficulties the university faced and how our graduates helped us in attracting new students.

I want to thank everyone who took part in the release of this issue: Balzhan Suzhikova, Adil Valikhanov, Ekaterina Andreeva, Saltanat Nurgalieva, Nurai Baigabulova.

A lot of work has been done, much remains to be done, and the most important thing is not to forget that a volunteer does not always have time – he/she just has a big heart.

Health to you and your loved ones!

Dinara Sagindykova
Alumni Specialist, Corporate Development Department

MESSAGE FROM DR. BANG

Dear KIMEP Alumni,
Welcome to the Tenth Edition of KIMEP University's alumni magazine, and I thank you for taking this opportunity to stay connected with your alma mater. During these uncertain times, KIMEP University remains dedicated to providing the highest quality educational orientation.

As KIMEP begins its twenty-eighth academic year, our university is forging ahead through the shocks of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is disrupting all societies and economies around the world. KIMEP University has taken an array of steps to ensure the highest quality of educational discourse in Distance Learning, and we have fully prepared for various methods of educational delivery.

In order to ensure that the quality of education at KIMEP remains at our standards of excellence, we are making concerted investments into faculty training, new hardware and software, and a distance learning monitoring and evaluation oversight committee.

Over this past summer, all KIMEP faculty members were engaged in rigorous online training certificate courses, some of which were taught by professors from the United States. Faculty members worked independently with peer tutors, and then presented and defended their online course designs.

KIMEP has purchased new equipment for faculty members for online education, including laptops, microphones, and cameras. In preparation for Distance Learning, KIMEP has made various types of electronic equipment available on affordable lease for all students who request additional support.

The challenge presented by the coronavirus pandemic is arduous. However, just as KIMEP University has met and overcome difficulties in the past, so too shall our university prevail by adapting to Distance Learning, and thereby increasing our institutional resilience. Through this time of uncertainty, I have full confidence that KIMEP University will continue to lead all higher educational institutions in Kazakhstan, Central Asia, and beyond.

And so, it is my great pleasure to share that KIMEP University has, yet again, been recognized as the #1 Leading University among all Humanitarian-Economic universities in Kazakhstan by the 2020 National Rankings of HEIs by the Independent Kazakh Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (IQAA). I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to our entire academic community on this impressive achievement.

During the turbulence of economic contractions, there is nothing more important than a high quality education. In times of scarcity, the market, for either new employment or a promotion, becomes increasingly more competitive. In order to succeed and thrive, superior educational qualifications are the best way to maintain a competitive edge over the toughest contenders.

As always, I would like to thank you for being part of our impressive alumni network and staying in touch with your alma mater. On behalf of our faculty, staff, and the KIMEP community, I welcome you to read more about our achievements and plans for the near future.

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

NEWS FROM THE BANG COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

BCB ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING PROGRAMS RE-ACCREDITED BY INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

In January 2020 two leading professional accounting associations globally - ACCA and ICAEW - reconfirmed their trust in the quality of accounting education at KIMEP, renewing and expanding their recognition of the BCB degrees.

Thus, starting from 2019, the Association of *Chartered Certified Accountants* (ACCA) considers BACTA graduates eligible for 8 ACCA exemptions out of 9, subject to the graduates' successful completion of corresponding courses at BCB. MACTA graduates are eligible for 6 out of 9 exemptions.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW) re-confirmed its readiness to grant BACTA graduates exemptions from 6 out of 15 exam modules of ICAEW's ACA Qualification, which corresponds to the Qualification's Certificate level.

BANG COLLEGE OF BUSINESS HOLDS THE FIRST EFMD ACCREDITATION WORKSHOP IN KAZAKHSTAN

The *European Foundation for Management Development* (EFMD) is one of the three most renowned international agencies for business school accreditation. Internationally, simultaneous accreditation by EFMD, AMBA and AACSB is considered as a golden standard and referred to as Triple Crown accreditation of business schools. Less than a hundred of business schools worldwide have achieved Triple Crown accreditation so far.

On 28-29 October 2019, KIMEP University in collaboration with the EFMD, held the first EFMD Accreditation Workshop in Kazakhstan. The title of the workshop was "Market Trends, EFMD Accreditation & Certification". During the two days, attendees benefited from the knowledge, shared by Dr. Chan Young Bang, KIMEP

President, Dr. Gilbert Linne, KIMEP Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jay Ho Young Lee, BCB Dean, and Dr. David Asch, Director of Quality Services, who provided detailed information on EFMD accreditation and certification schemes.

Overall, 69 representatives of 25 universities and institutions of Kazakhstan got registered to the event and 47 of them participated in the event. The event participants liked the training and expressed their gratitude by official appreciation letters, numerous e-mail messages, webpage announcements and Facebook and Instagram posts. EFMD representatives also expressed their fondness of how the workshop was organized and delivered.

BCB ACHIEVES EPAS ELIGIBILITY

On February 19, 2020, BCB officially submitted an application to EFMD Program Accreditation System (EPAS) and gained eligibility on 27 May 2020. By gaining eligibility, the Bang College of Business successfully finalized the fourth stage of the 7-stage EPAS accreditation process. BCB works hard to successfully pass the next three stages of the EPAS accreditation process: Self-Assessment, Peer Review Visit and Accreditation Decision.

TATISHEV FOUNDATION OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT TO BACHELOR OF MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

On March 6, 2020, Dr. Chan Young Bang, Dr. Barnett and Dr. Linne welcomed Mr. Yerkin Tatishev, the Founder of Tatishev Foundation and Ms. Dana Zharikova, President of the Foundation to KIMEP campus and expressed the University's appreciation of the Foundation's contribution to the development of human capital in the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as for the 12 years of the Foundation's generous scholarship support of the talented KIMEP students. The sides discussed further collaboration, future of the secondary and higher education and ways of how universities could assist small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) entrepreneurship and wider business community in the country.

During the subsequent meeting of Mr. Yerkin Tatishev and Ms. Dana Zharikova with senior representatives of BCB and Corporate Development Department (CDD), BCB Dean, Dr. Jay Hoyoung Lee, noted that contemporary business world needs specialists who are entrepreneurial in their spirit and mind, who are ready to act independently and take risks. He further assured that the College will put efforts to prepare such specialists and thanked the Foundation for opening "BesTirek" Program's funds to the aspiring students of KIMEP Bachelor of Management Program. The Program covers full tuition cost for all four years of study, accommodation, a monthly stipend (subject to good academic performance), as well as transportation costs for students from other regions. Besides, the Foundation gives the program fellows seed money to start their business and an opportunity to attend entrepreneurship summer camp at the Babson College, USA.



Dr. Chan Young Bang and Mr. Yerkin Tatishev

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CELEBRATES ITS 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In 2020, the BCB celebrates 10-th anniversary of the Leadership Development Program (LDP). The program was initiated by Dr. Chan Young Bang in 2010. Over 200 well-known leaders from business, politics, entertainment, sports, and other industries gave their leadership lectures within the program. They have shared their experience, leadership hacks and insights with KIMEP students. Such prominent figures as *Nurlan Smagulov, Umut Shayakhmetova, Armanzhan Baitassov, Amangeldy Omarov, Ramil Mukhoryapov, and Alisher Yelikbayev* gave speeches at the Program, to name only a few.

The program provides students with unique opportunity to understand what it means to be a leader in a contemporary organization. The program consists

of theoretical sessions provided by the BCB faculty followed by guest lectures during which students can freely communicate with the industry leaders, managers and entrepreneurs. After successful completion of 3 LDP courses, the students can receive the Certificate in Leadership.

In the year of its tenth anniversary, the Leadership Development Program launched a new delivery format - online guest speaker sessions. Though the change was initially driven by COVID19 pandemic, the received response made it clear that the format is here to stay. Soon after the first online session held on April 9, 2020, by Arminas Macevicius, organizers started receiving a considerable wave of positive comments from students and graduates who welcomed the innovation and found it very convenient for those who cannot attend the LDP sessions in person due to their current location or busyness at work. Further success of sessions with Yerbol Tormanov, Zhanna Kim and Nurdaulet Kulshikov highlighted the demand for and timeliness of the innovation, opening new horizons for the program. Thus, it becomes possible to invite speakers from any part of the country and even the world.

The LDP students noted that online sessions were as inspirational and interesting as the face-to-face classes, while the wider public appreciated the opportunity to attend the sessions without interruption to their working schedules. In the result, each session was attended by twice the number of intended listeners. The LDP administration now plans to partially incorporate the format into the program curriculum even after the end of quarantine.

BCB EXPANDS COLLABORATION HORIZONS

2019-20 academic year was very fruitful in terms of building new partnerships and collaborations. BCB opened a new page in relations with the local higher education institutions, public funds and the corporate world. Dean Dr. Jay Ho Young Lee strengthened ties with the Higher School of Economics and Business of the *Kazakh National University named after Al-Farabi, Suleiman Demirel University and Kazakh-German University (DKU)*. Besides, BCB attended the Official Public Reports events of AlmaU and Narxoz Universities. Grounds for the further fruitful collaboration with the *Digitalization Department of Almaty City Akimat, National Bureau of Translation* (local non-governmental organization that promotes translation of prominent Kazakh literature to other languages and translation



of the best educational, scientific and cultural content into Kazakh language) and “Nomad Insurance” JSC were also secured this year. Internationally, BCB strengthened networking ties with the CEFAM – AACSB accredited French-American Business School situated in Lyon, France.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

2020 CFA CHALLENGE COMPETITION: BCB TEAM #1 IN KAZAKHSTAN AND # 2 IN CENTRAL ASIA

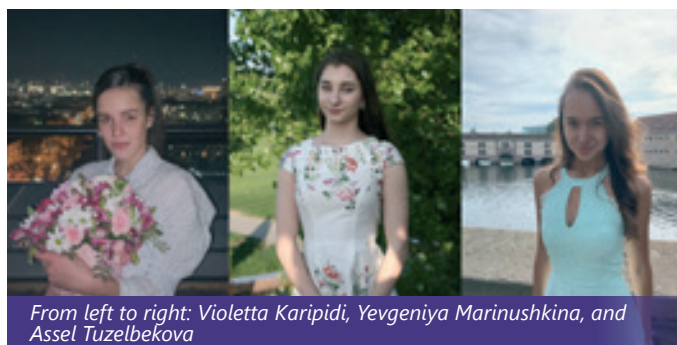
On 23 February, 2020, BCB team won 2nd place in the regional 2020 CFA Research Challenge Competition. Our team, one of 5 Kazakhstan teams in the regional finals, presented a report on JSC “Halyk Bank Equity Research”. The first place in the Competition was taken by the Westminster International University in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and third place by the Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan). The members of the 2020 BCB CFA team are: Duman Imanbayev, Altynay Mukhatova, Aruzhan Shalkhybayeva, Gavkharkhon Mamadzhanova, and Kundiz Kuandikova.



CFA Institute Research Challenge is an annual global competition that provides university students with hands-on mentoring and training in financial analysis and professional ethics. Participants were tested on their analytical, valuation, report writing and presentation skills. More than 6,000 students from 1,000 universities take part in CFA Institute Research Challenge each year.

L'OREAL BRANDSTORM 2020: BCB TEAM #1 IN KAZAKHSTAN

We are proud to inform you that on April 16, 2020, BCB team consisting of Yevgeniya Marinushkina, Violetta Karipidi and Assel Tuzelbekova won the first place during the National Finals of the L'Oreal Brandstorm 2020 International Case Competition. The jury praised KIMEP team's project for uniqueness of the idea and chose the team to represent Kazakhstan on the international arena. After the Global Finals the BCB team plans to continue working on the innovation that was recognized as the best idea in Kazakhstan.



From left to right: Violetta Karipidi, Yevgeniya Marinushkina, and Assel Tuzelbekova

BCB STUDENT DEVELOPS A CHATBOT FOR KIMEP STUDENTS

In the early April, KIMEP Student Affairs Office informed students of availability of KIMEP University chatbot. The timing was just perfect - in the time of social distancing, availability of an effective tool of communication with university was highly important to KIMEP students. We take pride that it is BCB Student, Niyaz Askarbek, who created the chatbot for his Alma Mater.

BCB GRADUATES SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURS HIT BY COVID-19 CRISIS

In response to the challenges of corona virus crisis, two BCB graduates, Umijon Osmanov and Eduard Shloss, launched a social project that teaches small and medium entrepreneurs the basics of digital marketing through a Telegram channel. The founders of QEEPE Digital Agency share their knowledge with more than 350 channel subscribers, also providing free-of-charge consultations to help peer businessmen stay afloat during the current economic ebb.

BCB RESEARCH NEWS

THE 17TH KIMEP INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE GOES ONLINE

On April 17-18, 2020, for the first time in its two decades' history the annual KIMEP International Research Conference (KIRC) went completely online. The decision for this remarkable shift was made when the Conference gathered over 90 paper submissions from local and foreign Universities despite of the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Multidisciplinary Conference devoted to the "Challenges and Opportunities for Economy, Business, and Society in Central Asia and beyond" was organized in 21 ZOOM sessions that were open to participants and wider public. All the sessions went smoothly and allowed for an open exchange of ideas and knowledge. The innovative mode of the Conference was well received by the participants representing a number of various universities.

BLOOMBERG TERMINAL WELCOMES KIMEP RESEARCHERS

Starting from Fall 2019, Bang College of Business provides free-of-charge service to all business disciplines and economics researchers – a fully fledged Bloomberg Terminal is available for their use at the KIMEP campus. The Terminal is situated in #422/Dostyk class which is equipped with projector, screen, printer and desks for up to 12 students to facilitate use of the Terminal for group work, workshops, and seminars. Currently the Terminal is temporarily moved to the Electronic Resources Laboratory in the Library as the Dostyk building is closed due to the quarantine.

ORACLE OPENS ITS ACADEMY AT KIMEP UNIVERSITY



On February 27, 2020, Oracle Academy was officially opened at KIMEP campus, and will now operate in #301 class of the New Academic Building. The Oracle Academy is the project designed to present all necessary resources to teach information technologies to college and university students by providing access to resources which may be used in class and for non-commercial academic research, including technologies, educational courses and training software, seminars for students, training instructors and materials for exam preparation to gain Oracle Industrial Certificates. Participation in Oracle Academy is free of charge. For more detailed information please see academy.oracle.com.



BCB STARTS BCB NEWSLETTER AND OPENS ITS OFFICIAL FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGES

In 2019-20, BCB started issuing BCB Newsletter - an electronic publication that keeps KIMEP community informed of the latest developments in the College. As for the wider audience, BCB launched official Instagram and Facebook pages: [bcb_kimep](https://www.facebook.com/bcb_kimep). The pages keep an interactive dialogue with the BCB-interested community. We invite you to visit, like, share and follow the accounts.



[bcb_kimep](https://www.facebook.com/bcb_kimep)

NEWS FROM THE LAW SCHOOL

On September 11-12, 2019 the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia organized the Education for Justice -E4J regional Expert Workshop for University Teachers, academicians, policy makers on Counter Terrorism and Firearms module series hosted by the Law School, KIMEP University. Nearly 50 university teachers and professors from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan took part in this event.



‘UNODC has developed a series of university modules and other tools to assist academics teaching on some of today’s most crucial threats. Specifically, E4J aims to support tertiary level educators and academics in their efforts to transmit knowledge and create a deeper understanding of rule of law related issues, with a focus on the subject areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, anti-corruption, organized crime, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, firearms, cybercrime, wildlife, forest and fisheries crime, counter-terrorism as well as integrity and ethics.’ - noted Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia.

At the workshop participants shared their experiences, ideas and approaches on the subject, discussing the topic as well as the best methods for delivering the modules, adapting them to contexts and integrating them into the courses participants planned to teach in future.

KIMEP TEAM WINS AIFC MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2ND YEAR IN A ROW

On October 31, 2019 student teams from five leading universities in Kazakhstan (M. Narikbayev KAZGUU University, KIMEP University, L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Narxoz University and Caspian University) participated in the AIFC Moot Court competition in Nur-Sultan. KIMEP University and KAZGUU teams were the winners of the preliminary rounds and then competed in the final round, and KIMEP team won.

The competition involved an argue over a common law case scenario in English, the official language of the competition, and required analysis and oral presentation of legal arguments in the presence of two senior AIFC Court judges: Justice Sir Robin Jacob and Justice Sir Stephen Richards.

KIMEP University team was awarded “The AIFC Court & IAC Moot Final Winners Cup”. All participants, including those who took part in the preliminary rounds, won an opportunity to experience an internship at the AIFC Court and IAC.

We are truly proud of Aruzhan Bolatbayeva, Damelya Karakulova and Gulnur Akayeva who represented KIMEP University’s School of Law in this competition, and proud and thankful to Dr. Zambrana-Tevar, coach of our victorious team. Last year KIMEP also was a winner in this Competition.



On 31 July 2020, Dr. Rustam Atadjanov delivered an online lecture on legal aspects of human trafficking for students and guests of the KIMEP University. The lecture was part of a series of lectures on international legal and human rights issues jointly organized by the KIMEP Legal Clinic and American Space Almaty. In August 2020, Dr. Atadjanov was invited to present at the International Scientific Practical Conference titled "The Value of a Person within the Eurasian Model of Constitutionalism" and dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the Constitution of Kazakhstan. The Conference is hosted by the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan and organized by the KAZGUU University.



Dr. Federico Dalpane, Assistant Professor, School of Law

Federico realized that the shift to distance learning last spring was a great opportunity to study elearning and online pedagogy. He now thinks that teaching online is very different from traditional face-to-face teaching, but not less effective or rewarding, if approached correctly. Federico is currently taking professional development courses on this subject, and will provide technical and pedagogical support to other KIMEP instructors during the fall.



Besides studying elearning, Federico continues his collaboration with the Master in Animal Law and Society of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, especially by supervising theses.

LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

This year in Kazakhstan was announced the 'Year of Volunteer'. And our students who were involved in volunteer activities for a long time by now, this year participated even more actively in various initiatives aimed on improving legal literacy of Kazakhstani population and providing legal advice to those who need it.

At the Law School students organize volunteer assistance by serving as free legal consultants at the Legal Clinic where any person can come to get consultation or help with drafting legal documents free of charge; and for those who can't come in person, Law School in collaboration with the IS "Paragraph" runs the 'Ask a Lawyer' project, which gives people opportunity to get legal consultation online. Only in the last academic year our students solved 48 cases online!

Students answer questions that require knowledge in various fields of legislation: civil, tax, criminal, labor, public procurement procedures, etc, and what we value the most – is that not only people who get help benefit from such initiatives, but that the law school students get excellent opportunity to develop practical skills and expand knowledge by working under supervision of practitioners and our faculty.



NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

NEW PHD PROGRAMS AT CSS

In Fall 2020 the College of Social Sciences opened new Ph.D. level programs in Economics and in Public Administration. Candidates with a master degree in a related field who seek a top-level career had the opportunity to apply and become part of the first cohort of the programs. The best applicants received scholarships.

The PhD program in economics offers opportunities for students who want to do research in environmental economics, financial regulation, inequality and social policy, labor economics, monetary policy, public economics, regional integration, social evaluation and capabilities in human development, trade and development economics or transition economies.

PhD students in Public Administration will benefit from studying an interdisciplinary program aimed at developing a deep and nuanced knowledge of public sector administration, governance and management of public assets, national and international policy-making, and functioning and transformation of societal institutions.

CSS aims to make the graduates of its programs top experts in their fields and the pride of its alumni community. Graduates will be prepared for top-level careers in academia and think-tanks, in public service and government agencies, consultancy, in business and finance, non-governmental organizations, inter-governmental organizations and development agencies.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF CSS

The College of Social Science was active in international cooperation. In fulfillment of the requirements of the Ministry of Education and Science, it initiated the signing of research internship agreements with new partners in Europe to enable master and doctoral students to take part in international internships abroad. Our new partners are Dublin City University (Ireland) and Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade (Serbia). In addition, a memorandum of understanding with MGIMO University (Moscow, Russian Federation) was signed at the end of 2019.





Currently, the College of Social Sciences has taken the leadership in signing an agreement between KIMEP University and the Higher School of Economics as a new partner. HSE is widely regarded as among the best and most prestigious universities in Russia and the CIS. In addition, the College has signed up to the New Market project of the Marie Curie Research International Staff Exchange (RISE) of Horizon 2020 which is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme.

VIDEO INTERVIEW PROJECT “CSS ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES”

AS CSS strives to keep in touch with its alumni community, it launched a video project “Alumni Success Stories” with Elnora Rozmut as a producer and host and with support of the Department of Media and Communication. The first alumni who shared their stories were, among others, Elnora Rozmut (MAIJ), Ruslan Tuginov (MPMA), Kamila Lukpanova (MPA), Aigerim Toleukhan (MAIJ) and Larissa Li (MAE).

You can follow and share the video-interviews on KIMEP channels in YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

PRESENTATION OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE CHINA AND CENTRAL ASIA STUDIES CENTER AND UNIVERSITY OF AGDER (NORWAY)

On 19 December 2019, a workshop at KIMEP University concluded the two-year project “Unpacking China in Central Asia”. The research output is a web repository with data on investment projects with Chinese participation in Central Asia. The repository can be accessed from the website www.china-centralasia.org which also provides an easily accessible map to navigate.

JOINT LECTURE SERIES WITH QINGDAO UNIVERSITY (CHINA)

For Friday, 11 September, the China and Central Asia Studies Center together with the Belt- and Road Institute at Qingdao University has planned to launch their regular “Salon” lecture series. Please refer to the website www.chinacentralasia.org for information about this event and the lecture series.

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION

College of Humanities and Education has launched 3 new unique in the Central Asia region academic programs. The students will start their study at the programs in Fall 2020 semester:

1. BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE
2. MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
3. DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN EDUCATION POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE

is a unique program that allows students to explore human (natural) language from a variety of perspectives, including the way that language is processed and produced in the mind, and the increasing role of computers in analyzing language. This interdisciplinary program provides students with a solid grounding in the theoretical principles, technical skills, and practical applications of the fields of linguistics, psychology, and computer science, with a focus on the interfaces of these fields.

MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

The program is designed for teachers, educational leaders, administrators, and other educational professionals seeking to extend and deepen their expertise in management policy, research in teaching and learning. It will provide the knowledge and skills required to enhance teaching, leadership and administration roles within the educational field.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN EDUCATION POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

In the increasingly dynamic and complex world of education, a crucial need exists for better knowledge about how schools and school systems, from early childhood to higher education, can be organized and led most effectively.

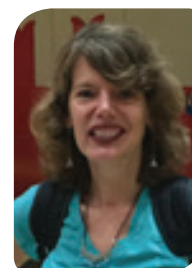
The PhD in Education Policy and Management aims to train researchers and educational leaders who have systemic and critical understanding of the discipline. Graduates will be able to make original and significant contributions to knowledge in the field of education policy and management, and will be capable of qualitatively transforming the education system at the level of an organization, region or country.

ON-LINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The College of Humanities and Education successfully conducted on-line KIMEP Professional Development Workshop titled «**Quality Online Course Design**» in June 2020 for all KIMEP faculty.

There were almost three weeks of work in total from June 15th until July 1st based on ZOOM platform. Those three weeks focused on many different approaches from delivering online classes to facilitating discussions and collaboration between students, as well as ways to encourage and support them in self-guided learning.

During the 1st week faculty was working through five modules which included the videos from our invited expert, a trainer of this PD workshop - **Dr. Monica McEnery**, Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Associate Professor of Education at Castleton University, Vermont, USA. Week 2 was devoted to Work on the Moodle platform with five KIMEP peer tutors. The 3rd week ended up with Individual Projects & Assessment sessions with KIMEP faculty members.



Turning teaching materials and methods into a digital format due to COVID-19 at a very short notice was a big challenge in the mid-Spring Semester. Thanks to the workshop conducted under the umbrella of CHE, KIMEP faculty members designed pedagogically sound and engaging online courses for Fall 2020 to provide best quality online education and support to KIMEP students.

NEWS FROM EXECUTIVE EDUCATION CENTER

DESPITE WORLD PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN AND ALL ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS, EEC STAYED STRONG AND REMAINED FRUITFUL. BELOW ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR.

RUSSIAN COHORT OPENING IN ALMATY

On February 26, 2020, Executive MBA program opened its 13th Russian cohort in Almaty. The opening Ceremony was traditionally held in EEC with the opening speech from the Dean of Bang College of Business, Dr. Ho Young Lee, the Associate Dean of EEC, Dr. Nadeem Khalid and VPAA Dr. Gilber Linne. The students of the new cohort have extensive experiences in business areas as banking, logistics, natural resources and entrepreneurial experience. The companies they come from include: USKO, KazMinerals, Kazatomprom, KazMunaiGaz and other international and local organizations. We wish our new cohort participants the best knowledge gaining experience at KIMEP, personal and career growth after program completion!

PRE-MBA PROGRAM

For the past few months, the world was changing and adapting to the new challenges brought by CoVid-19, so was Executive Education Center. For 26 years, EEC was actively providing professional programs to individuals and companies, which include Executive MBA, Mini MBA and Leadership programs. With the drastic experience, EEC presents brand new professional program that ensures equipping participants with up-to-date business knowledge and skills in only 5 months' period.

Pre-MBA program is derivative of all MBA programs in the market and has inherited the most necessary course load, and thus, is the shortest MBA program. "Pre-MBA" is a professional development program which enhances participants from business and nonbusiness related areas to hone key concepts for Business Strategy, Innovation, Business Communication (English), Finance & Accounting, Economics and Business Plan Development. It allows professionals from various areas to attain practical business expertise and leverage it in their workplace and beyond. With this program you can professionally develop business skills and prepare yourself for higher academic qualifications in business areas in 5-months' time span. First Pre-MBA cohort is expected to launch in the first week of October.



Pre-MBA program benefits:

- 8 Interactive modules with a team of international professionals
- Relevant exercises for implementing the gained knowledge
- Real life business examples, including selecting and reviewing a relevant firm
- Lab sessions to support learning and group interaction
- Harvard Business Case at the end of the program
- Guest speakers
- One optional Abroad module

INTERNATIONAL MODULE

The biggest achievement of Executive Education Center in 2020 is closing deal with Universiti Utara Malaysia and Malaysian Government to organize international module. The Malaysian international Module includes studying two modules in 'Triple Crown' university, four industrial visits to biggest Malaysian enterprises and travelling opportunity.

Universiti Utara Malaysia is KIMEP-partner university and holds 'triple crown' status which means it possesses the most prestigious business accreditations such as AMBA, EQUIS and AACSB. The highly qualified professors and business experts will teach participants of the MBA programs.

Apart from academic facilities, participants will also have an opportunity to visit: Boh Tea- biggest tea plantation in Malaysia, Air Asia Headquarters, Proton Car Manufacturing and Air Composite- airplane manufacturer. The agreement with all parties are come to end and after world passes the CoVID-19 pandemic, KIMEP Executive MBA and Pre-MBA students will be able to join international modules full of engaging coursework and fascinating travelling opportunity.



OFFICE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

2020 IQAA INSTITUTIONAL AND PROGRAM RANKING

We are proud to announce that according to the results of 2020 National Institutional and Program Ranking of HEIs conducted by Independent Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (IQAA, www.iqaa.kz), **KIMEP University won the 1st place on institutional level among Humanitarian-economic universities in Kazakhstan.**

Independent Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (IQAA) provides comprehensive assessment for the academic performance of the university using the data provided by universities and obtained from independent sources.

Национальный рейтинг лучших гуманитарно-экономических вузов Казахстана – 2020. Итого		
Место	Наименование вуза	Итого, %
1	Университет КИМЭП	99,92
2	Карагандинский экономический университет Казпотребсоюза	94,13
3	Алматы Менеджмент Университет	81,64
4	Казахско-Американский свободный университет	70,73
5	Казахский университет экономики, финансов и международной торговли	70,56
6	Академия «Болашак» (г.Караганда)	68,43
7	Университет «Туран-Астана»	67,49



KIMEP University with its highest score (99.92 out of 100), once more topped the list of the best humanitarian-economic universities of Kazakhstan. In 2020, institutional ranking methodology included 5 primary indicators and KIMEP University scored maximum number of points in each of them. Alumni employability level and alumni assessment of the alma mater were very important criteria in ranking, along with employers, student and expert assessment. KIMEP University left behind other competitive HEIs and proved its commitment to excellence.

Twenty one KIMEP programs participated in IQAA Program Ranking 2020 and all of them won medal positions. Ten KIMEP University academic programs were ranked as #1 among all Kazakhstani universities, eight academic programs won the #2 and 3 programs were ranked as #3 in Kazakhstan.

BACHELOR PROGRAM	RANK	MASTER PROGRAM	RANK
Economics	1 place	MBA	1 place
Marketing	1 place	Executive MBA	1 place
International Law	1 place	International Law	1 place
Management	1 place	Accounting and Audit	1 place
Accounting and Audit	1 place	Public Administration	2 place
Finance	1 place	International Relations	2 place
Public Administration	2 place	Arts in Foreign Languages: Two Foreign Languages	2 place
International Relations	2 place	International Journalism	2 place
Jurisprudence	2 place	Marketing	3 place
Journalism	2 place	Finance	3 place
		Economics	3 place

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2021

THIS YEAR, KIMEP HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE TOP 1000 QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING FOR THE FIRST TIME!

QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) is a British company specializing in the analysis of higher education institutions worldwide. QS World University Rankings is regarded as one of the most influential and most widely viewed university rankings in the world. Annually, the QS Agency analyses the performance of approximately 1500 HEIs worldwide, including oldest and prestigious universities such as Harvard University, MIT, Oxford University, etc.

World university ranking assesses institutions by criteria such as academic and employer reputation, faculty/student ratio, citations per faculty, international student ratio, and international staff ratio.

In QS World University ranking 2021, KIMEP University ranked 751-800 among 1604 universities around the world. KIMEP landed along with London South Bank University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Oklahoma State University and left behind such western universities as Glasgow Caledonian University, Birmingham City University, George Mason University, Texas Tech University, Kyoto Institute of Technology, etc. (www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2021).



The «International Faculty» was recognized as the strongest indicator of KIMEP (82.9 out of 100 points).

Being among 10 Kazakhstani universities included in QS World University Ranking 2021, KIMEP will further strive to enhance its competitiveness and quality of education services in order to contribute to the prosperity of our country.



ORACLE DAY AT KIMEP UNIVERSITY

ON FEBRUARY 27, 2020, KIMEP UNIVERSITY HOSTED AN ORACLE CORPORATION TEAM ON CAMPUS. KIMEP U BECAME AN INSTITUTIONAL PARTNER OF ORACLE ACADEMY.

Oracle Academy is the educational project of Oracle Corporation, the world leader in IT sphere. Many leading Universities in many countries collaborate with Oracle Academy, the project has helped more than 6.5 million students worldwide in career development in today's digital economy.

Oracle Academy offers advanced computer science education to disseminate knowledge and promote innovation, skills development, and sociocultural diversity in the IT field throughout the world.

Participation in the Oracle Academy gives opportunity for students and instructors to get training in information technologies at all levels. It provides access to a variety of resources that can be used during training and non-commercial research work related to theoretical training and higher education. These resources include technologies, curriculum and study software, materials for conducting seminars for students and training teachers, and for obtaining Oracle industry certification and exam preparation. Students gain skills in IT and business and become familiar with industrial software that is used in hundreds of industries, and teachers keep up with technological progress and improve their skills.

Oracle (Oracle Corporation) is an American corporation, the second largest producer of software (after Microsoft), the largest producer of software for organizations, a major supplier of server hardware.

The company specializes in the release of database management systems, middleware and business applications (ERP and CRM systems, specialized industry applications). The company's most famous product is Oracle Database, which the company has been producing since its foundation. Since 2008, the corporation has mastered the production of integrated hardware and software systems, and since 2009, as a result of the takeover, Sun Microsystems has become a manufacturer of server hardware, before that the company produced only software.

Branches of the corporation are located in more than 145 countries. The headquarters of the corporation is located in the United States, in California, near San Francisco.

The company was represented on campus by Rustem Taishibayev, General Director, Oracle Kazakhstan. Rustem is KIMEP alumnus. We used the chance to interview Rustem.

- Why did you choose KIMEP? What memories stand out from your time at KIMEP?

Since 1997 I was working in national and international companies on business development positions and managing regional offices (ALSI company, Xerox Central Asia representative office). The search for available MBA programs that are on-site, local and high ranked showed that KIMEP MBA program was the most appropriate. Before making such a conclusion I had tested several different business schools by visiting their classes.

- Do you have any memories of outstanding professors?

We had very a interesting course – Franchising basics and strategy. Professor Mr. Philipp Perdue, who worked in Reagan's administration, gave us excellent classes how to evaluate franchisee businesses and to read correctly financial reports. Thanks to him, reading standard annual bank reports in newspapers we predicted Valut Transit bank and other banks failure, that saved millions of dollars to our companies

- How did KIMEP education help to build your career?

I can not say that I am very career oriented. Since the beginning 2000-s I worked as Deputy Regional Director in Xerox, Sales Director in ALSI company, managing director in 11 countries in Dell, and last 11 years running the Oracle office in Kazakhstan. I had a number of opportunities to build my career in Europe and the Middle East, but decided to have the work-life balance here, in Almaty, which makes me happier than the title on my business card and the bank account numbers. KIMEP MBA helps a lot to structure own corporate experience and develop the helicopter view of business I was running

- Do you stay in touch with your classmates?

No.

- What would your advice be to current students?

It can be based only on my experience – to love your job, 100% focus on goals and results, to build and develop the circle of things that really matter – family, friends, love, health, knowledge, skills, hobbies, spirit and society. Sure, every human being knows this, but it easy to mislead your internal compass.

- What personality/ personalities influenced your life most?

Mom. She was fighting for her life and her kid's happiness almost 13 years despite doctors` verdict to live a maximum 1 year. And she stayed the real human and loved the world and people. She passed away in 2018.

- What are your major motivations in career and life?

Depended on period of life and current situation in every particular part of life. When I was younger – in the regional director's Jacket (slang), relations with friends, girlfriend, good education, later family, kids, money, stability. Now – society, how you can support it. Nothing new -just remember to stay happy if you consider all things mentioned in the answer #3



- How do you manage stressful situation?

Like in the old proverb: "If the problem is properly evaluated it is not a problem, it is spending". First of all , you evaluating it from different sides: time, money, other resources to fix it, risk management – consequences can appear in the future and definitely focusing to solve, but not to postpone.

- What qualities do you respect in a leader?

Personal responsibility, professionalism, be a human being

- What are your hobbies?

Boxing. I had serious sport results when was younger. Now I call my exercises glamour sparring. Chess, reading, yachting. I have the skipper license, but prefer to stay a sailor on boat.

- What books are you reading now?

Re-reading Antifragile by Nassim Taleb- there are some good things, but the language needs some improvement, The Stoic by Dreiser's – the strong thing , 1000 and 1 nights – lovely.

- Do you mentor, coach young employees?

Oracle has the great practice "Follow the shadow" when you can during several weeks be together with your specially chosen highly experienced counterpart with tremendous business results at all his/her internal and external meetings, presentations, working situations. I had it in Athens with Greece Managing Director. No, but in life I have several students

- What challenges does your company face? Who are the main competitors of your company?

Oracle is the leading IT company in the world. We are in the rapidly changing digital world environment. Every day the company faces with strong competitiveness, global challenges, government regulations, piracy. From other side all mentioned challenges are great opportunities that give to the world new solutions and answers to the global challenges via our new products, and instruments. I think all IT companies, such as Google, IBM, Microsoft, SAP, Amazon and others in the same ocean of challenges.

- What are major challenges of our time and the most interesting trends?

The world is too small and borderless. The peace is too fragile and depends on political freaks with unpredictable behavior. The information is too accessible and limitless, the private life is such ephemeral under Big Brother` control, and we are getting signs – new deceases, private information leakages, numbers of military, religion and social conflicts. And it is great challenge again to start to learn how to play big politics the fair game, to remember the real human being values. From one side, we have the global trends such as globalization, global resources and labor market, from other side we see the governments` disability to defend own countries from migration, deceases and war conflicts impact. We see how the artificial intelligence, added reality, machine learning, blockchain and other independent technologies are developing. From another side we couldn't predict what information technologies consequences we will face with.

- What is the best advice that you ever have got and do you follow it?

In the disputable situation If you can step back to help your opponent make decision or to grab a fruit first or to solve the problem, step back. Yes, I'm using it and usually it brings much more results in the future

- Do you continue to study?

Sure. We have number of professional classes, I have my mentor in life and reading.

KIMEP UNIVERSITY ORGANIZED DONOR RECOGNITION CEREMONY ON JANUARY 25, 2020

Sponsors and donors provide invaluable support to KIMEP U.

Recognizing these individuals and companies provides a visible acknowledgement of the importance that their contributions have made to our University. Whether the contributions were monetary, in-kind services, products, time, sharing knowledge and skills or another type of support, the Ceremony ensured that they know how much the KIMEP community appreciates their support.

At the Ceremony sponsors, representatives of 20 companies and foundations met students –scholarship recipients. KIMEP U President Dr. Bang awarded the sponsors with memorable plaques to express our gratitude for partnership, support and investment in education. Students got scholarship certificates. Students and parents expressed their gratitude to sponsors.

After the official part and the photo session were overall participants of the ceremony were invited to stand up reception to communicate with sponsors, students, parents, KIMEP administrative staff.



ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST YEAR

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
LAUNCHED ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM IN
APRIL 2019. IN THIS ARTICLE WE WOULD LIKE TO
INTRODUCE TO YOU OPINIONS OF OUR MENTOR,
VALERIY DORJIYEV, CLASS 1995 AND 5 BCB
STUDENTS- MENTEES ON THE NEW PROGRAM.

VALERIY DORJIYEV, CLASS 1995

“A DREAM - OR A GOAL”

In modern business literature, there's often a clear separation found between categories of “dream”, “desire” and “goal”. Briefly described, desire is a more detailed image of a dream, in which there are already deadlines and goals set. Thus, we understand that on the basis of desire, a goal is formed, i.e. desire is what begins to move us toward a specific goal. And the goal has an effective factor in our movement towards the dream - this is achieving the final result. And achieving the final targeted result is always based on one's personal responsibility, since the goal stipulates dynamic actions at the present moment – right here and right now, at this very time - not in the bright and distant future.

I think that in the mentorship program launched a year ago, all of the above categories - dream, desire and goal - are in place, because during the initial communication of the mentor and the student, when the first discussion about a student's expectations to the mentorship program takes place, both mentors and mentees share an adjustment of perceiving these categories. Primary expectations of students relate both to issues of searching for their right future profession and career, and to issues of developing new personal skills, and analyzing own self-esteem and expectations to life.

This program is a continuation of teaching practical knowledge of managing business to the best undergraduate students, with a focus on personal growth, based on close communication of a mentee and a mentor - a KIMEP graduate already having some business experience and specific knowledge in a certain field. In my opinion, the past year of the mentorship program was a new and interesting experience, both for the mentors themselves and for the students selected to take part in the program.

Final meetings held by the mentorship program administrators with students and mentors showed that this program is an effective additional practical tool in developing a student's understanding of the specifics of building relationships within companies operating in Kazakhstan. These include issues of developing personal competencies, of analyzing the market trends of strategic development of specific sectors of the global and Kazakhstani economy, as well as the new requirements and conditions for hiring professional staff.

The fact that a person can and should dream at any age is a natural, positive and pleasant state of a person, to which there is no impact in the form of an aggressive reaction of the surrounding world. Although the dreamed itself is an abstract desire, a mental image rather - it is directly related to the real world. Most of us dream in childhood and even carry our dreams through our lives.

In the conclusion, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Corporate Development Department for the opportunity given to me to take part in the mentorship program as an invited mentor, and also to say many thanks to my students for our close communication and for their interest shown in our joint dialogue regarding business management and personal development.

TEIMUR SHAKIROV, MENTEE

To start, I joined the Mentorship program because of two reasons. Firstly, I had doubts in a particular sphere of finance I am to dedicate my career, efforts and time. Initially, I enrolled in a bachelor of a finance degree at KIMEP with a huge interest in stock markets and portfolio management. As it turned out later I could not find responses to my questions. Secondly, I did not form a group of desired companies to work for after graduation. I was not well informed about opportunities in the local labor market and shared many illusions of my generation related to the world of business. I decided that the program could help me with these issues.

My mentor, Valeriy Dordzhiyev, has an enormous experience in the banking sector and financial management, organizational behavior. At our first meeting, we, mentees, introduced our interests, goals and favorite courses at KIMEP. For the next time, we prepared assignment essays on the topic of personal accomplishments and failures. This assignment allowed our mentor to realize whether we learn lessons from failures or not and whether our goals are ambitious enough. Surely, getting used to not only achievements but also mistakes and uncertainties is one of the keys to success.

Then, we met many times to learn insights about interrelationships between a manager and a subordinate. We learned that any rational manager has universal requirements for his/her subordinates. They are of common knowledge, but, in addition, our mentor recommended taking the initiative to cover extra responsibilities and expressing your way of thinking to bosses. He pointed out that a typical boss will promote the one who can replace him with fewer problems. We built an open dialogue with Valeriy Fedorovich and created a common group chat to share information related to the next meetings as well as business articles and forecasts. This data exchange was useful as I processed it into knowledge, which creates the value of a professional.

Moreover, Valeriy Fedorovich taught us reading between the lines, which means making conclusions and predictions related to regional and world business. Before the program, I was not following the business news, oil prices, stock indexes, exchange rate movements. Currently, I am able to extract economic value from articles and formulate arguments on demand and supply in various markets. In addition, we set various personal tasks to understand better what conditions we require from a future job. For example, I started keeping personal revenues and expenses accounting in order to realize my salary size need and separate some job offers.

Last summer, I faced a problem with finding an internship. I was interested in Air Astana's financial department, due to my knowledge of the aviation sphere. Valeriy Fedorovich recommended me opening hh.kz account as well as LinkedIn to start searching for more vacancies that might be interesting to me. He once said, "a frog comfortably living at the bottom of the well will never see the ocean". Today, thanks for these accounts as well as open house days provided by the companies and KIMEP, I am well aware of the local labor market demands and offers. I want to join financial deal advisory departments of either KPMG or PWC, not just because of Big4, but due to my deep interest, skills in M&A, and financial modeling.

Mentees initiated meeting when we accumulated enough questions to ask the mentor. We contacted through Whatsapp group and chose a suitable time for everyone. The majority of our meetings were held in campus, and twice we met at café. Balzhan Suzhikova and Raushan Kanayeva from CDD organized the second meeting at the café on 21 October 2019 to discuss informally the stage of the progress we are in. In fact, I felt assistance from the Corporate Development Department during the period of the program. For which I am grateful to them. During our periodical meetings with the mentor, we discussed how close we are to the goals and what measures might be helpful to take.

The mentor is very similar to a book. The difference is that he/she communicates information in a much easier way to get. The mentor can share personalized practical advice, whereas books are always universal. To improve the further flow of the program, I suggest considering online conferences via Zoom or Skype to increase the number of possible meetings. All my suggestions to the new mentees I will share during our planned online discussion.

In conclusion, as a graduating student, I see that a half of my ID16 class, unfortunately, has no understanding of where, why, and how they will work. Many just follow the stream. I see KIMEP as producing limited and superior talents. I believe this program is able to create a bridge between student generations that will help fresh graduates making more decisive choices in their careers. With no doubt, I want to express my respect and appreciation to Valeriy Fedorovich for such mentorship. I am satisfied with the program results and believe it is worth developing.

ZHANIYA KHAIRULLA, MENTEE

When I started thinking of what should I write in my summary of experience I got from one-year mentorship program, I decided to look back, one year ago, March of 2019, who was Zhaniya?

I remember the time I received an email about the mentorship program at BCB. I found out I was one of the only few students who were suggested to take part in the mentorship program. At first, I had no idea what is mentorship program, should I take the opportunity and take part in the mentorship program? Or it's just a waste of time? Yes, I had a lot of questions back then. So, after thinking a lot about this opportunity, I decided to take part in this mentorship program. And right now, I am extremely happy that I did. The person I was one year ago and the person I am right now are two completely different people. I believe it was some kind of a destiny to be chosen for the first ever mentorship program at BCB. Because right now, I feel so grateful for everyone and for everything.

On our first meeting, we met with all mentors and just had a really interesting conversation. We introduced ourselves to our mentors, but from the whole conversation we needed to choose, who we want to have as a mentor. Both mentors I saw that day made me really happy. They were really welcoming and friendly, and what I liked most about it, they shared their career experience, which helped us to identify whom we relate more. I remember I was really nervous about that meeting; it was something new to me. When I saw Larissa Yurievna, I liked her at the very first sight, she was so charming and nice, at that moment I just felt, that she is the person, who I can trust and from whom I want to learn a lot.

I think mentorship program is conceived differently for everyone, every person has weak points to work on, and as a finance student, it would be fair if I was choosing a

mentor who is from the same industry, as me. But I had my own issues back then. I was really insecure and I did not have any confidence in myself. I had no ambitions, no goals, no dreams (sadly, but true). At that time, I was just studying what I was told to study, I was not thinking about my future, or what should I do in order to improve myself? Nothing. And on that first ever meeting with our mentors, I realized that were my weakest points. Not my technical skills, but my soft skills. Who am I as a person? Or what I want to achieve in my career? There were many questions I did not have answers to. So, that evening I wrote an email to Balzhan Suzjikova, CDD, that I want to be a mentee of Larissa Yurievna, she is the person, who can motivate, inspire, shake you up to open your inner potential. And I never regretted it. Larissa Yurievna is the most amazing person I have ever met in my life so far. I am endlessly thankful to her for everything she did to me. All our meetings were held individually, one mentee at a time, because she wanted us to open up to her, so that we could work more effectively. In fact, she is a very busy person! But she still managed to do that. I really appreciate she was finding her time to talk with us (me and her other mentee). And that what happened to me, I was really shy at our first meeting, but I opened up and told everything I was thinking about my future, my plans, my life, my fears and my weaknesses, and in generally, what I want to take from this mentorship program. And I have to say, this worked very well. After every meeting I had an extreme boost in my ambitions, self-confidence and energy. Larissa is a person, who shares only positive vibes, she is the person who can say at any moment of your life, that: "YOU CAN, AND I BELIVE IN YOU, SO JUST DO IT!". Larissa Yurievna always sent me dozens of interesting, useful information and articles about current situation in the industry. I learned a lot about the industry, what employers look for in a candidates or what skills should I learn to be flexible and in order to strive to be successful. As HR manager, she really knows her industry. In this one year I had 30+ interviews, tests and presentations, internship offers, and I had an internship in one of the biggest holding companies in Kazakhstan, but what is the most important from this? It is the fact that from each interview, each test, each conversation with professionals I was gaining more experience, I was becoming more and more confident and I finally started overcoming my fears. I started reading a lot, now, reading is one of my favorite things to do, I am into healthier lifestyle, what I like most about myself right now is that I learned something new, my goals are not only in the finance industry, but I have some plans on other fields too, I found what I am good at, and what can help me in the future. I also keep identifying what should I still be working on in order to improve myself. Right now,

I am so much into positive energy. I learned how to stop panicking or worrying about the future. Instead, I learned how to properly plan my future. Now I have high ambitions, my interests have changed, I gained more self-confidence and now I have big plans on my future. When you have dreams and goals in life, it is so much easier to live. Comparing myself now to who I was one year ago, I see how this mentorship program changed me to become completely different person, person who knows that she can achieve her goals in the future. And I do not stop on what I have achieved in one year, I know that I have to keep constantly working on myself so that I can always have goals to achieve.

I want to dedicate this last paragraph to everyone, who I met through this mentorship program. First of all, I want to thank Balzhan Suzhikova for sending me an email inviting to take part in this mentorship program. Whole year you were with us, babysitting and always helping us, you are very welcoming and good person, if not you, I would have been scared to accept the invitation for the mentorship program. Secondly, I want to thank other mentees, for creating friendly environment, we became friends throughout this year, maybe it is a blessing, that every student was really friendly and welcoming. I want to thank all our mentors, who took part in this. It was completely voluntary, but I really appreciate your work, time and effort you made into this mentorship program. And of course, I want to show my gratitude to the best mentor ever, my mentor, Larissa Yurievna. If not her, I would have still been very insecure and boring person. Thank you so much for choosing me as a mentee, for being always there for me, that I could always text you and you help me anytime, thank you for every meeting we had, for every word you say, for cheering me up all of this time. I never regretted my decision of choosing you as my mentor, and I will never forget the person who impacted my life in a very positive way. Maybe I am a bit emotional, because I am graduating from KIMEP this semester, but whatever, I am still really grateful that my university gave me such a huge opportunity to work with the best people. Thank you!

BEKZHAN ELEBESOV, MENTEE

My name is Bekzhan and I am proud to say that I am a recent graduate of KIMEP's mentorship program. I liked the initiative at once when I had received the email about the program. The hosts of this program aptly felt my desperate condition for some career and personal guidance, as I wasn't sure of what I will be doing after

I get my diploma. So our first meeting with mentors already proved very much fruitful. Each mentor held an excellent background in his career, and each of them were unique and fascinating. I chose Baurzhan Issayev, our alum, as my mentor because he was only available online and I knew that inconvenience would deviate other mentees, leaving me a chance to be one to one with my mentor, and that happened. Baurzhan works in a prominent international pharmaceutical company and he was the youngest among other mentors. Straightly after our first meeting he set a friendly tone, encouraging me to treat him as a peer friend. That surely facilitated our communication and paved the way towards sincere comradeship, I appreciated that. He shared a great deal of valuable information, and shifted my perspective on some things. We talked about the future perspectives in finance and after that I changed my major from marketing to finance. Our second meeting was conducted in Almaty and we discussed the pros and cons of starting your own business, the topic which was very interesting for me and also talked about pursuing a career. After that meeting I decided for myself that I will go for career rather than business. Eventually, our communication was challenged because of time zone and his work, and so I was compelled to transfer to Valeriy Dorjiyev. He was a whole high level person – wise, sharp, intelligent and experienced man. I want to highlight his sincere willingness to share his information and empirical knowledge. Our discussions raised me up to the new stage, enabling me look at things broader. He assigned me a task of writing an essay on "what do you think your weak and strong qualities are." At our first meeting he read an essay and pointed to some mistakes in my thinking and explained how things work in the career life. He easily crashed my long held beliefs and directed my focus to new, mature and more important ones. I can feel my personal growth over this short period of time. That evening I walked out of the building feeling myself fresh and inspired to take actions. The lessons that both mentors gave me led to my subsequent actions of social leadership and activism. Indeed, I earned valuable lessons from my both mentors that ingrained a strong personality in me. Therefore, I would like to thank the hosts-CDD for such an excellent program and mentors for their efforts and guidance.

ARUZHAN SHALKHYBAYEVA, MENTEE

The mentorship program at KIMEP University was one of the unique programs that I participated. This program helps students to find a mentor who can guide a student

and help to grow and develop professionally and personally. Owing to this program young people would maintain a positive relationship with adults that can be advantageous when they start to work. Furthermore, the mentors are our KIMEP Alumni's who are highly qualified, knowledgeable and experienced in different areas. The fact that they graduated from KIMEP University is beneficial as they clearly understand what our needs are, give us valuable advice in terms of choosing future career.

Having a mentor, who can help you at any time, lead you and direct you is essential in during the educational process. At the beginning of the program, every student had an opportunity to choose one mentor among three. Each mentor works in different spheres such as HR, Banking and Oil and Gas, so we had a chance to broaden our horizons in these areas. My mentor was Valeriy Dorjiyev, who worked most of his time in the banking industry and audit companies, like Eurasian bank, Zaman Bank and KPMG. Fortunately, me and my groupmates Teimur Shakirov and Bekzhan Elebesov, had been working with met with Valeriy Dorjiyev for one year. During our weekly meetings, we covered different topics and every meeting was informative and productive. Moreover, we had group meetings as well as individual ones, where to discuss our future career plans. Besides meetings, our mentor created the whatsapp group chat, where he usually sends articles, links to websites and books to be read. Due to this program I can clearly see what my future is and the further steps I should take.

I believe that the mentorship program does not only supports students throughout the year, but something ongoing. I am grateful that my mentor was always ready to give advice and share his knowledge and experience with mentees. Additionally, during the mentorship program I had a great opportunity to meet new people and expand my network.

AIGERIM BAIMUKHAMBETOVA, MENTEE

I remember the day when I and other students received letter about the launch of the first mentorship program among BCB students. In order to participate in this program students were required to submit their CVs and short essays. That what I did after understanding what this program was about. I identified for myself why I needed this program. First of all, I was almost at that stage when you are trying to find out more about your future work area. Also, at the stage of building yourself

from the professional perspective I needed real advices from senior professionals. So, during the selection process six of students were chosen to participate in the mentorship program and I was one of them. The first meeting was assigned in order to get acquainted with our mentors and understand with whom we would work during the next year. From the beginning I understood that I wanted to work with Larissa Yermoshkina. Her presentation about her university life and career path attracted me. She had a great experience of working in international and local companies. Also, she was a professional in my future work area. I think that connection between mentor and mentee can be felt from the beginning. That's why I wanted to work with her during the next year. If you want to have understanding of what you will do, first, you need to get to know each other better and create your own unique connection. That's what we did at the beginning of our collaboration. Larissa told me about her experience in companies. She explained me in details what was her work there. Also, she explained what management is and how it works in real life. Larissa helped me to understand what actually I want, in which field I want to work and which type of work I want to do. During this program, she helped me a lot: she gave me advices regarding how to develop certain skills, explained some techniques ("Five whys"), recommended certain books, which helped me to understand the work of sales manager, advised how to use knowledge, received from our LDP (Leadership Development Program) guest speakers. If I did not understand some materials from our lectures or I just wanted to know more, she always helped me. Larissa made an enormous contribution to my development. It were not always direct actions, sometimes it was indirect. I mean that sometimes just some of her words that I took into account influenced me positively. Thanks to her I became more communicative and more confident in my decisions. She also made a partial contribution to my development as a leader. All of the progress that I achieved thanks to her I can see now in my university life. I hope that it will help me in my future work. I would also like to have a connection with her further and be sure that I have a right to ask her advice regarding the work in the future. Since I am sure that more questions appear when I will work.

I want to thank Larissa Yermoshkina for her support, effort and time that she spent helping me grow both professionally and personally. I also want to thank KIMEP University, CDD and especially Balzhan Suzhikova for launching mentorship program and giving students a unique opportunity to develop themselves with the help of professionals.

To highlight volunteer activities worldwide and encourage more people to join in, the Republic of Kazakhstan proclaimed 2020 as the Year of Volunteers. It had provided a valuable opportunity to heighten public awareness and support for volunteerism. Volunteering is an important part of the development of society and is necessary for the formation of conscious and active citizens. This activity not only helps the society, but also gives the volunteers themselves incredible experience and development. Our students and alumni have always been active volunteers, from their student days to the present day. Commemorating the Year of Volunteer we devote below material to 11 volunteers-KIMEP alumni, whose activities we know about. It was made before the global pandemic began so these volunteers tell about their experience in general. Our alumni created many volunteer initiatives, so we apologize to those who are not here because we did not have the information about them.

IGOR ROMANENKO, MA 2001

Igor has been a volunteer all his life. Maintenance of a football club for several years already, development of business projects in rural locations. He thinks it is not classic volunteering, but in terms of energy, time and financial costs it is much more than "I fed a hungry kitten today" from a well-known Soviet movie "Guest from the Future". Igor earned respect for his charity deeds, not only for the revival of his native Ruzaevskaya land, but also for the professional development of football, by placing this sport among different ages of people at a high level.

He entered KIMEP in the fall of 1999. Since Igor studied in the United States on a scholarship from Soros Foundation, he was determined to continue further education in English. KIMEP was an ideal option - a prestigious higher educational institution, where courses were conducted in English, and most of the professors were invited from abroad. He remembers that he had no problems with the English language, but had problems with Math. Since he had no



mathematical background, some subjects with elements of higher mathematics appeared to be not that easy. Despite this, he was able to overcome all difficulties and graduated from KIMEP with a Master's degree in Economics.

KIMEP graduates are in demand in the labor market and Igor accumulated huge professional experience working for more than 15 years in the leading banks of the country. Igor worked in the treasuries of four banks and for the last 8 years was the Treasurer of Kaspi Bank.

He perceives charity as the need to see happier people around and the need to realize that every single day he lives he brings some benefit. That is why Igor decided to change his work and settle in his small homeland, putting all efforts on the development of the sport. The first steps of his activity in this direction were the purchase of balls and uniforms. Then - a minibus to take the team to competitions. Recently he has been developing social infrastructure in the village - he opened a cafe, a hotel, a beauty salon, a supermarket. Although all establishments are commercial by its definition, in fact, for Igor they are also objects of patronage, since the volume of the market in a rural areas a priori does not allow counting on high profitability. And the main purpose of these projects for Igor is to be useful, not to search for the meaning of life, but to bring life to people.



DAUREN ZHOLDASBAYEV, BSC 2003, MBA 2009

“VOLUNTEER IS A CARING PERSON WHO ACTUALLY WANTS TO CHANGE SOMETHING FOR THE BETTER AROUND HIM OR HER.”

At the time Dauren was finishing the school KIMEP was the most prestigious university in Kazakhstan. Nine students from his class passed the entrance exam at KIMEP. It was hard to study during the first year, grades were not good. However, during the second year, he understood how to concentrate on studies, and friends helped him to become more organized. Dauren remembers Hall 1 & Hall 2 where he had lectures; fun club and disco parties there, full of fun. The library, where he and his friends prepared group projects. Overall, the university is the school of life. KIMEP taught him the best tools to apply in life. Finance and IT courses helped him during his first few years of work after graduation when he was working as a finance and IT analyst at the fuel company. However, the principles of business thinking that were taught at KIMEP help to think broader and more strategic.

Charity is about caring. Dauren admits that without this key principle society can not exist. His mission is to be helpful, to make society a better place to live. Dauren is a general initiator of public association “Posadiderevo.kz” which exists since 2013. The main goal of the republican non-profit organization is preservation and augmentation of the green fund of our country as well as the environmental education of young generation. Dauren and his team are organizing more than 20 tree planting activities together with corporate partners and volunteers every year.



Additionally, Dauren is the head of the freediving federation, founder of environmental trainings at schools, and creator of the charity project called YARKOkross. Thousands of citizens of Kazakhstan participate in the charity run. There are special rules for runners - each participant should wear a white running outfit. Special volunteers throw a colored powder at participants, so that there are no white spots remaining on clothes when the runners finish the race. The event was organized with the support of the city administration. The festival aimed at promoting a healthy life style especially among the youth and served as an alternative way of spending free time. The entrance fees were used to fund the planting of trees, for instance, 280 seedlings were planted at the Zoo of Almaty and 120 seedlings of birch, poplar and spruce were planted in Shymkent. The project was successfully implemented in Almaty, Astana, Karaganda, Shymkent.

Moreover, Dauren is a proud volunteer of Ya Almatinec community. It is the society of volunteers contributing to the dynamic development of society and a healthy lifestyle. All ideas of different charity projects appeared from various motives. He claims that somewhere he and his team saw an acute need, somewhere noticed the interest of sport or the implementation of a mass sport. After what, they suggested the ideas to the government authorities, searched for sponsors, or have themselves become sponsors. That is how all charity projects develop. These days Dauren plants the trees, teaches eco-circles at schools and participates in the food delivery to people in need during the quarantine, participates in environmental and public works projects, in the development of sport. He believes that a volunteer is a caring person who actually wants to change something around him or her.

ASSIYA TULESSOVA, BSS 2004, MPA 2005

She enrolled at KIMEP University, Business Administration program, just to accompany friends. Assiya was also admitted to Kazakh Academy of Architecture and Civil Engineering, but after consulting with her mother, she chose KIMEP and does not regret this decision. It was not so hard to study and she graduated with bachelor and master's degrees within 4 years. She still remembers the University professors, her first research paper for Academic Reading and Writing II class.

The topic that Assiya chose for her research project was "Opposition Parties in Kazakhstan". She is still surprised that the professor gave her permission to choose such kind of topic, because other local universities would never permit it. Her friend who was helping Assiya to conduct a survey and collect data almost got expelled from her university.

Even though Assiya works outside her specialty, the received knowledge at KIMEP help her in current work, her fund` projects.

Assiya believes that charity can immoralize. She likes to discover that a human being can be sensitive to the cause and is eager to help, make own contribution, but there is nothing that makes her feel more uncomfortable than mass helplessness, especially when it comes to the system` changes. She does not want to be surrounded by people who consider themselves a tiny cog in the system of corruption. Assiya and her team often do everything in their power to solve the problem rather than to find

A VOLUNTEER IS A PERSON WHO INVESTS OWN TIME, RESOURCES TO REACH THE GOAL WHICH HE OR SHE BELIEVES AND CONSIDERS IMPORTANT.

the cause, for instance, they collect money for medical treatment for needy people. She thinks that charity should be aimed at achieving the problem solution and sustainability. Her fund works on ecological and educational projects. In 2014 they have launched air quality monitoring project with the goal to provide data on air pollution in Almaty and one year later they presented the app AUA. Assiya and her team monitor the air, write and

translate articles, interviews, and reviews on the topic. They also have a design thinking workshop where they teach children to explore and find solutions for the urban problems through design thinking. All projects are focused on community development with the goal to create conscious, proactive and free society. In February 2020 they launched a petition for acceptance of the air pollution as the most important issue of Almaty. The petition had been signed by 30 thousand people. Another project called "With love in each loop" aimed to realize the handmade items by pensioners. The fund conducted various workshops in knitting, pottery and preparing meals made from family recipes.

Assiya frequently served as a volunteer during her studies in Kazakhstan and abroad. She still remembers her best volunteering experience for San Francisco Bicycle Coalition. They usually organize an event to promote bicycle culture in town, teach children to ride a bicycle. She likes how clearly structured is the system to recruit, motivate, encourage volunteers.



KAMILA LUKPANOVA, BAIJ 2009, MPA 2011

Her mom's dream was to see Kamila at KIMEP. It was in the '90s, when KIMEP became the most prestigious university in Kazakhstan. Kamila had her own dream. A dream to become a student of MGIMO University. But it was a time of rise of skinhead attacks in Moscow, that is why she rearranged her plans and became a proud student of KIMEP University. In early February she passed all exams still living in her hometown and late in March she already knew that she entered KIMEP, Faculty of Journalism. And right then she was gloriously happy. Now she considers that choice as the best in her life. It was not difficult to study. On the contrary, she thinks it was a very interesting period. In three years she was able to graduate from the university. Already being 20 years old she received her diploma in journalism and minor in marketing. She was enjoying every single day of her study without having a break, even during summers she took courses.

Kamila describes herself as a very active student: she was the head in dormitory, the only female President of Student Government, the founder of KIMEP Pie magazine, Dr. Bang's advisor, intern in Parliament and now she is KIMEP alumna ambassador. She is sure that student life at KIMEP became the most colorful page in her life and laid strong foundation to build a career. University applicants frequently hear from Kamila that KIMEP provides a lot of opportunities and improves self-confidence. After graduating you feel like you are able to do everything, you feel confidence in public speaking, ice breaking, dealing with your boss or colleagues. Knowledge and experience gained at KIMEP have proven to be invaluable.



Kamila assumes charity as the mandatory part of life that does not have to be announced to the whole world. Kamila provided help to children from orphanages, organized art auctions with the paintings drawn by disabled children, created different projects for autistic children. She also provides support for students who would like to study abroad by helping them to find and get scholarships.

Last years she was working on a completely new project. Modernization of library spaces in Almaty. She and her team have already upgraded Zhambyl youth library and five more libraries in Almaty. The main idea of the project was to breathe new life into existent libraries. Modernization of libraries opened the door to new cultural center for all citizens, especially young generation, students and kids. If we compare library visits within two years since re-opening, attendance increased ten times. Kamila came up with this idea after arrival from abroad. Libraries in local universities were so organic in daily life. She was inspired by that and wanted to do the same in Almaty. With the help of Public Fund supporting "Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy" and local government the idea became real. That social project is about education, culture as well as enlightenment.

Kamila serves as a volunteer, moreover, she thinks that each person is a volunteer for family, colleagues, friends, strangers. She participated in food distribution for veterans, in the New Year's Eve party for orphanage kids. Additionally, Kamila was deputy director for the 28th Winter World University Games in 2017, supervising 3000 volunteers. She still helps the League of Volunteers and assumes that volunteer is the most responsible citizen of the country and the whole world, who is ready to help financially and morally. Quality such as volunteer is inherent in everyone with no limits or age restrictions. She thinks volunteerism should be popularized, developed, promoted in society and she is glad that this year has been declared as the Year of Volunteer.

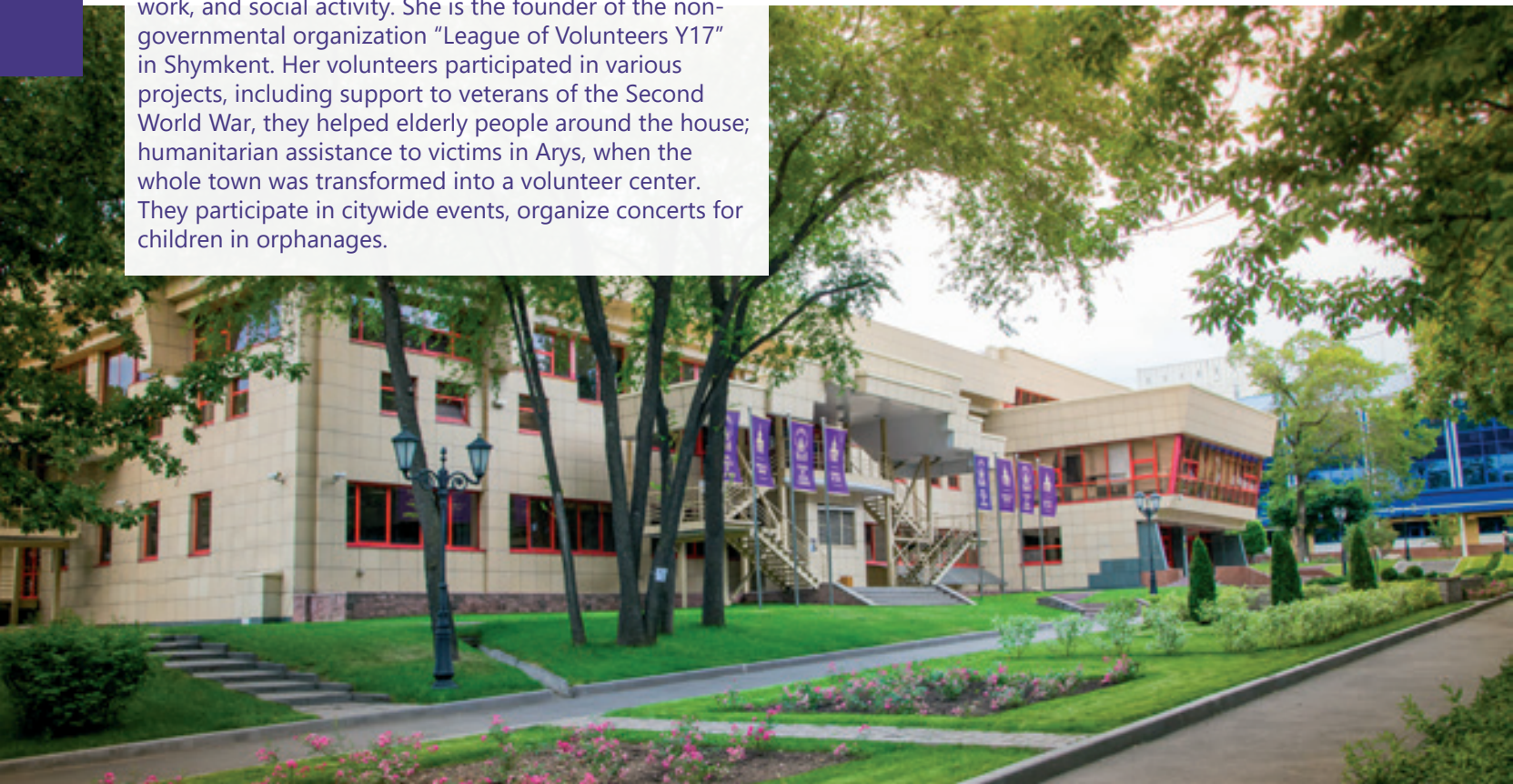
SAIRA AMANTAYEVA, BSSPA 2010

“VOLUNTEER IS A PERSON WHO SELFLESSLY HELP PEOPLE AROUND, WHO SINCERELY LOVES HIS/ HER COUNTRY AND THE WHOLE WORLD.”

When Saira was finishing the school, there was no alternative to KIMEP and her family financial position allowed her to enroll to this University. She still clearly remembers group projects, papers, midterms. Hours of work in the library and KIMEP canteen, where she met her friends during breaks. The skills gained at the management courses helped Saira to build her career more efficiently. Moreover, the courses of journalism led her to the profession where she was able to apply knowledge of news writing, interviewing skills.

Saira interprets charity as the sacred call from the heart. It makes people better, much more sophisticated in spiritual development. It does not matter if you disclose your good doings to the whole world or keep it to yourself, the key point is the invaluable act of kindness. Saira can easily balance business, voluntary work, and social activity. She is the founder of the non-governmental organization “League of Volunteers Y17” in Shymkent. Her volunteers participated in various projects, including support to veterans of the Second World War, they helped elderly people around the house; humanitarian assistance to victims in Arys, when the whole town was transformed into a volunteer center. They participate in citywide events, organize concerts for children in orphanages.

Without any state support or support of commercial organizations, they do well on their own. Saira initiates charity events mainly for children with serious illnesses and low-income families with many children. Additionally, she helps organizations, such as foundations “Artemka”, “Kobelek Balalar”, “Dom s Mayakom” and “Club Dobryakov” from time to time. Moreover, she has become “Run by Woman” representative recently. She considers herself a feminist and came up with the idea to create social brand of women. Probably, it is the first project of it is kind in Kazakhstan. Unfortunately, people who live in the south of the country, perceive “feminism” as the act of struggle with men. She is desperately trying to break that stereotype during heart-to-heart talks and on her Instagram page. Saira believes that our women are highly intelligent, strong, kind and deserve better life, but many of them lack confidence. The aim of “Run by Woman” is to motivate women who would like to change their lives, but hesitate due to some obstacles, to help and support those who are in a difficult situation. It is her own initiative since she assumes that the women’s potential is underestimated in Kazakhstan and the situation needs to be improved.



DAVRANBEK TASHBAYEV, BSSPA 2011

“VOLUNTEER IS A STRONG PERSON WITH A BIG HEART AND ENDLESS ENERGY THAT HELPS TO DO GOOD THINGS.”



Davranbek entered KIMEP, CSS, having a dream to help people. The subjects he took, the internship in the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, active student life, awesome professors, charity projects he was involved in: all that gave him a clear understanding of what he would like to do after graduation.

In his understanding, charity, first of all, is about love. The wish to do good without expecting to get anything in return. Davranbek was not satisfied with many things in city: lack of clean drinking water, poor living conditions for disabled people, pollution. A year ago together with 10 other activists he set up a public association named “Global Shapers Almaty”. Shapers are people who cause changes in society. People who really care about what is going on in the world and, in particular, in their home town. Shapers change lives of people for the better with their actions and hard work. Davranbek thinks that small associations can have positive impact on thousands of Almaty citizens. Therefore, they set up Oasis Almaty и Almaty Info Spots. These are the projects that encompass the entire city. Oasis Almaty is a fountain of drinking water at Panfilov St., so Almaty citizens can freely drink clean water. Almaty Info Spots are informational tourist plaques written in 6 different languages, describing

local landmarks. All these ideas appeared spontaneously: Davranbek and his team were thinking about the city’s major issues and the ways of solving them fast. For instance, Almaty has a big issue with drinking water. People do not have access to free of charge water in public places, they need to buy plastic bottles of water. Davranbek and his good friend Galym Baitimbetov, founder of Aqua Point, decided to create a fountain of drinking water, a year later it was established at Arbat.

As you all know, COVID–19 is pandemic. The problems with hospitals, the lack of medical care for those who need it. Davranbek and his team decided to solve this problem by creating online medical platform together with iDoctor.kz., helping people to consult with doctors online, using chats, audio & video calls absolutely for free. This new technology helps thousands of Kazakhstan citizens.



MERUYERT TLEBALDY, BAE 2012



Almost everyone had a dream of becoming KIMEP student at that time. KIMEP had such advantages as foreign professors, international curriculum, international students. Other local universities were not able to offer that level of education. Meruyert truly liked the campus and easily joined the university life. She recollects her student days at KIMEP as the best moments of her life. University empowered her. She still remembers the words of the Dean of her College that economists are able to work in different areas. Being a student, she studied various courses and was never afraid to be out of job, because graduates of Bachelor of Economics can easily in a short time adapt to varying conditions. The knowledge and skills she gained at KIMEP have helped her in all further career positions. Honestly, she thinks that knowledge comes with experience.

Meruyert considers charity as uncompensated assistance. People just give their attention, time, money, love, care to people. Her recent projects involve the support of the Embassy of the US in Kazakhstan, for instance, the concert with the American band or master-class in freestyle for Paralympic Training Centre's members. Earlier it was a project supporting students with disabilities in their social development. Meruyert also was a proud member of the Global Sports Mentoring Program with the support of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State. It was a program where 17-18 delegations from various countries congregated to share knowledge on the development of the para sport. Mentors gave participants opportunity to develop management and business skills in American sport environment and helped to form the vision of change.

Meruyert works in the National Paralympic Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan, helps to train disabled sportsmen to participate in the Paralympic Games and other international sports events. Meruyert prepares para taekwondo development in Kazakhstan application to date. Due to the current pandemic situation our para sportsmen need special support.

Meruyert remembers how volunteering has helped her during her student years.



KASSIYET OMAROVA, MPA 2013

SHE BECAME A VOLUNTEER IN 2005 AND HAS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES BY OUTSTANDING WORK

Kassiyet graduated from Almaty Technological University in 1998 and received the diploma of "economist-manager". She studied in graduate school one year more. She started to work as an economist until she lost her eyesight, and her dream to become a successful economist did not come true. Kassiyet began to work in the non-governmental organization and only then decided to apply to KIMEP where she received a full scholarship to study Public Administration. The most challenging part of learning was to understand vast volumes of materials in English. The scholarship required to take 3 courses a semester - a heavy workload to her in the first few months, but later she got used to that, and the learning process became more interesting. Now she can easily say that it was the best education in her life. She remembers that pleasant atmosphere where professors respect students, instructors support students' opinion and creativity as well. Kassiyet successfully graduated from KIMEP and started to work in the civil service at the Ministry of Investments and Development. She became the first civil servant with a severe disability in Kazakhstan. She likes to be the first, she likes to meet challenges, likes to do things that no one has ever made before, and KIMEP gave her that opportunity.

In her opinion, social work is the way of establishing justice as well as developing a sense of dignity and respect for those who experience difficulties in life.

In 2009 during her internship in Japan, Kassiyet was supposed to present her project and implement it upon the return to Kazakhstan. She was inspired by the program where small groups of people with disabilities were able to travel across Japan, visit sights and cultural events. She thought it would be interesting to create something similar in Kazakhstan, and that was how "Zholashar" project appeared.

"Zholashar" became the first project of "Arzhan" foundation which was established in 2010. Kassiyet was the director of the "Arzhan" SF for a few years. This project involved more than 30 volunteers, mostly KIMEP students. Together with volunteers and with support of "Sabi" foundation, Kassiyet worked on the project preparation for 5 months.

The most challenging part was that at that time in Almaty, there were no accessible buses, accessible tourist destinations even no single accessible public toilets. "Sabi" foundation provided buses for excursions; student volunteers prepared the guided tour, professional tour guides were also invited. It was a high-profile entertainment project. Kassiyet and her team the whole week persuaded people with disabilities to participate in

the project, promising them free of charge unforgettable city excursions. It was an absolute miracle. People with disabilities who rarely before left their houses got a unique chance to enjoy the tour around the city. The project gave participants so many emotions. There was a story about a 44-year-old man in a wheelchair who for the first time in his life took the ride in a glass elevator in Mall. He went up to the last floor and was so happy.

One more project implemented with KIMEP student volunteers was "Movie week for all". Cinemas of Almaty collaborated with the foundation to allow free of charge access for people with disabilities and accompanying people to movies. About 2000 people visited cinemas within the project. During 7 years "Arzhan" foundation worked actively, implementing over 20 social projects for people with disabilities. They worked closely with museums, cinemas, universities, transport companies, tourist agencies, international organizations, central and local governments.

Another project was called "Accessible Museums". Kassiyet and her team jointly with the museums made tactile copies of paintings and audio description of 17 paintings for Kasteyev State Museum of Arts. They are available on a permanent base. Visually impaired visitors can touch the tactile copies and listen to the description. The Ministry of Culture and almost all museums in Kazakhstan were inspired by this project and started to organize their own accessible exhibitions and events.

In 2017 "Arzhan" SF helped KIMEP students to make a short video about the access ibility of subway in Almaty. Student volunteers with closed eyes had to explore the road from the entrance to the subway till the train and back. The results of the experiment were placed on YouTube.

Student volunteers always were actively engaged in the "Arzhan" foundation initiatives. Their numbers varied from project to project. For example, "Movie Week for all" had 120 volunteers, on other events the foundation needed 30 students, in some projects 2 or 3 volunteers were enough. KIMEP students helped the foundation with eagerness.

"Arzhan" still has a lot of projects and ideas that need to be implemented.

Many things have changed in the past 10 years. Kassiyet Omarova does an amazing job. Her plans now are to discover the issue of employment opportunities for people with disabilities, understand, how realistic it is for them to find a job.

AMANAT MUSSIN, BSSPA 2016

His life credo is to live a full life, in order to leave own life's mark. Live each moment as if it is the last day, realizing all your dreams.

His wife Meruyert has always been his inspiration and the main supporter in the hardest time of his life. She was the one who persuaded him to believe that he would be able to enter the best university in Kazakhstan. And he did. Amanat enrolled to KIMEP University and even got the University Presidential scholarship to study at the College of Social Sciences. English language courses taught by foreign instructors appeared to be the main challenge to him. Occasionally he even had thoughts to withdraw from KIMEP. Nevertheless, Amanat and his wife Meruyert went through all difficulties together. 16 years they have been happily married, with two wonderful kids: Altair, 15 years old boy, who is interested in Politics and has very good English language skills, and 12 years old girl Dameli, who is successful in Math and Physics.

Regardless of difficulties, the process of learning was interesting and productive. Due to his physical limitations, it was hard to take notes and with professors' permission, he started to audio record lessons and later on, in a quiet atmosphere, revise materials. Amanat has begun to think in English in his final year of study. He even remembers the case when he accidentally filled the questionnaire, which actually was in Russian, in English without realizing it. During the last two semesters he moved to the dormitory, because he wanted to graduate from the university as fast as possible without being distracted, but weekends he spent with his family. All the knowledge he got developed his critical thinking, he was able to clearly formulate his thoughts and express his point of view, structure action plan and communicate with people.

Amanat uses skills and knowledge he got at KIMEP in his everyday work as the active public figure, member of the Coordinating Council on issues of people with disabilities under the leadership of Almaty Akim. Amanat strongly believes that his mission is to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities.

Association of parents with children with disabilities is a public association created by a group of enthusiastic parents in far 1991. They decided to help their children get on feet back again, to socialize, to benefit from educational opportunities. This center, where Amanat conducts trainings, has a goal to prepare young people to get a high school diploma and enter universities. Amanat represented Kazakhstan at the International Congress on the Rights of People with Disabilities in the United Kingdom which was entitled "Nothing about us without us". He was invited to the United States to discuss the issues of inclusive education. Amanat's choice to study Public Administration at KIMEP helps him to implement social projects changing our society.

Amanat promotes interests and rights of young people with disabilities and he himself is a good example of how to stay strong and move forward.



SHAKHZADA SHOGELBAYEVA, BMKT 2017

Shakhzada enrolled to KIMEP University in 2013 for the second year of study. When she was at high school she had a plan to attend Nazarbayev University or Vienna State University, and impeccably followed the plan. She did not think about KIMEP at that time. First of all, due to the high tuition fee and impossibility of applying for a scholarship, which later turned out to be not true. However, fate just had its own plan regarding Shakhzada. She had a dream one week before the announcement of results for admission to Nazarbayev University. She was sitting in a big classroom and clearly understood it was not Nazarbayev University. In front of her tall and thin professor, as it turned out later it was Michael Konrad, was giving a lecture. It was a prophetic dream. Shakhzada failed to enter the desired university, so she enrolled to Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and started to prepare to enter Vienna State University. She was not satisfied with the education in the state university. She lacked the English-speaking environment and academic quality. Shakhzada frequently visited Zhambyl Youth Library to read books in English and one day she heard how someone started to discuss scholarships at KIMEP. Thus, she found out about U.S. – CAEF foundation that sponsors students from Kazakhstan and Central Asia. She immediately started to prepare for the next round of selection with the idea to attend KIMEP. Active student life was forgotten. She was studying hard, writing essays, preparing for interviews day and night and yes, finally she became a proud KIMEP student. KIMEP taught her that everything is possible. With skills and knowledge gained during studies, you can be wherever you want, create a world where you really want to live and yield benefits. Shakhzada studied brand management, it attracted

her, because the brand is the way of communication, it is about values, power of persuasion. She liked how professors encouraged, supported their students, motivated to develop critical thinking. And now she can easily say that almost all received knowledge was crucial and helped her in different aspects of life, for instance, she remembers the meaning of “opportunity cost” from macroeconomic course and it is helpful in the decision making.

Shakhzada had two charity experiences in student life. She taught English to children from low-income families, organized donations, bought products for home for the elderly, whom she and groups of students visited on the 9th of May. She remembers how that elderly people were staying in bed and how gratefully they held students’ hands. It was a very emotional moment. Charity should always come from the heart. To help others is to help yourself. People learn not to be selfish. Shakhzada does not consider herself an experienced volunteer, but she follows her inner voice and desire to bring more good doings to the world in the nearest future.



“VOLUNTEER IS A PERSON WHO CAN LOOK AT THE WORLD THROUGH THE HEART, NOT THE BRAIN.”

After her marriage Shakhzada moved back to Karaganda, where she was born. She gave birth to a daughter and half year later released that she was missing atmosphere that was at KIMEP: guest speakers on a regular basis, lots of ideas, knowledge, insights. She frequently watched TEDx show on YouTube while walking out with her daughter and one day she met friends, who supported her thoughts on creating platforms for dialogue and organizing forums on various acute issues. Shakhzada organized the very first conference which was called "Change". They wanted to convey the idea that if you do not like something, then change it. Do not complain but make the real change. The number of viewers of the first TEDxShahterovAve reached 100 people. Shakhzada is happy that the first conference was warmly received by people in Karaganda. Citizens still ask her when is the next conference. It means that topics raised were useful and interesting. It is a unique opportunity to hear new ideas of local creative people, support them, join their initiatives. Shakhzada acknowledges that she and her team now have the understanding of how public life of town is developing and how they can promote it. The search process of speakers is another big part of preparation. To begin with, they form the preliminary topics and research area, after that they discuss topics with local activists, universities, contact media to find people with interesting and useful ideas. In addition, they receive and review applications of people who would like to serve as a speaker, discover their ideas, meet face to face. It is labor-intensive, but very interesting process. Speakers of all ages and professions shared their opinion and experience, for instance, Kamila Rollan, former expert and consultant on inclusive education and protection of children's rights, described how she was able to open the first center of inclusive education in Kazakhstan. "Ideas that are deserved to be shared" – that is how the slogan of TEDx conferences sounds. It is important to maintain trust, because sharing of thoughts is compared to the breath of fresh air and a hope for a positive change for most of the regions. However, during preparation she faced difficulties in finding sponsors, many people, including directors of companies have not heard about TED and TEDx before, and for that reason they did not see the point of supporting the conference. Fortunately, Bolashak Association noticed them, realizing benefits of the new activity for the local community. TEDx it is not only about sharing ideas, but also about new meetings with people. Therefore, local young entrepreneurs who care about the development of their hometown became the sponsors of the conference. There even was an interesting case. Manager of a big constructing company asked them during the presentation of their project, if

they want to earn money through that conference, just like everybody else does and what that company would receive in return. Shakhzada and her friends smiled without saying a word and left. This situation illustrates that people perceive public conferences as a way to earn money. TEDx conferences are not about earnings, firstly, because it is a voluntary project, secondly, all the proceeds from the ticket sales and sponsors go to the organization expenses.

Together with volunteers she also created the group named "Change Karaganda" with the goal to establish positive changes in social life of their city. Within the framework of the project she organized collecting and buying of books to help orphanage in Temirtau city. Ex-director of Karaganda Regional Junior Library named after Zh. Bekturov, Gauhar Bekbalakova provide serious support by sharing nearly 40 books of literature to the orphanage.

Shakhzada plans more good doings in the near future. It is fascinating to do good things, there is no guarantee that you will not fail, but the most challenging moment is when people are ready to support you and together you can change the world.



BEKNUR RAKHMANKULOV, BLLB 2017

Beknur decided to choose KIMEP since his sister was studying there. Tuition fee discount for students from one family was available at that time, that is why his uncle suggested to cover payment for him and to send him to KIMEP as well. Beknur realized that it was his golden ticket to a bright future and was not mistaken. Well, it was difficult to study at the beginning, but he was the only one to blame for this. He was poor at time management, distracted by unnecessary things, but then one day everything changed. He met a very successful senior year student who taught him about time

management, recommended books on the topic, and his student life changed completely. Beknur realizes that he has received an incredible degree of knowledge at KIMEP. It allows him to easily do research, draft complex legal and commercial documents and solve problems without any stress. Need to be mentioned that besides studies, he actively participated in various summer schools, one of which prejudged his future hobby – social entrepreneurship.

Beknur fondly remembers his student years, especially when he and two sophomore students won important intellectual competition. According to the rules, Beknur could not participate in the competition, he was supposed to prepare participants, encourage them. Their competitors were students from KAZGUU, Nur-Sultan, with whom they frequently competed in other games. During the preparation time he did not sleep enough, he wanted his team to perform perfectly and they did. The audience exploded with applause when the winners

A VOLUNTEER IS A PERSON WHO SACRIFICES TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOMETHING SPIRITUALLY CLOSE TO HIM OR HER.



were announced. People were looking at the winners with awe and Beknur was seated behind the winners. He will never forget the moment when his wards turned at once and looked at him with gratitude. Almost no one came to Beknur to shake hands. All eyes were on the winners. Beknur was in the shadow, feeling himself adult and truly happy. He did not need public recognition to understand that his impact made those guys strong. They, in turn, brought victory. However, another exciting moment was when Dr. Bang sent him official thank-you letter for that victory.

He believes that charity is the help that includes two key elements. First of all, the help should be directed to the people who actually need it. Secondly, a needy person should prove the deservingness of this help, the only exception to this may be when a needy person can not prove it. For instance, children, because of their age they are unable to justify the need for help, that is why help must be provided anyway. However, it is important to



understand that giving the money to the tramp is not a charity. On the contrary, it is almost all about wrecking. People encourage the dependent lifestyle, which deprives a person of the autonomy and create additional pressure on the society. Beknur admits that he met a lot of volunteers who at the beginning of the project sincerely believed that will find target audience full of enthusiasm to receive new opportunities to earn money, become successful. Regrettably, many on them got hurt and disappointed since many needy people would like just to receive and do not return anything back. He does not want to help that kind of people. This is not a charity.

A year ago Beknur created a small sewing textile production department, where the seamstresses can be only financially needy single mothers, by that they can combine work and baby care. That is how SP "United Qazaqstan" was born. Since then, they have already served Airport, Roza Luxembourg Foundation, and small fund named "Just Support", also they sold hundreds of t-shirts, eco-bags, rucksacks. Sadly, they are frequently confused with "Qazaq Republic", due to that Beknur and his team think about rebranding. The project was

created spontaneously and unexpectedly. Its roots go deeper from summer school. One day the speaker explained corporate social responsibility and social entrepreneurship. These topics attracted him and later he found co-working space Impact HUB Almaty, which supports all social initiatives, consequently came to what he has now.

Beknur and his team are slowly developing two ideas. The production of souvenir products for organizations and production for consumers. For various organizations they offer t-shirts, caps, eco-bags with their logos and for consumers they create unique, high-quality and functional solutions. For instance, eco-bags. They all have two handles, however, their project is to provide bags with 3 pockets, ring carabiner for keys and a regulated handle. They have developed its design by themselves and are really proud of that. It is called "Eco Gear Pro".



KIMEP FAMILY HELPS DURING THE PANDEMIC

2020 was declared the Volunteer Year. This year coronavirus hit us and became the impetus for the development and creation of many volunteer organizations. In this difficult time the spirit of volunteerism helped to overcome hardships. The article describes activities of several large organizations in various fields of volunteering that helped during quarantine and not only.

A lot of KIMEP alumni and students are members of these organizations, you can join by contacting the leaders in the contact information. KIMEP members- faculty, alumni, students - play an important role in the life of Kazakhstani society, and volunteering is part of community service.

JARDEM ALMATY

Jardem Almaty is a community initiative group, is an independent association of specialists, socially active citizens of Kazakhstan with a wide experience in volunteer and social activities. At current moment they are working in partnership with public, state and initiative organizations in Almaty city.

The areas of activities are:

1. Supporting healthcare professionals at the epicenter of COVID-19:
 - * assistance in providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for doctors and volunteers;
 - * assistance in supplying food and water for medical personnel at work sites.
2. Assistance in opening extra places for hospitalization at equipped private medical centers in Almaty.
3. Monitoring pharmacies and hospitals in the city to check availability of required medicines for sale (along with the community monitoring group).
4. Control over the distribution of humanitarian aid (together with community monitoring group).
5. Informational support and coverage of these initiatives, work carried out in Almaty in social networks and other official sources.

Contacts:

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Instagram: @jardemaid

Email: jardem.almaty2020@gmail.com

87772990057 Galina Kiryan (BSS 2004, MIR 2006)

CONNECT-ED

A charitable initiative called "Connect-Ed" was set up by young Kazakhstani education activists with the goal of providing necessary equipment to schoolchildren in need. The founders of the project, Gulnaz Kordanova and Daniyar Kussainov, believe that even in 2020, having personal computer and stable access to the Internet at home is still a privilege.

Thanks to the organization, more than 100 children now have the opportunity to start the school year remotely. From May to the present day, they donated more than 60 items of equipment to children with special educational needs and those left without parental care.

Contacts:

Instagram: @connected_kz

info@connect-ed.kz

Aidana Bassenova (BFIN 2017)



GLOBAL SHAPERS ALMATY

The Global Shapers Community is a network of inspiring young people under the age of 30 working together to address local, regional and global challenges. With more than 7,000 members, the Global Shapers Community spans 369 city-based hubs in 171 countries. In each city, teams of Shapers self-organize to create projects that address the needs of their community. Projects are wide-ranging – from responding to disasters and combating poverty, to fighting climate change and building inclusive communities. Shapers are diverse in expertise, education, income and race, but are united by their desire to bring about change.



BIRGEMIZ ALMATY

During the quarantine, the organization Birgemiz Almaty was engaged in the delivery of food, medicine, first aid kits, and also helped elderly people from the risk zone. They also disseminated important information about coronavirus, precautions, treatment, wearing masks, creating clear instructions for social networks.

Contacts:
@birgemiz.Almaty
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Global Shapers Almaty is a non-profit organization created with the support of the World Economic Forum. They work on projects for the city in the fields of education, urbanism, gender equality and health development.

Contacts:
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Altynay Mambetova (BSSIR 2015)
87753424828

THE YMIT ACADEMY

The Ymit Academy project was created by graduates of prestigious schools in Kazakhstan with the aim of helping young generation grow up competent and competitive in all matters and industries. This is another new volunteer movement in our country. Children from rural regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan, large and low-income families, families of police officers and health workers can study for free at the Academy.

Contacts:

@ymit.academy

Elshibekov Sanzhar 87470593928

TEACHING FOR HEROES

Teaching for heroes (TFH) is a new charitable social project initiated by students and graduates of leading schools and universities in Kazakhstan, the USA, Great Britain and other countries. This project started to provide support for doctors and contribute to the struggle against COVID-19. Today, each medical worker is a hero, standing at the forefront every day of the virus war.

Teaching For Heroes created an online platform bringing together representatives of the new generation who are ready to learn and share their knowledge with each other. Children of doctors from 8 to 16 years old can receive free online lessons to practice their English speaking skills with top-class teachers. Whether they are interested in sports, art, travel or medicine, they will always find an inspiring mentor with us. They can choose from among over 400 teachers who are fluent in English.

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UCAN STUDY

UCAN is a charity project created by a team of ambitious schoolchildren. Schoolchildren from low-income families and large families, children of doctors and orphans from grades 3 to 11 can find a teacher for a subject in which they are experiencing difficulties.

The purpose of the online project is additional training for those students who cannot afford it, instilling interest in learning, and disclosing talents. The project is useful for both students and volunteers, as our volunteers, while teaching, develop their own skills and knowledge. Volunteers are schoolchildren with good academic performance, participants in Olympiads, students of leading universities.

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THE LEAGUE OF VOLUNTEERS

The League of Volunteers of Kazakhstan has existed since 2013, it is one of the largest volunteer organizations in Kazakhstan. It is expanding every year, and there are branches in all cities of Kazakhstan.

The League's projects are aimed at developing the volunteer movement in Kazakhstan, attracting people of all ages to charity work and helping socially vulnerable groups of the population, caring for the environment and historical monuments, as well as supporting students and schoolchildren.

The volunteers worked under the general concept of "Birgemiz" within seven nationwide volunteer development areas: "Birgemiz: Bilim", "Birgemiz: Saylyq", "Birgemiz: Sabaqtastyq", "Birgemiz: Taza Alemiz", "Birgemiz: Asyl mura" : Qamqor ", " Birgemiz: Umit ".

The Bilim project promotes quality education, helps students in choosing a faculty, eliminates dishonest exams, and monitors the quality of knowledge gained. Asyl Mura focuses on the accumulation and preservation of cultural heritage and monuments, monitoring the city's historical values. The Qamqor project is aimed at supporting socially vulnerable groups of the population and helping low-income families and large families, helping people with disabilities and lonely pensioners. The Saýlyq project promotes a healthy lifestyle, ecotourism. Within the framework of the Sabaqtastyq project, they provide assistance to orphanages, orphans, children from single-parent and low-income families. Úmit is a project to search for missing people, disaster risk reduction and emergency response. Taza Àlem focuses on the protection and preservation of the environment.

"We couldn't stand aside during a pandemic. Every day we helped with the packaging and contactless delivery of products. We also carried out explanatory work with the population. There were projects to monitor pharmacies and deliver medicines to those in need,- "says Aisulu Erniyazova, chairperson of the League.

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KIMEP AND QUARANTINE: NEW REALITY AND CHALLENGES

Today, KIMEP as well as the other educational institutions are facing challenges previously unknown. Business worldwide and in Kazakhstan in particular is experiencing stress, shock and confusion. Is KIMEP responding in time to changing circumstances and the business climate? How KIMEP is finding optimal solutions for the functioning in a new academic year?

We asked a number of KIMEP faculty, students and administration staff, what they think about the life in quarantine. We wanted to know was KIMEP reacting properly to the new realities, new challenges caused by COVID-19 pandemic. What are the main lessons KIMEP has learned from the period of 2 months lockdown in Kazakhstan in March-April, and again in July 2020.

Here we present some brief answers to our interview questions.

1. What major lessons, positive and negative, have you learned from life in quarantine?

FACULTY 1: The main lesson probably was that things can change very quickly and unexpectedly, and one has to accept this as a part of life.

FACULTY 2: Life is all about change and learning to live with change. Moving forward successfully means adapting to change, not stopping it. Don't wait for life to return to normal, because it won't.

KIMEP STUDENT: When I first realized that the next few weeks we have to stay home, I was kind of lost. Firstly, I was afraid of the whole pandemic situation and secondly, I was worried about the rest of the semester! Since it was my last semester at KIMEP, I hoped the quarantine will be over in a few weeks' time. It is sad that I spent my last two months of studying at home, but I really appreciate the effort Kazakhstan made to minimize the virus spread. We can argue a lot about whether it was a good decision to be isolated or not, but we have to admit that we made a good effort to help the healthcare workers. Safety first.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF 1: Quarantine has changed a lot in our lives regarding our work, communication style. It changed our priorities. When my colleagues and I congratulated each other on the March holidays, everything was just in the very beginning, and none of us even imagined what the quarantine would be like and how it would influence at our life. After two months, we have gained new experience in new circumstances. When it is impossible to hold large public events, no way to show our beautiful campus, when live communication has become inaccessible luxury – that is new reality. Now we conduct online consultations, webinars for our applicants and their parents. As before, we have loyal and regular visitors to our events, even if it's online. We recognize and welcome them, each time finding new arguments, new answers to the main question of student recruitment - Why choose KIMEP?

ADMINISTRATION STAFF 2: The world's pandemic, quarantine, state of emergency, roadblocks hit us like a hurricane. Because of the whole situation caused by COVID-19, we had to move to distance learning and teaching, and some employees had to switch to the remote regime. Most of the team went on unplanned vacations. We forced to start a new life and work style in some kind of parallel reality. Vladimir Vysotsky sang in his famous song "Тот же лес, тот же воздух и та же вода, ТОЛЬКО..." all of a sudden everything became different.

2. Were you comfortable working/studying/ teaching online / remote?

FACULTY 1: Overall, teaching online is much harder than face-to-face. You do not see your audience as a whole, and do not feel as many emotions as you do in a classroom. Teaching online was a useful necessity. On the other hand, online tools provided new opportunities for networking with colleagues in other countries.

FACULTY 2: Education involves building relationships with others, and this is different in an online-only environment. In summer I am teaching a course in which a large number of students have never been in class with me before. Despite this, I see I am able to build relationships with many of those students. That makes me hopeful about prospects for distance teaching, even if it is not the same as face-to-face.

KIMEP STUDENT: I really appreciate our professors' hard working. Overall, I did not have any major problems with studying online at all. Maybe, it was very fortunate to me that by the time we started studying online I have already finished all of my finance courses, which could be harder to understand if you are studying online. I am going to be honest, I spent about first two weeks procrastinating, I was enjoying the freedom I had at my house, so I watched a lot of interesting movies and TV shows. I guess it was some kind of my way to release the stress (I was so tired of watching news every day). Later I organized myself and since I had upcoming state exams, I started to study more. So, I was able to manage my time, I spent more time reading, learning and cooking. During quarantine, I decided to try out different recipes, spend more time with my family, and watch stuff that is more fun.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF 1: During quarantine time, we improved our culinary skills, rediscovered the luxury of communicating with family members. We watched TV shows, re-read our favorite books. By the way, I have noticed that the parents of our potential students and our applicants during our online meeting started to share with us innermost thoughts, entrust us with their dreams and fears. Sometimes the usual consultations turned into long sincere and frank conversations. Sometimes we imagined how we went together all the way from admission to the Graduation Ceremony.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF 2: We had to redesign overall activities in our library in order to provide maximum help to our faculty and students. Firstly, we had to organize a remote access to electronic resources for distance learning. The library has subscriptions to many full-text electronic databases. Unfortunately, all of them were available on the university campus according to registered IP addresses. We contacted the relevant companies and asked for remote access to their databases. Many of them responded positively and provided us with an access. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan also helped a lot, organizing three months free access to 14 databases of EBSCOhost. All those efforts helped tremendously to our faculty and especially undergraduate students in writing their master of theses.

3. How can distance learning change KIMEP U?

FACULTY 1: It is too early to judge. I expect that the next academic year will show more profound changes.

FACULTY 2: I have seen several cases of students who are more successful in the online environment than face-to-face, whether because it helps them solve problems of distance or for other reasons. I am hopeful those successes can extend our connections with students.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF 1: Of course, it is sad to see an empty campus without our beloved, wonderful students. After all, everything is for their sake. KIMEP was founded, built up for students, for their funny laughs, gatherings in the coffee house and sittings on the campus benches, full and noisy study rooms, where new bold ideas are born. When you walk on a deserted campus, you feel sad. We all live in the hope that it will all end and KIMEP will be flooded with a rumble of voices and familiar faces of our students.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF 2: We had a problem! Unfortunately, in our library, we did not have electronic versions of textbooks, and students, due to the strict quarantine measures, could not come to the university to get books or work out in reading rooms.

At the same time, it was nice to realize that our library community, with the help of Association of Libraries of Higher Education in Kazakhstan, had become supportive and responded promptly to our request, and helped in finding and providing the necessary materials in electronic form.

4. Did quarantine help you to become closer with your family? What new activities happened in your family during quarantine?

FACULTY 2: In fact, communicating with family and friends was one of just a few pleasant things about the quarantine.

KIMEP STUDENT: As a 4th year student, just before quarantine, I had busy schedule, managing my family time with work was a little bit hard. I missed family evenings, because I used to get home very late, when everybody was almost sleeping. But then, when we were on quarantine, we were all at home, I was happy to spend every day with my big family, it is never boring for us to be together! First week or two we were watching a new movie every day, it was fun, but at the end I got tired of it. I love spending evenings with my parents, because we can talk on different topics for hours. In addition, we cooked and we cooked a lot! We played different games, usually my dad was playing chess with my brothers and also my little siblings learned how to play mafia with us,

adults, it was fun. I came from a big family, and I was always comfortable spending time with my siblings, so, for me, it was okay to live in quarantine as a big family. Sometimes it was very loud and exhausting, but mostly I enjoyed this time with my parents and siblings.

5. How fast did KIMEP U react to Covid-19?

FACULTY 1: KIMEP University's management was extremely efficient in reacting to the situation. To me, this is just another example of how private enterprises are generally managed more efficiently than some public institutions.

KIMEP STUDENT: I loved the way that KIMEP reacted quickly, and we were all switched to distance learning. It only depended on the professors, how quickly they will adapt to the new format. Some of my professors took it very easily from the first class and organized everything perfectly. But there were also some others, who needed a little bit more time to get used to the new way of teaching. I understand them, and I really appreciate their efforts.

6. How did you struggle with fear, social uncertainty, panic, depression during quarantine?

FACULTY 1: I did not experience any of those.

KIMEP STUDENT: I used to watch the news every day, and it was so disturbing, there was a feeling like everything was falling apart in the World... But it's not! I stopped checking the numbers, news and anything, what could negatively affect my mood. Just think about it, watching news in television makes us panic more... News make profits out of making people anxious, that is what they do for the living, and it is okay. We just have to stop worrying so much, be responsible for your own actions and be a good man – and everything is going to be fine. Of course, I was worried first two weeks, but then I decided to be busier, so that I will not have time to think and process all the negative events. I suggest you to keep yourself busy and think positively!

ADMINISTRATION STAFF 1: KIMEP has always been and will be unique. This is his strength, the secret of his attraction. We all are one big family. Students, graduates, teachers, employees of administrative departments. I worked at KIMEP for more than 20 years, and I still keep in touch with many graduates and former colleagues. We monitor their success and happy for their accomplishments. They move up the career ladders,

brilliantly embody new projects, and travel to the new cities and countries. They form their own families, and their children are born. This is the greatest happiness - to know that our Alumni are doing well. I strongly believe that quarantine will not have any impact on this feeling of Happiness. Knowing this, we can overcome any difficulties.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF 2: All our life and work suddenly turned into a virtual reality. We had to change our psychological approach to the current situation. Lately, we started to become heavily dependent on our mobile phones and laptops, and other devices, and that turned into something almost maniac. As a result, we started to miss an ordinary human communication. Sometimes I think that the situation with pandemic has been given to us as a lesson to helping us to analyze our life, appreciate simple things that we have - our job, colleagues, friends and relatives. Definitely, I have learned my lessons. Now I want to be kinder, to value life, to be useful to my country and to all who need me.

We have gained invaluable experience in many ways, both in self-organization and in the organizing of our work under new conditions.

7. Please tell us the most interesting story that happened with you during quarantine?

FACULTY 2: Truly, there was not much interesting. It felt like three months have just been thrown away.

KIMEP STUDENT: One of the interesting stories is about the birthday celebration of my grandma, since we were on a lock-down, celebrating her birthday and inviting guests is not allowed and could put the health of all of us under the risk, we organized zoom meeting with all of my relatives, sitting in our kitchens and celebrating together 😊 I also played some games with my friends through the zoom! It helped to keep us together even on quarantine, I loved that. The whole experience of distance learning was really interesting, but I think it can become too comfortable to study at home, so it's good only for a short time period 😊

8. Did you use with maximum free time during quarantine to get new skills, to sign up for new training, to start dancing, singing, learning foreign language, drawing pictures?

FACULTY 1: I used some of the quarantine time to work on my research.

KIMEP STUDENT: Since I had low activity level due to staying home, I started training on my own. Now, I made a good habit of training almost every day in order to keep myself active. I really loved training videos on YouTube, right now there are so many channels, which you can train with, and I highly recommend checking out Pamela Reif's videos on YouTube. In addition, I discovered I love dancing and singing karaoke! I like African dances, which I found also on YouTube, they help me to instantly turn my positive mood on, so I really suggest you to try out sometime!

9. What new books did you read, new movies and performances did you watch that impressed you strongly?

FACULTY 1: I have read the Arcadia trilogy by Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of the Law Faculty at the National University of Singapore. It is a story of a young girl who is at least as observant as Sherlock Holmes was. Very interesting books. Highly recommended.

KIMEP STUDENT: Let me mention some interesting resources that I recommend to check out! I enjoyed reading Stephen King's "Misery", "Becoming" the autobiography of Michelle Obama, some of Dale Carnegie's books and started reading Lee Kuan Yew's "From Third World to First: The Singapore Story: 1965-2000". Now, I recently started watching videos on meditation and self-development, very inspiring! From movies, I can highlight one of them that I liked: it is "Dark waters" about the famous DuPont scandal in early 2000s. I listened to many podcasts of "FindYourB" and I watched many old videos on TED talks, really interesting and entertaining.

Definitely one of the positive results of life in quarantine according to all respondents was strengthening of family ties.

FACULTY 1

Sergey Sayapin LLB, LLM, Dr. iur., PhD
Associate Professor
LLB in International Law Programme Director

FACULTY 2

Frederick Emrich
Chair, Assistant Professor, Department of Media and Communications
Chair, Academic Council

KIMEP STUDENT

Zhaniya Khairulla
BFIN-4

ADMINISTRATION STAFF 2

Olga Zaitseva, Library, Director

ADMINISTRATION STAFF 1

Sholpan Zhumabayeva, Admission, Senior Officer

ALUMNI REUNION IN NUR-SULTAN

On December 7, 2019, an Alumni Reunion in Nur-Sultan was held at Vista Restaurant, Astana Marriot Hotel. More than a hundred graduates from different years, colleges and programs gathered to celebrate the New Year. Graduates took part in various competitions and lotteries with prizes from KIMEP and the main sponsors Scat Airlines, The Thai Restaurant, Astana Marriott Hotel, Khan Rai Travel, BI Group. The host of the event was KIMEP graduate and famous showman Kirill Meister. KIMEP University was represented by Raushan Kanaeva, Asem Beyseminova, Nurlan Orazalin and Dinara Sagindykova. The event was organized by KIMEP Ambassadors of Nur-Sultan Saltanat Kerimbayeva, Bagdaulet Turekhanov, Zerip Kosym, Raushan Taurkulova, Ainura Ashimova, Leila Ospanova, Asem Kazzhanova and Gulmarzhan Bektenova. All of them received certificates of gratitude from the KIMEP management. The alumni also presented a commemorative prize to KIMEP representatives, which was presented to the President of KIMEP, Dr. Chan Young Bang.



ALUMNI IN ADMISSION CAMPAIGN

Quarantine has disrupted the plans of the whole world, and KIMEP'S work is no exception. We had planned grandiose events - Open House Day, which was supposed to take place not only within the walls of KIMEP, but also in different cities: starting with Nursultan and ending with Aktobe. There were supposed to be alumni who would share their experiences and inspire prospective students to enter. However, the pandemic has not spared anyone. Nevertheless, KIMEP did not give up the planned events and immediately went online.

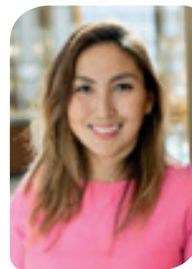
Since the beginning of the quarantine, we have held 19 webinars for high school students in Zoom, which has already become a must-have application for everyone. At the webinars, alumni talked about their learning experiences at KIMEP, and then held a Q&A session. Representatives of all four KIMEP colleges attended, so no one was left out.

Quarantine also inspired us to create Alumni Talks: webinars on a specific topic from our alumni who already have professional experience and can share interesting information not only for applicants, but also for current students and graduates. Since the beginning of June, 15 Alumni Talks have been held, in which alumni of various specialties have participated and topics ranged from "How to Save and Increase Money" to "Building a Personal Brand".

The pandemic changed the whole world, but it gave us an impetus for even greater development, and we hope that alumni will remain as active as they are and such webinars will stay with us for a long time.



ALUMNI TALKS



ALUMNI MAGAZINE



CAREER TALKS

In May 2020, the KIMEP Career and Employment Service launched a new career platform "CareerTalks" for all Kazakhstan's students.

How to build a successful career? What professions are in demand today and tomorrow? How to get into a large international company? What are the global trends in the labor market? How to launch your startup? and much more information can be learnt on a platform where successful entrepreneurs, leading experts and business trainers in various business sectors from different industries share their opinions and experiences.

Since May CES has held sessions with:

1. Speaker: Mariyam Zhumadil, KIMEP Alumna 2007; Investment Professional at International Finance Corporation (IFC), Washington DC
Topic: "Building a global career in Emerging market investments"
2. Speaker: Sayasat Nurbek, BTS Education, CEO
Topic: "Successful Career Path: Future skills and jobs outlook"
3. Umijon Osmanov, KIMEP Alumnus 2019, Founder of social project for helping entrepreneurs - Digitalization.
Topic: "Guerrilla marketing that will help you get into Forbes. How to perceive it?"
4. Leila Bashimova, KIMEP Alumna 2015, Business Development Executive in Yandex, Russia
Topic: "Guess where I am? I'm in the TOP-company"
5. Yuliya Yudina, KIMEP Alumna 2004, business trainer, career consultant
Topic: "LinkedIn - how to create a profile, how to search for a job through this resource"
6. Alibek Yessov, KIMEP Alumnus 2007, 2011, Head of Wolt company
Topic: "Career in international companies: from Financier - to Consultant - to Head of a startup"



RAKHMET SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The RAKHMET Scholarship Fund was established in 2010. This is a fund set up by KIMEP Alumni to support students in need, and contribute to the education of tomorrow's leaders. The fund supports financially needy students who demonstrate excellence academic merit. Alumni can also support KIMEP's institutional needs through the fund. For ways to contribute, please contact KIMEP's Corporate Development Department at cdd@kimep.kz or +7 727 270 42 26.

In addition to scholarships and support for faculty, there are dozens of ways to provide support for and work with KIMEP. Whether you would like to enhance the library's

collection of academic resources, contribute seed funds for KIMEP's research centers or assist our students achieve their dreams of participating in international conferences, a range of opportunities exist to support the institution. The gift can be named after your company, your class, or however you would like to capture your contribution to KIMEP. Corporate Development Department staff can assist you with your personalized gift to improve KIMEP's services for faculty, students and the community.



CONTACT US

WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

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

ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES

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

Please contact cdd@kimep.kz to participate.

SERVICES FOR ALUMNI

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

- 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.





Alumni Magazine is intellectual property of KIMEP U.
It is distributed among KIMEP alumni and business community.

Year founded: 2011

Publisher: KIMEP University

Editor: Corporate Development Department (CDD)



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