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KIMEP IS A FAMILY TRADITION

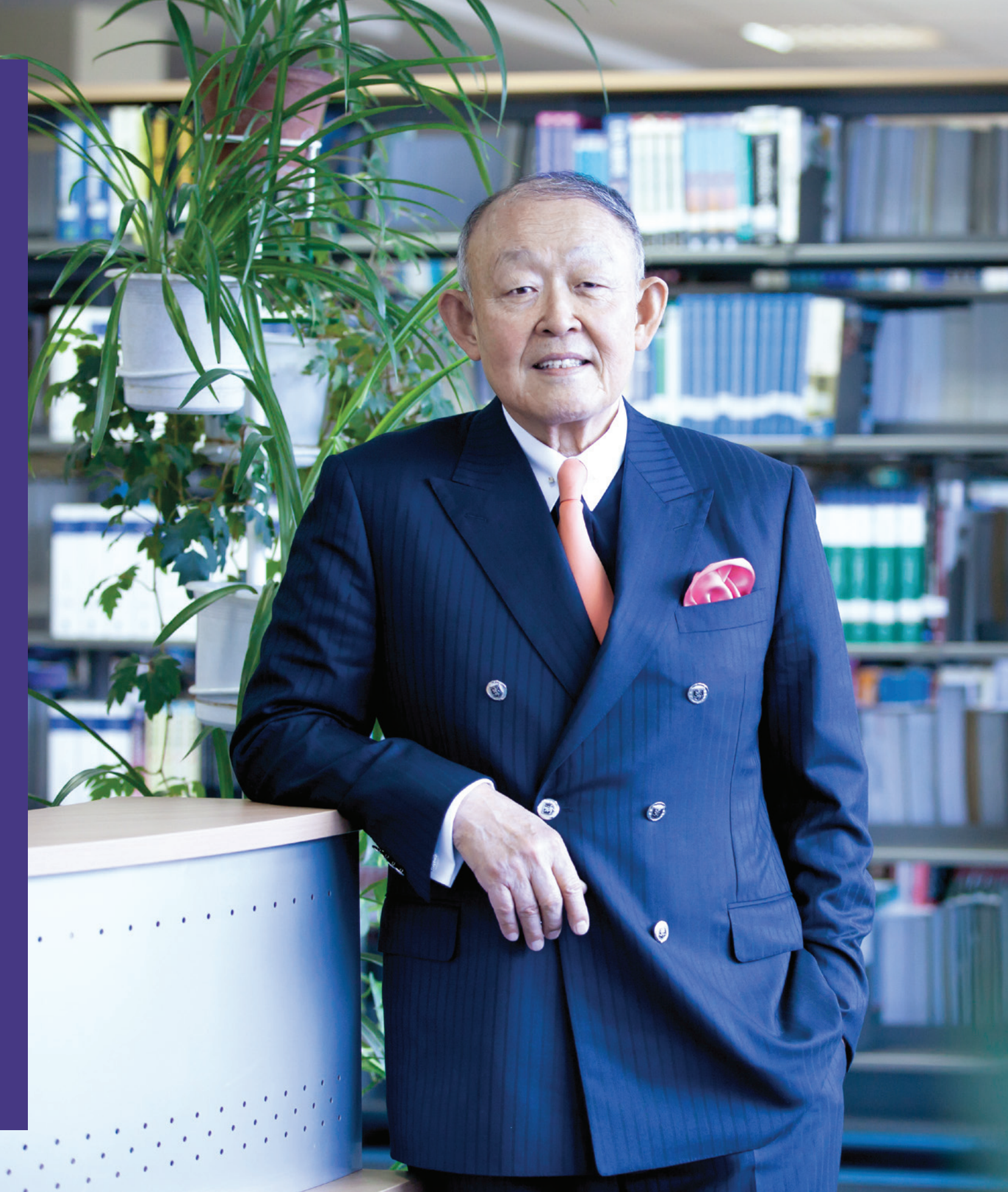
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MESSAGE FROM DR. BANG, PRESIDENT OF KIMEP UNIVERSITY

Dear KIMEP Alumni,

It is with great pleasure that I report that KIMEP University continues to be a center of educational excellence and a leading and innovative institution in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Since our founding, the need for a Western-style education as a means to catalyze and sustain economic and social change still rings true.

Our mission is to truly provide a world-class education and equip our graduates with the capacities to succeed in an increasingly globalized world. With exceptionally talented faculty and staff unwaveringly committed to unlocking our students' potential, we will continually invest in cultivating a learning environment that enables our students to be the change they seek in the world.

This year, KIMEP is undergoing significant capital improvement projects around campus. This includes the complete renovation of the Valikhanov building with modern and sophisticated classrooms as well as grounds improvements around the campus. These intensive projects will further differentiate KIMEP as an institution firmly committed to academic excellence and the well-being of its students.

In regards to academics, all of our programs continue to enjoy prestigious international accreditations such as AQ Austria (AQAAA), the Foundation for International Business Administration (FIBAA), and the Asian Forum on Business Education (AFBE). Maintaining the quality and rigor of our programs to internationally accepted best practices, ensures that our graduates are positioned to excel well beyond graduation in their desired field.

Our University prides itself on more than simply providing first-class academic programs. KIMEP University distinguishes itself in its devotion to the well-being and personal development of its students. With over 50 student organizations, KIMEP students can choose from a wide array of interests and passions and collaborate with like-minded individuals.

Through our extensive and growing academic partnership network, KIMEP currently cooperates with over 150 esteemed educational institutions from Europe, North America, and Asia and successfully participates in student and faculty mobility, dual degree programs, summer programs, and joint research projects. Our study abroad programs challenges about 250 our students and staff members yearly and takes them out of comfort zone at home and classes to explore other lands, new learning and teaching methods, to exchange ideas and create new knowledge. We are proud to be among counterparts with the highest mobility score in the country. In turn, KIMEP is a home to nearly 350 international students and faculty members from 26 countries, who not only enrich us with their own uniqueness and flavor but spread knowledge and skills back home.

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

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and the greater KIMEP community, I welcome you to read more about our achievements, to reflect and reminisce on your time here and thank you for choosing to connect back with our University.

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



MESSAGE FROM DR. TIMOTHY BARNETT, PROVOST AND GENERAL DEPUTY TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and friends,
KIMEP's Silver Anniversary is this year. Just as Kazakhstan as a free nation turns 25 years old this year, so does KIMEP University. President Nazarbayev and Dr. Bang together dreamed the development of a western style university with foreign faculty teaching western ideas to KIMEP students so that you graduates could help Kazakhstan in the development of its future. I have met a number of KIMEP alumni during my 18 months at KIMEP University, and strongly believe that KIMEP has been very very successful in its mission. You see, KIMEP is not just a group of 5 or 6 buildings, KIMEP is actually the alumni, the current students, and the faculty and staff of both the past and the present. KIMEP is the ideas, knowledge, wisdom and collective experiences of all its members.

Looking back over the past 25 years there are many highlights. KIMEP, with an enrollment of approximately 2300 students, continues to be the leading western style institution in Central Asia. Highlights of the last 25 years vary depending on who you talk to. Some memories that people have shared with me include The Open Society Foundation providing scholarships so that students could afford to attend KIMEP. Other memories include the Fun Club being the best disco in Almaty, the building of the library and the New Academic Building. And many people have talked about late nights in the dormitory with friends, graduation reunions and meeting fellow alumni at events around Almaty.

KIMEP University has been more than just a good education. KIMEP has proven to be a place where students grow up and become adults. KIMEP is a place where students gained more than just book knowledge and learned about life in the professional world. KIMEP was also a place where lifetime friends were made, where students learned about leadership through clubs or organizations, and where students tried and participated in activities that they had never tried before. Some KIMEP students even met their spouse here.

One of the best things about KIMEP is that the guiding values are still at the foundation of who KIMEP is which include respect, honor, integrity, and dignity of other humans. At the same time, KIMEP has changed and adapted to the needs of students, the needs of the businesses and companies who hire KIMEP graduates, and the changing needs of Kazakhstan.

ONE OF MY FAVORITE STEVE JOBS QUOTES DESCRIBES WHAT KIMEP HAS BEEN FOR KAZAKHSTAN:

"Here's to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers, the round pegs in the square holes... The ones who see things differently — they're not fond of rules... You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, but the only thing you can't do is ignore them because they change things... They push the human race forward, and while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius, because the ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do."

25 years is not a long time when you look at the big picture of the world, but it is a lifetime for the Republic of Kazakhstan. KIMEP can look proudly at its alumni and say we have accomplished our mission. We look forward to the next 25 years and the ability to continue to make a difference in the lives of students, their families, alumni, and Kazakhstan.

To you as alumni, continue making a positive difference every day.

*Timothy Barnett, Ph.D.
Provost and General Deputy to the President*



MESSAGE FROM DR. GILBERT LINNE, VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dear KIMEP Alumni,

Please allow me to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Gil Linne, your new Vice President for Academic Affairs. It is a pleasure to join KIMEP University and consider myself fortunate to have received the opportunity to be part of an organization with such a fine reputation for its quality education.

This position offers new and exciting challenges to me, all of which I am looking forward to. Prior to coming to KIMEP University, I began my career as a psychologist and then subsequently moved into higher education where I held both faculty and academic administration positions at various universities throughout the United States. The previous position I held was the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the Higher Colleges of Technology in the United Arab Emirates where I was responsible for academic affairs at 17 campuses with over 23,000 students enrolled. Now, I look forward to this new position where my responsibilities will include working with and overseeing the various departments in academic affairs. I'm quite eager to get started with these new challenges and look forward to the successes that lie ahead.

I can see already that there is a wonderful group of people I will be working with. I'm looking forward to having an opportunity of chatting with as many of you as possible in the coming weeks. I am very glad to be on board!

*Gilbert Thomas Linne, Ph.D.
Vice President of Academic Affairs*

Biographical Information

Dr. Gil Linne most recently served as Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs (DVC-AA) and Chief Academic Officer at The Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), the largest higher education institution in the United Arab Emirates. Prior to his appointment as DVC-AA, Dr. Linne served as Executive Director of the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness at HCT.

Dr. Linne began his career in higher education in 1985 as an instructor and has held various faculty and administrative positions such as Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor, Chair of the Department of Psychology, Dean of Health and Human Services, and Vice President for Academic Affairs at numerous higher education institutions such as Alliant International University, Northern Arizona University, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott College, the University of Phoenix, and Lincoln College of New England.

In addition, Dr. Linne has served as an evaluator and consultant for the accrediting bodies such as the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, as well as the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. In this capacity Dr. Linne reviewed, evaluated, and consulted with numerous Colleges and Universities that offer both undergraduate and graduate programs utilizing various teaching methods and modalities. He has also consulted with various international universities regarding the assessment of student learning outcomes and online learning.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from California Baptist University, a Master of Science in Counseling Psychology from California State University at Fullerton, and a Ph.D. in Psychology from Alliant International University.

NEWS FROM THE BANG COLLEGE OF BUSINESS (BCB)

NEW FACULTY JOINING IN FALL 2017

The Bang College of Business (BCB) hired 7 new faculty members joining in Fall 2017. All new faculty members are either Academically (AQ) or Professionally Qualified (PQ) under International Accreditation Criteria.

Accounting



Dr. Nurlan Orazalin is an Assistant Professor of Accounting. Dr. Orazalin holds a DBA in Accounting from KIMEP University (G2015).

Finance



Dr. Woo Sung Kim is an Assistant Professor of Finance. Dr. Kim holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration with specialization in Finance from Konkuk University (G2011), Korea. He also holds a Master in International Law from Konkuk University (G2000), Korea. Previously, Dr. Kim taught Finance at Konkuk University in Korea as a Lecturer of Finance.



Dr. Alma Sharipova is an Assistant Professor of Finance. Dr. Sharipova holds a Ph.D. in Financial Economics from Middlesex University Business School (G2016), the United Kingdom.

Management



Dr. Margaret Takeda is an Associate Professor of Management. Dr. Takeda holds a Ph.D. in International Business from the University of Pittsburgh (G1998), the United States of America. She worked as a Visiting Researcher at Aoyama Gakuin University in Japan. Also, she worked as an Associate Professor of Management at the University of Tennessee and as a Lecturer of Management at California State University.

Marketing



Dr. Jay Hoyung Lee is an Associate Professor of Marketing on Special Appointment. Dr. Lee holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (G2005), Korea. He also holds a Master in Actuarial Science from Georgia State University (G1989), the United States of America. Dr. Lee is a prominent

industry professional and worked as an Adjunct Professor of Business Administration at Sungkyunkwan University in Korea. Previously, he was a Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer at MetLife Korea. In addition, he worked as the Head of Marketing Research Division at Samsung Research Institute of Finance in Korea.



Dr. Yongho Hyun is an Associate Professor of Marketing. Dr. Hyun holds a Ph.D. in Management Studies specializing in Tourism from the University of Surrey (G2008), the United Kingdom. In 2003, he earned a Master in Communication from the University of Canberra, Australia. Dr. Hyun worked as an Associate Professor of Marketing

at the Catholic University of Daegu in Korea, and as a Visiting Research Scholar at Temple University in the United States of America.

NEWS FROM THE BANG COLLEGE OF BUSINESS (BCB)



Dr. Jungmin Jang is an Assistant Professor of Marketing. Dr. Jang holds a Ph.D. in Marketing from Korea University (G2015), Korea. She also holds a Master in Marketing from Korea University (G2005), Korea. Previously, Dr. Jang worked as Research Professor of Marketing at Korea University and at the same time as a Visiting Professor at

Chungnam National University in Korea.

THE BANG COLLEGE OF BUSINESS LAUNCHES PH.D. PROGRAMS IN SPRING 2018

In August 2017, the Bang College of Business received four licenses for the Ph.D. Programs from the Ministry of Education and Sciences: Ph.D. in Accounting and Audit, Ph.D. in Finance, Ph.D. in Management, and Ph.D. in Marketing.

Currently, BCB is preparing a strategic plan to administer these Ph.D. programs from the Spring 2018 semester including recruiting students and reinforcing faculty composition to deliver the top notch, English-medium Ph.D. programs, restructuring the administrative and support system, revising operational budgeting and scholarship distributions, and developing alliances with internationally reputable universities and major firms in relevant industries.

BCB is proud of the quality of education it has provided and success it has achieved in delivering some of the nation's leaders through its Bachelor and Master programs for the past 25 years. Now BCB is determined to create and provide the internationally competitive Ph.D. Programs to qualified students and professionals from Kazakhstan and foreign countries.

PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Chang Young Bang, President of KIMEP University, announced generous scholarships for selected students in DBA in Accounting Program. KIMEP University provided ten full scholarships to the distinguished students selected by the Admissions office, and generous stipends to experienced and qualified students as assistantships.

STUDENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Five BCB students won the first place in the CFA Research Challenge Competition in the Kazakhstan-round in March 2017.

The BCB Team represented Kazakhstan and KIMEP University in the Regional-round Competition held in Prague, the Czech Republic in April 2017.



NEWS FROM THE LAW SCHOOL



Dr. Claudio Lombardi

The Law School hired two professors this year, Drs. Claudio Lombardi and Andrey Kozik. Dr. Lombardi received his Ph.D. from the University of Trento. His area of research is comparative competition law and policy, comparative regulatory law, law and economics, and private comparative law. Prior to beginning work with us, he held fellowships at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law and at the Europa-Kolleg Institute for European Integration, Hamburg. He has also been a research fellow at the Higher School of Economics and Skolkovo Institute for Law and Development, Moscow, where he worked on a project on competition law and policy in the global food value chain. Dr. Lombardi was also awarded a DAAD Grant of the Europa-Kolleg



Dr. Andrey Kozik

Institute of Hamburg in 2013 and an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship for doctoral researchers in 2012. In 2016, Dr. Kozik became the first KIMEP Post-Doc Fellow. He taught four courses including Cyberspace (IT) law at KIMEP, had the possibility of continuing his research in this field, and contributed to the Tallinn Manual 2.0, which Cambridge University Press published in January 2017. Andrey supported the publication by participating in presentations that took place in Washington DC, the Hague, Tallinn, Moscow, Minsk and other cities worldwide. Prof. Kozik is a leading expert in Public International Law applied to Cyber Operations. After Dr. Kozik left KIMEP, he participated in drafting the "Digital Economy of Russian Federation" roadmap adopted in August 2017 by Russian President M. Medvedev and contributed to the main Presidential decree on Hi-Tech Park in Belarus (to be adopted in August-September 2017), and the FinTech strategy research for the National Bank of Belarus.



In the last academic year, Dr. Zhenis Kembayev continued his activities as a Jean Monnet Chair, which is a teaching post for European Union studies awarded by the European Commission. Also, he was awarded Ronald and Eileen Weiser Professional Development Award for a research stay at the University of Michigan in March 2017. Among his

recent publications, there are three articles in the Review of Central and East European Law, and an article each in Osteuropa-Recht, Chinese Journal of International Law and European Foreign Affairs Review. He also contributed a chapter, "Constitutional Order of Kazakhstan and its Adaptability to the Eurasian Economic Union" in the book *Post-Soviet Constitutions and Challenges of Regional Integration: Adapting to European and Eurasian Integration Projects*, published by Routledge.



In July 2017, Assistant Professor Maria Baideldinova delivered a presentation on Kazakhstan's law on adoptions at the 16th World Conference of the International Society of Family Law. The prestigious conference, with about 400 speakers, was held in Amsterdam. Throughout the year, Dr. Baideldinova has also been involved as a specialist in animal law, consulting with Almaty's Akimat working towards reforming the city's regulations on animals.



Assistant Professor Zhanat Alimanov, continued to head the Legal Clinic of the Law School and also initiated a mentorship program, in which nine of KIMEP's best law graduates will be mentored by four partners from law and accounting firms (Centil, Egen Gregory, Integrites and PWC). Part of the Legal Clinic activities included writing for an online legal advice column with zakon.kz. In addition to this, Professor Alimanov supervised a group of students participating in the World Universities Comparative Law Project under the auspices of the international law firm, Allen & Overy LLP, which resulted in a publication with global distribution that presents information on the state of the commercial law in Kazakhstan.

The Law School has begun to provide students with greater opportunity to participate in moot court competitions. Apart from hosting events locally, KIMEP Law School this year also had a group participating in the 2017 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in Washington DC. The students were coached by Professors Sergey Sayapin and Nicolas Zambrana-Tevar. The Law School will be following up on this activity with a new class on moot courting and funding more student efforts in international competitions this year.

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (CSS)

EVENTS

The College of Social Science is the host of the Central Asian Studies Center (CASC), which is a major hub for scholars specializing in research on Central Asia. As usual, CASC organized a number of roundtables and public lectures, including the IMF presentation of their Regional Economic Outlook – now a regular event in our calendar. Together with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, it organized the international conference “Big Eurasia: Dynamics of political and social processes” on October 29-30. This fall will see the establishment of the China and Central Asia Studies Center at KIMEP University, which is going to add to the scope of our research program.

On October 20-21, 2016, the college hosted the workshop “Nuclear Disarmament in the Korean Peninsula: Prospects for a Settlement”, which brought scholars from China, South Korea, Britain, and Russia to KIMEP. A book based on the conference outcomes is going to be published in Fall 2017.

On November 18, 2016, the annual student conference “25 Years On: Social, Political and Economic Changes in Eurasia” took place with about 80 students presenting in 20 panels. The topics ranged across politics, economics, gender, health, international relations, energy, education, and environment.

On April 14, 2017, the international conference “Governance and Communication: Between Modernity and Post-Modernity” was held at KIMEP University, jointly organized by the college and the Language Center. More than 60 participants from different countries participated in 14 panels and round tables on topics such as identity policies, language policies, security, economics, communication, and public policies. At the start of the new semester on September 1-2, CSS, together with the University of East Anglia, organized a workshop on Property Rights in Emerging Economics, which was sponsored by the British Academy.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The College of Social Sciences, its faculty members, and its students continue contributing to KIMEP’s international reputation. The dual degree program between the Department of Economics and Humboldt University and the dual degree offered by the International Relations Department as part of the IMRCEES program at Glasgow University have attracted much student interest. The Department of Economics expects its first student to graduate from its dual degree program later this Fall semester.

In May, a team from KIMEP University visited the University of East Anglia to teach at a summer school for Ph.D. students within a project financed by the British Academy. Again, many CSS students participated in exchange programs in the United States, Europe, and South Korea and faculty members presented at conferences around the world.

FACULTY

This Fall, the Department of Media and Communications has added two new members to its faculty roster:



Bahtiyar Kurambayev, Assistant Professor, holds a Ph.D. in Mass Communications from the University of Southern Mississippi. He previously worked at the American University of Central Asia.



Milen Filipov, Assistant Professor, holds a Ph.D. in Public Relations and Journalism from St. Kliment Ohridski University Sofia. He previously worked at the Centre of Humanities, Department of Public Communication and Journalism at Burgas Free University.

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (CSS)

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Some KIMEP alumni may still remember Model United Nations (MUN) conference simulations that they had initiated when they were students. In order to revive the concept, the college has followed the example of some American universities and created a credit-bearing course around the MUN, which can be selected by bachelor students who major in International Relations or Public Administration. Irrespective of their specialization, all KIMEP students can take part in the conference simulations and other extracurricular events run by the MUN students themselves. In close cooperation with the United Nations Department of Public Information, the MUN students organized two mini-conferences devoted to current topics on the UN agenda. They also took part in a number of UNESCO events, welcomed a delegation of Erasmus students from the Czech Republic, and enjoyed guest lectures and practical seminars conducted by representatives of the United Nations.



SPECIAL FEATURE: ALUMNI OF THE CSS PROGRAMS IN JOURNALISM

At the initiate of Dr. Ken Harvey, who left KIMEP this summer to join Xiamen University in Malaysia, this short article features success stories of some of our alumni from the Journalism department.

Talita Zhumatayeva graduated in 2014 with a major in Public Relations and later obtained a Master in International Law from KIMEP University. She has since started her career as a lawyer and is now an associate at the Brand, Marketing and Communications department at Ernst & Young Kazakhstan.

Shynar Ryspayeva graduated from KIMEP University in 2015 with a major in Media Management:

“When I became a second-year student, I’ve already realized that in journalism, theory helps, but practice is more useful.”

Early on she felt that practical experience is useful for a journalist and, consequently, took her first internship at a local Kazakh newspaper. She continued to combine work and studies and worked for a range of publishing houses as an editor or journalist, including Burda International Press, RBK Magazine, the Business and Power newspaper, Vintage magazine and Idea-Lab internet portal. As a career highlight, she was the editor of sports publications at the Directorate of the Organizing Committee of the 28th Winter Universiade 2017 in Almaty. Having also acquired Public Relations skills during her studies, she now works at DAMU construction-company as a PR manager.

Anzhelika Osmanova graduated from KIMEP in 2012 with a degree in International Journalism and Mass Communications.

Today, she is the youngest member of the management team and head of marketing at a global start-up called Huddly. Previously, she had consulted two United Nations agencies, studied and worked in the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Norway. She organized events in Berlin, Florence, and San Francisco and, at the time this article went into print, she was on her way to attend the INBOUND marketing conference in Boston.

In 2016, she co-authored a chapter in the Research Handbook of Marketing.

Aida Darzhanova is a graduate of the bachelor program in International Journalism of 2011 and of the Master in Public and Municipal Administration program of 2014.

Aida, while she was a student, had worked part-time at UN projects as youth trainer and program coordinator. Right after graduation, she obtained a fellowship in the UN headquarter in New York and, coming back to Kazakhstan, got herself a job at one of the Big Four companies.

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (CSSS)

After four years of building up business and consultancy experience in an extremely competitive environment, she finally decided to change her career path and start her own enterprise called the “ADM Consulting Group”. She now works on different projects, focusing on IT development, integration of digitalization and other business services at an international level using the professional network she has built during her career.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS (DMC)

DMC students have won the 1st place in the International Student PR-projects contest!

Students from 9 universities presented 26 projects in three categories.

DMC students’ team of Almagul Serikbayeva, BAJ 3, and Nailya Galimova, BAJ 4, won the 1st place in the Business PR-projects nomination.

Regina Samussenko, BAJ 2 student, has received a Recognition Award for a Social project.

All these students are from the Department of Media and Communications. They developed their projects in the Media and Society class.

We congratulate them on such an achievement and recognition of their creativity, talent and innovative skills! The conference was held on April 25, 2017, in UIB University in Almaty.

Saltanat Kazhimuratova, Senior Lecturer of Media and Communications, has participated in the 20th International Conference on Teaching, Education & Learning (ICTEL) held at Universitat de Barcelona, Spain on July 26-27, 2017, organized by the Association for Development of Teaching, Education and Learning (ADTEL). (<http://www.grdsweb.com/adtel>)

The conference in Barcelona brought together 60 Participants from around 15 different countries to review and discuss the latest challenges of Teaching and Learning Issues. In each conference, the Best Paper award is given to researchers with the best scholarly paper submitted and presented at the conference. In 2017, the Best Paper Award was given to Saltanat Kazhimuratova for her paper “Experiential Learning: A Case Study of Teaching Fashion Journalism course at KIMEP University”. (<https://www.facebook.com/adtelweb/posts/938868269584540>)



NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDUCATION CENTER

BEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER EDUCATION IN KAZAKHSTAN SINCE 1994

Since 1994, the Executive Education Center (EEC) of KIMEP University offers dynamic programs that allow professionals of our Republic to further upgrade their skills and gain a competitive edge in the labor market. As part of the University's commitment to lifelong learning, the EEC expands on this further skills development through its study programs. This wide array of offerings include a market-leading Executive MBA, the Professional Development and Certificate Program, language courses of LCCIEB, and regular roundtables and clubs on issues facing the Kazakhstani business community.

EXECUTIVE MBA PROGRAM

The EEC also plays a crucial role in delivering KIMEP's Executive MBA (EMBA). Following the initial program designed specifically for "Food Master" LLP team that graduated in 2004, the EEC helped design an open Executive MBA that accepts any mid-level manager with at least five years of experience. The program officially started in 2007. Based on the success of the program, KIMEP expanded its offerings by starting a new Russian-language Executive MBA in 2010. As a result, the EEC received recognition from Almaty's International Business Community for its efforts in developing the program. In 2009, during Kazakhstan's first Lawyers, Academics and Consultants Awards, both MBA and Executive MBA programs of KIMEP University were recognized as the best in Kazakhstan.

Today, KIMEP Executive MBA is a well-known and the best-ranking modular program with three international accreditations holding three palms of Eduniversal. The program prepares professionals who hold the managerial positions to work in a global and highly competitive business environment. It guides participants to the level of self-knowledge, which is indispensable to the successful development of the management processes in a company, and in the country as a whole. Networking and learning opportunities are abundant, not just with the program's highly respected faculty and accomplished alumni, but with fellow students. Therefore, whether the participant is an executive seeking an MBA to reach the final rung on their career ladder, an entrepreneur looking for better business knowledge, or a quickly rising corporate star, he/she will gain lifelong benefits from the EMBA program at KIMEP University.

Today the Program is:

- The first EMBA program of the Western-style in Kazakhstan;
- A holder of 4 prestigious accreditations (AQAAA, FIBAA, AFBE, IQAA);
- The EMBA that gives out 2 diplomas to graduates: a State-recognized Diploma and KIMEP University Western-style Diploma; European Diploma Supplement;
- Taught by experienced Western faculty and industry experts of the Kazakhstani market;
- Offered in three languages: English, Russian and with the translation into the Kazakh language;
- Offered on-site in companies and in various regions;
- More than 10 specializations;
- The EMBA that offers foreign modules in 110 foreign partner-universities of KIMEP University;
- The EMBA that has close ties with industrial corporations (MNC & Giants Kazakhstan market);
- Ranked no. 1 in the Republic in the National Rank of the best Humanitarian-Economics HEIs in Kazakhstan in 2016;
- In the list of Top 200 best EMBA Programs worldwide (according to the International Scientific Committee of Eduniversal);
- Run all year round with flexible schedule and based on the best western practices with international and local cases;
 - Each pair-module runs from Saturday morning to Sunday evening every 6 weekends, with continuous e-learning between modules.



First EMBA Graduates of 2007-2009

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDUCATION CENTER

On April 7, 2017, the Executive MBA program of KIMEP University celebrated its 10th Anniversary. Dr. Chan Young Bang, President of KIMEP University, opened the event. There were more than 80 invited guests including EMBA alumni, faculty and the University administration, as well as prospective students who recognize the University and the program as one of the best in the country.



The 10th Anniversary of the Executive MBA program, 2017

“Since 2007, more than 250 managers have put their trust in the KIMEP University Executive MBA Program. We have not disappointed them: in addition to developing their expertise and leadership skills, they all have built invaluable professional networks and made an investment in their market value as top executives at an international level,” said the President of KIMEP University during the event.

The event was organized in Kazakhstan Hotel in a friendly atmosphere, with cakes, insight from speakers, and informal communication and networking for new business partnerships.

For over 20 years, the EEC has prepared dedicated executives for unparalleled success in the world of business. Successful EMBA graduates come from various countries, such as Kazakhstan, Russia, Korea, China, Uzbekistan, etc. We can also name several successful corporate groups of 2016, such as Ministry of Defense Cohort, Karazhanbasmunai Cohort, Aktau Sea Port Management participants, Kaz Minerals Cohort. In 2017, KazTransGas Corporation employees are simultaneously taking KIMEP EMBA together with other three EMBA cohorts of executives from businesses and governmental institutions in two main cities of the country: Astana and Almaty.



KazTransGas Corporation the EMBA Cohort of AY 2016-2018

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDUCATION CENTER

THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Professional Development and Certificate Program (PDCP) provides learning and networking opportunities for working professionals. In operation since 1998, it serves both individuals and organizations alike. The program provides regularly scheduled courses, training, and workshops, as well as includes customized training offers. The program offers 'stand alone' and integrated series of courses, seminars, and training. Participants can gain knowledge of the fundamentals and then if they choose, pursue an advanced understanding of topics including management, accounting and finance, marketing and sales, human resource management, information technologies, and business administration. The program introduces new learning opportunities every year.

The Executive Education Center provided targeted training to 15,000 professionals from 193 companies during its history. This includes 50 banks, 9 government departments, and a variety of UN agencies and NGOs.

In 2012, the Mini MBA Program of KIMEP University received international certification from the Foundation for the Accreditation of International Programs in Business Administration (FIBAA), Bonn, Germany. The Mini MBA program is the only professional program in Kazakhstan that has such accreditation with its four specializations in Management, HR Management, Marketing and Sales, and Finance and Accounting.

On October 27, 2016, KIMEP University held a solemn presentation of diplomas to the 13 graduates of the Program, employees "Borusan Makina Kazakhstan" (BMK) LLP. All of them successfully completed twelve modules of the Mini MBA Program and received diplomas with specialization in Management. The second group of 16 employees of BMK will graduate in October 2017.

THE EEC AND PROFESSIONAL PLATFORMS

The local business community can also benefit from several free programs of the Center. The KIMEP HR Club, established in 2009, is a bimonthly roundtable that serves as a discussion forum and networking platform for HR professionals. Through this platform, KIMEP delivered its International Human Resources Conferences, focusing on "Training for Superior Results." There were a hundred participants from various companies in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia. In 2016, HR Club moderator Mr. Rinat Shayakhmetov introduced two new formats to its participants: Inside HR and CEO and HR. Several International companies presented their company glance at HR during latest meetings, which were an absolute success.

KIMEP Navigator Marketing Club serves a role for marketing similar to the HR Club. In 2017, Navigator contributed the marketing society with a bright re-opening with a new moderator Emilia Ro. The meeting opened new horizons to marketers in the current unparallel business environment. New tools and tendencies were discussed during this get-together. The club meetings are organized in a format of guest-lectures conducted by the famous experts of the industry.



Marketing Club Meeting of 2017

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDUCATION CENTER



The Leadership Development Program students of 2017 with Andrea Guaraldo, L'Oréal

The Leadership Development Program (LDP) is growing year by year. The Program provides wide opportunities to KIMEP students and outside participants to discuss various topics on modern tendencies in the business world and to follow examples set by successful leaders of our time. Since the beginning of 2017, 29 leaders participated in the LDP Program as speakers and shared their ideas with KIMEP University students. The guest speakers represented such industries as the automobile industry, beauty industry, consulting companies, FMCG, tobacco, government, etc. The EEC had an opportunity to host such bright speakers as Andrea Guaraldo, HR director from L'Oréal, Adamas Ilkevičius, Managing Director for Transformation and Special Projects of "Samruk-Kazyna" JSC, José Luis Basauri, Marketing Director of Coca-Cola, and Frank Tiemann, Head of Corporate Communications for Rolls-Royce.

With the resources and strong connections with the business community and industry experts of the Executive Education Center, KIMEP University is able to follow its mission of continuing education and provide a sustainable enhancement of the professional skills of its students, thus strengthening the human resource potential of Kazakhstan.

KIMEP is also in the midst of gaining EFMD accreditation and renewing of AQAAA and FIBAA accreditations for the EEC programs. It will push the EEC into the forefront of executive education, making it an invaluable resource for the country. Anyone at any stage of their career can access these resources to gain additional qualifications, thereby benefiting themselves, their companies, and the community.



KIMEP University Academic Administration of 2017

NEWS FROM THE LANGUAGE CENTER

"HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!"

As we mark 25 years of success, we have every reason to be proud of KIMEP University's past and excited about its future. Our University withstood the test of time. Most of the credit for it goes to our President, Dr. Bang, who has demonstrated a sustained commitment to developing excellence in all areas. Under his direction, KIMEP University has earned a reputation for providing value-based education and for maintaining the ideals of academic quality, and high moral and ethical values.



I would also like to congratulate KIMEP faculty and use this opportunity to thank all my wonderful colleagues for making our University a valued place of learning. Thank you for being passionate about teaching and your subjects, for setting high expectations for students, for teaching students to question everything, for empowering them and helping them achieve their big dreams.

I am proud to be associated with KIMEP University and wish our wonderful institution continued success in the coming years. Happy birthday!"

Juldyz Smagulova, Ph.D., CSc., Associate Professor, Executive Director Of Language Center

Dr. George Rueckert was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award.



"The Russian-speaking world has been part of my life from the very beginning. My father was a Cold War-era American diplomat, and among my earliest memories are Soviet tanks rumbling through the streets of Prague. It's been a long, circuitous journey in the nearly fifty years since, from an international school in Leningrad to a doctoral program in Comparative Literature and finally – via a teaching stint in Germany – to KIMEP in 2011. The chance to build a Russian-English translation program here was in many ways the culmination of that personal journey, and though the program continues to face challenges, it is now well established and on its way to becoming a fully licensed, degree granting major. Indeed, well-trained Russian-English translators are more important now than ever, as our globalized world

enters a new, uncertain era. But in addition to that, I have always aspired to build a program that will one day offer courses, not only in Russian-English translation, but also in Kazakh-English, and in translation from other rising languages like Chinese. Almaty is the right place to harbor such ambitions. The city has made enormous strides even in the relatively short time I've been here. My own life has followed its upward fortunes: almost four years ago, I met my beautiful wife, and two years ago, our daughter was born, whom we are raising bilingual. My gifted colleagues at the KIMEP Language Center have been supportive all along, and my students just delightful to work with – the best are competitive with any students I have known in Europe or America. It's rewarding work, and KIMEP is an exciting place to be."

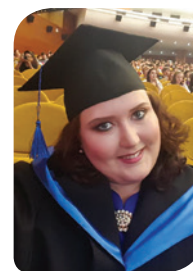
Dr. Askat Tleuov was appointed as an Assistant Professor after obtaining his Ph.D. at the University of Bath. His research focuses on teacher cognition and language education.



Zhanar Toktarbay, Chinese Language Lecturer, is starting her Ph.D. studies at Beiji Language and Culture University. She was awarded the very prestigious and highly competitive "New Chinese Study" scholarship.



Olga Bainova, our 2017 alumna of Master in Foreign Languages programs, was admitted to a Ph.D. program at Nazarbayev University. Olga believes that the knowledge and skills gained at KIMEP helped her overcome a tough selection process and get accepted to the Graduate School of Education at Nazarbayev University among very few others.



NEWS FROM THE LANGUAGE CENTER

MEET NEW FACULTY OF THE LANGUAGE CENTER

This Fall 2017 KIMEP Language Center is welcoming new Faculty members from Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Italy.

Marco Guadagnoli, MA in Literature and Intercultural Translation, CELTA

"I'm originally from a small seaside town called Anzio, even though most of the times I just say I'm from Rome because I do feel Roman anyway. After getting my Bachelor's degree I went to Qingdao, China through an exchange program, I taught English in a kindergarten, there is where I realized that teaching was what I wanted to do for a living.



So, I went back home, finished my Masters and did CELTA in IH Riga, where I started my full-time career. Later, I got a job at IH Almaty and spent two years in Kazakhstan teaching general English and exam preparation. Now I've just started working at KIMEP and I look forward to this new challenge. I love teaching because it gives the chance to be creative every day in different circumstances, with different people. In my free time, I like reading and discussing literature, traveling, going jogging and getting to know more about human nature in any form."

Kara Fleming, Ph.D. Linguistics

"My name is Kara Fleming and I'm very excited to be joining the faculty here at KIMEP! I am a sociolinguist whose research focuses on how people's beliefs about language interact with ethnic and national identities, particularly within the education system. I received my Ph.D. from the University of Hong Kong, where my research was focused on language, inequality, and ethnic/national identity among South Asian students in Hong Kong. I previously worked as a lecturer in Linguistics at the University of Hong Kong and as a lecturer in English Language/Sociolinguistics at the University of Leeds, the United Kingdom. I completed my Master's degree in Linguistics at the University of Oxford and my B.A./B.S. at Truman State University in Missouri, the United States."



Isaac Roelfsema, MA in TESOL

"I was born and raised in a very small town called Racine in Missouri. I moved to New Mexico to study Philosophy for my first Masters. This made me want to see more of the world, so I studied TESOL and then moved to Japan, where I lived for four years. Now I'm excited to see what adventures I will find in Kazakhstan."



Su Jin Lee, Doctor of Philosophy

"I am Su Jin Lee and a new faculty member of the Language Center at KIMEP University. I am from Korea, and very excited to start a big adventure in Almaty. My educational and career background is English education, and I am involved in various research studies related to teaching English reading and writing. My concentrations are Reading Education, Literacy Education, and English as a Second Language Education."



OUR PRINCETON IN ASIA FELLOWS

Samuel Curtis, Princeton in Asia Fellow

"I am thrilled to be starting my second year as a part of the teaching cohort at KIMEP. This academic community is unlike any other in Central Asia — with a comfortable and modern campus, inspirational and intellectual students, and instructors that are eager to challenge their students. KIMEP does not just prepare its students for their future careers; here, they acquire curiosity, conscientiousness, and well-rounded wisdom. I'm so proud to be a part of this team."

English Club

Princeton in Asia Fellows is successfully conducting English Club. More than 40, and sometimes up to 60, participants of different ages from 13 to 70 visit KIMEP English Club every Monday evening. Can you imagine what interesting and exciting discussions there happen to be between different generations and people of different cultures and lifestyles? KIMEP's English Club is a wonderful place of English-speaking, with a cheerful and relaxed atmosphere, where everyone can come and spend time with use and fun for free.

HOW IS IT TO BE INTERNATIONAL?

KIMEP UNIVERSITY PRACTICES INTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL LIFE. BUT CAN YOU IMAGINE INTERNATIONALIZATION WITHOUT GOING ABROAD? WE SAY “YES”!

We partner with 160 HEIs in the USA, Europe, and Asia, which entail the exchange of students, professors, and staff members, research, summer schools, visiting programs, joint conferences, dual degrees, etc. We successfully implement academic mobility with about half of them, including famous Erasmus Plus (supported by EU) mobility program with Humboldt University (Germany), LUND University and Uppsala University (Sweden), Masaryk University (Czech Republic), University of Lodz (Poland), University of Tartu (Estonia), University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and University of Deusto (Spain), Middle East Technical University (Turkey), University of Liechtenstein, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), Varna University of Management (Bulgaria), University of Graz (Austria), University of Iceland and others!

Each academic year KIMEP opens its doors for international students from about 30 countries. More than 300 students have studied or visited KIMEP University through the exchange, language, degree and non-degree study programs and cultural tours.

In the past academic year, the Department of International Academic Mobility (DIAM), with the help of student organizations KIMEP International Student Association (KISA) and, nowadays, its successor Buddy for International Students (BIS), organized different events on campus: Welcoming and Farewell parties, International Students Day, Country Days, Nauryz celebration, as well as trips inside and outside of Kazakhstan. This year was special for our University; we have dedicated all events to the 25th Anniversary of KIMEP University. Our unforgettable colorful events involved international and Kazakh students, who eagerly presented their national culture and cuisines, sang and danced, and wore national costumes. Guests from embassies, consulates, Assemblies of Peoples of KZ, other HEIs, and all KIMEPIans enjoyed international spirit created by music, performances, games and competitions, and, of course, a mix of food, cooked by our international students.

Country Days are our zest. Last year students from Japan, France, Afghanistan, Italy, Sweden, China, Singapore, and the USA shared their cultural and traditional values with all visitors. All KIMEPIans had a chance to learn interesting facts about countries, students, their talents and skills, try homemade international cuisine, practice national dance with students, participate in quizzes, and network. Exchange student Ms. Fariba Nazari from Afghanistan raised a veil over the style and traditions of marriage in her family. Students broke stereotypes of today's life style of Japanese people with student Mr. Daichi Ota. Mr. Carlo di Grigori, a regular Master student from Italy, gave the funniest presentation – we laughed into tears watching his gestures accompanied by interjections. We also did a great job showing Kazakh wedding traditions and treating guests with Kazakh boursaks, kazy, shubat, kymyz, kurt, etc.

Last year we opened “Globus” office (#408/Dostyk Building) with an aim to make KIMEP even better home for international students and help our local ones to make friends all over the world. It allows students to freely mingle, chat, discuss, exchange ideas and work on cultural projects together. KIMEP friendly DIAM staff guarantees relaxed, warm, and family atmosphere. With each event, we have become closer to each other, understood more about people's behavior, mentality, and dreams.



HOW IS IT TO BE INTERNATIONAL?

DO YOU THINK YOU ARE INTERNATIONAL IF YOU ONCE WENT ABROAD?

KIMEP raises our Kazakhstan students to be international, open-minded, easygoing, many-sided, and tolerant... in other words, global. To be international is not a one-day effort but demands hard work from an individual, sometimes during a long-time. Our alumni say that they changed dramatically in many aspects and broke stereotypes. Some witnessed that even their life values and priorities have been changed. Others have said, that after some time abroad, feeling international means for them thinking globally, out of limited borders, worrying about an international country or region's challenge and your friends who live there.

DIAM helps our students and staff by encouraging them to spend some part of their program in one of our partner HEIs abroad, studying or doing research or internship, learning foreign languages, networking, and taking advantage of having facilities or access to research materials not available in one university. Almost 250 students and 14 staff members went abroad last year and brought back their enriched experience, new knowledge, which they will apply in their teaching methodology and learning process.



A few years ago, "Globus" office opened its doors for all KIMEPIans wishing to get information about our partners and find booklets on exchange programs, summer schools, and internships. Many of our partners suggest national scholarships for exchange or full degree programs, language courses, and cultural tours.



Last year we established the Exchange Alumni Club to talk to the members about the impact of mobility on their further education plans, professional career, and employability. Even love stories happened abroad, resulting in happy marriages! Your feedback and stories of success have been always inspiring and encouraging for our students to make "pro" decision. Exchange alumni have helped us as members in BIS, guests at presentations and meetings with finalists, orientations with newcomers, and in many other activities.

We are proud of our exchange alumni and invite everybody to join our Exchange Alumni Club to continue contributing to the development of the human capacity of our country, disseminate information about mobility programs at KIMEP University, the diverse student and faculty body, and support that you received from DIAM.

You are welcome to one of the five offices of DIAM! The main office is #409 in Dostyk Building ("Globus"); it has been located there for over 17 years.

Yours,

Elmira Suleimanova, Director, #416/Dostyk

Sholpan Orazaly, International Officer (international students), #408/Dostyk

Zhamilya Utarbayeva, Coordinator (outgoing mobility), #411/Dostyk
Aizhan Akhmetova, Coordinator (incoming mobility), #408/Dostyk

CHALLENGE KIMEP CUP 2017

On April 21, the Changellenge organization (Moscow) and the Corporate Development Department of KIMEP University organized the Final of International Changellenge KIMEP Cup 2017.

Students from Kazakhstan, Russia, and Kyrgyzstan competed in solving a case of KIMEP University. The teams worked on the development of a five-year strategic plan for the University. 15 cities, 30 Universities, and more than 500 students participated in this intellectual competition. The finalists, 10 Russian-speaking teams and 10 English-speaking teams from 10 Universities of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, were invited to KIMEP to compete in the Changellenge Cup.

This year the Championship was dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of KIMEP University.

Teams from KIMEP University, Nazarbayev University, NARXOZ University, American University of Central Asia, Karaganda University, Kazakh-British Technical University, and Suleyman Demirel University presented their proposals of the five-year strategic plan at the final.



The Jury was made up of representatives from Ernst & Young and KIMEP University. The Corporate Development Department would like to thank Dr. Timothy Barnett, Provost of KIMEP University, Dr. San Hoon Lee, Dean of the Bang College of Business of KIMEP University, and Dr. Sergey Sayapin, Professor of the Law School of KIMEP University, for their wise and objective judgment. Dr. Chan Young Bang, President of KIMEP University, attended the opening of the English section of the Championship and listened to the presentation of the team from Nazarbayev University.

The winners of the Russian section are:
1st place, Gold medals and the Cup – the team from Karaganda State Technical University
2nd place, Silver medals – the team from NARXOZ University
3d place, Bronze medals – the mixed team from KIMEP University, Suleyman Demirel University, Kazakh-British Technical University

The winners of the English section are:
1st place, Gold medals and the Cup – the team from Nazarbayev University
2nd place, Silver medals – the team from Nazarbayev University
3d place, Bronze medals – the team from KIMEP University

Dr. Barnett noted that the participants of the Final of International Changellenge KIMEP Cup 2017 case proposed a number of interesting ideas towards bettering KIMEP University. Dr. Bang stated that such case competitions play an important role in student development.

Ernst & Young and the Boston Consulting Group, the partners of the Changellenge KIMEP case, presented the winners with various prizes.

The Corporate Development Department expresses sincere gratitude to Ekaterina Butorina, President and Founder of Changellenge Moscow, and her Moscow team for their partnership in the organization of the first International Changellenge Cup on KIMEP University case in Kazakhstan.

KIMEP University congratulates all teams, participants, and winners for a fantastic case competition!

L'OREAL BRANDSTORM 2017: THE WAY IT HAPPENED

Through June 14-16, the finals of the L'Oréal Brandstorm 2017 international business competition, largely recognized as one of the world's major student innovations competitions, took place in Paris.

Forty-two teams from different countries of the world totaling 126 finalists presented their revolutionary ideas at the first ever Brandstorm Innovations Fair. Students presented their projects to a jury, which consisted of 60 experts including the executives of L'Oréal and key partners in the company. Contestants were challenged to think of a "revolutionary idea in the sphere of skin care products for men" for L'Oréal Paris Men Expert.

Contestants created radically new showering products for men including a personally tailored skin-care formula to satisfy any needs, and even nano-capsules, which fit a skin-care product into credit card size packaging. These are just a few examples of projects presented in the final stage of the 25th L'Oréal Brandstorm international business contest. The competition was intense, but teams from Brazil, Thailand, and Singapore eventually won the contest.

This was the first year that Kazakhstan took part in Brandstorm, where our team made it through regional selection and competed in the international finals.



Jury members complimented the ideas and excellent presentation skills displayed by "Team Bang", the team from KIMEP University, Kazakhstan. You can find a detailed photo report from the competition at the L'Oréal Talent Kazakhstan page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LOréalTalentKazakhstan/>

Throughout Brandstorm's 25-year history, more than 100,000 students from 58 countries have competed in it.

A link to a video about L'Oréal Brandstorm 2017: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Igt-IpPGGI>



SPORTS CENTER'S EVENTS

KIMEP University offers a wide range of sports and activities to promote the physical and mental well-being of University community and the public. This is why it regularly hosts different sports tournaments to encourage everyone to relieve stress, meet new people, and take up new and exciting hobbies.



One of the initiatives was the KIMEP President's Ping Pong Challenge launched on October 29, 2016. It was dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the University and aimed to provide opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and alumni to partake in quality sports activities and to increase cooperation between the universities of Almaty city. Around 150 participants participated in this exciting event from different universities including KIMEP University, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, International Information Technology University, NARXOZ University, University "Turan", KazNTU after K.I. Satpayev, Kazakh Academy of Sports and Tourism, ALMA University, Suleyman Demirel University, University of International Business, Almaty University of Power Engineering & Telecommunications, Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University, Kazakh National Agrarian University, Kazakh-British Technical University and other.

Winners received awards from Dr. Chan Young Bang, President of KIMEP University, who is a passionate Ping-Pong player.

This year, KIMEP University Sports Center organized the open city-wide tournament of Ping Pong and Bocce* for athletes of the branch of "Special Olympics" public association of Almaty with special needs. This initiative aimed at the advancement of Special Olympics movement, the involvement of new athletes with mental disabilities into sports, their socialization and integration into the society, and attracting attention and changing the attitude of the society towards people with disabilities. It was a special competition organized as part of Nauryz celebration and coincided with the 25th Anniversary of KIMEP University.

The finalists of both competitions received cups and medals for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Also, all participants of the tournament received medals and honorary certificates.

Another event that KIMEP University hosted this year was a sports competition for children from the Y. Altynsarin boarding school of Kyrboltabay village of Almaty province. On May 23, 2017, the Corporate Development Department invited a group of 60 orphans from Morgan Lewis & Shugyla Charity Foundation project "The Best Day in My Life" to KIMEP. The little guests enjoyed a large number of sports activities including ball competitions, tug of war, frisbee, and mini-football. After they also visited the University campus and had fun talking to KIMEP students. KIMEP University and the Sports Center thank Anna Kainazarova, KIMEP alumna, for initiating such a great event!



HR DEPARTMENT NEWS

"HUMAN RESOURCES ARE CRUCIAL!"

is not a surprising phrase to anyone. Following Kazakhstan's independence, economic, and international relations development have dictated their own rules and requirements towards the restructuring of human resource services and the development of new directions in HR. KIMEP University's HR department has also changed over the 25 years of its existence. KIMEP University was one of the first educational institutions in Kazakhstan and Central Asia and has successfully remained within Almaty's borders due to its extensive international staff.

The increase in the number of foreign employees at KIMEP required the HR department to develop rules and policies based on the standards of Western universities and to understand the needs and aspirations of representatives of other countries as they first arrived in Kazakhstan to teach. At the same time, it was necessary to follow the legislation of the Republic regarding the workplace. From the founding of the University to the present, the KIMEP's uniqueness and originality have spread among the other higher educational institutions of the country.

Over the history of the University, the number of foreign faculty changed from year to year. For the first time in Kazakhstan, the University began to recruit faculty from universities from a diverse number of countries around the world. This was partially due to the fact that Kazakhstan, as a young country, opened its doors to new ideas and investment projects. Investment in the education of younger generations is an important step for the future of the country. The initial graduating classes of the University were not large, but gradually the education programs expanded and the number of students increased. Today, the graduates of those first KIMEP classes hold leading positions in the management of national and international companies in various sectors of the economy. Today, KIMEP University occupies a special place in the heart of each graduate, despite their age, place of residence or job title...

**Irina M. Demiyanova, Senior Personnel Officer
(25 years of work experience at KIMEP University)
shares her experience:**

"KIMEP was formed based on the structure of the Almaty Institute of Political Science and Management.

During the initial years of the University, our priority was to graduate current students of the Institute. Then management systems, educational programs, and all internal processes in the University were modified because they had to meet international standards. The staff of the University increased year by year, as professionals joined from their respective fields. Both people from Kazakhstan who had received their degree abroad, as well as foreign specialists, contributed to the growth of KIMEP. At the dawn of Kazakhstan's independence, little was known about the country abroad, but each year the interest in KIMEP increased among the foreign professors. The faculty has always been representative of more than 15 countries both the near to and far from Kazakhstan. KIMEP is not just a university, it's a vivid example of world integration and mutual understanding between representatives of different countries."



Every year the members of the teaching staff and the requirements given to them have varied. The administrative staff of the University has changed as well, as have the students of the University. There are many qualities of KIMEP students. In my opinion, the key characteristics of a KIMEP student are creativity, belief in oneself and one's knowledge, team spirit, optimism and search for new opportunities for self-realization. The stories of such students are probably breathtaking for school graduates that have not yet found their own place in life. However, for those whose older brothers, sisters and friends are already members of the KIMEP community, their choice for the future is clear. Many family dynasties have studied at the University.

Since 2007, the University has successfully employed many KIMEP students' on a part-time basis.

HR DEPARTMENT NEWS

More about this from Tatyana Kurochkina, Personnel Manager (have been working at KIMEP since 2006):

"Students at our University can work as teaching assistants, office assistants, and peer-advisers. This practice has been well received by students because this is a good opportunity to gain work experience, be paid, and, finally, be better acquainted with the life of the University from within. Third-year students and higher in good academic standing can apply for employment. This way, by graduation, a student already has almost two years of work experience. About 200 students per year work at the University and gain new skills while they aren't studying."



It is well-known that the success of a company depends on the quality of its personnel. An organization should look for the best of the best employees who have new ideas and whose work and ideas contribute to the success of the company. The main task of HR is the selection of such personnel. The University is working hard to improve the quality of services provided to students. Graduates of KIMEP are welcomed by the administration of the University as candidates for vacancies. Yesterday's graduates with their experience of student life at the University can greatly contribute to the improvement of the services provided. Graduates of both undergraduate and graduate programs at KIMEP constitute about 15% of the total number of the University employees.

We spoke with KIMEP alumni who were previous employees of the Department of Human Resources Management, and some who currently work there. We asked them whether they thought about working at the University during their studies, how their perception of KIMEP changed after employment, and how they would profile the applicant/employee-graduate of KIMEP.

Aigerim Makenova, BSS PA and FM, 2008 HR Officer since 2014

"My student years at KIMEP were focused on studying up until the 4th year, and I rarely thought about future work. To be honest, I do not remember that I wanted to work at KIMEP. I can only say that studying was always a challenge for me, however, it was also a very interesting time in my life. During that time, I only knew the employees of the Registrar office, the Library, and the KIMEP Store. A year after graduation from the University, I suddenly was out of work due to downsizing in Astana. That was the turning point of my career. The Career and Employment Center of the University played an important role at that moment of my life. Thanks to them, I have received several unpaid and paid internships, including internships in a national company, and at the embassy. After some time, I applied for the position of Specialist in the Financial Aid Office and was hired by KIMEP University. Then, I was transferred to the HR Department, where I currently work."



Our graduates are always in demand and ready to compete in the labor market. The University employees can always apply for a job through internal recruitment. This allows them to work in several departments and get extensive experience in different fields. As a person responsible for recruitment, I can say that at the University, people work with deep commitment and respect for their work. Studying and working at KIMEP are certainly two different experience. Working at the University allows one to learn the nuances of university life that are hard for a student to notice. A student is never aware of the complete internal processes KIMEP needs but sees only the result. KIMEP is home to which you always want to return. There is always something new to learn during everyday work. Communicating in an intercultural environment when hiring faculty and administrative personnel is probably one of my main responsibilities. I have noticed that people who work at KIMEP are determined to excel and are always motivated, it compels me to work just as hard in return. Graduates who become employees/applicants of the University are always fast learners and bring unique ideas to any situation. Graduates of KIMEP have changed trends in the labor market since the first graduating class of 1994. Among my classmates and graduates of 2008, the

HR DEPARTMENT NEWS

majority have reached career heights in the civil service in Astana, some have opened private businesses, while others completed their Master's degrees through the Bolashak program. I think that every graduate can find employment and "make it" himself, and the important thing is to make an effort to do something and do it well."

**Arsen Baiseupov, BSc in Business Administration (Accounting), 2012; MBA (Finance), 2016
HR Officer since 2016**

"I did not think that I would work at a university. Here, I have gained experience in the field of employee recruitment. As an employee of KIMEP University, I can say that the amount of work and responsibility that is entrusted to the management and administration of the University becomes apparent."



**Aigerim Tabynbayeva, BSs in Business Administration and Accounting (Management), 2006
HR Officer (during 2016-2017 AY)**

"I did not think about working at KIMEP during my student years. To be honest, I did not even think that my University is also an employer and not simply an educational institution. I was not obsessed with working in the Big Four and considered many options. That's why, after seeing the vacancy of KIMEP at hh.kz, I applied without hesitation. During my work, I was once again convinced that students are the first priority for the top management, and that is undoubtedly pleasing. However, as an employee, I feel that management has become more focused on corporate culture and relationships within the team. During my time at KIMEP, I had to communicate with people from different countries and to find an approach to everyone. Another advantage was the constant English practice through business correspondence and negotiations. Compliance with deadlines during task implementations was beneficial too. A graduate of the University is an advanced, independent and versatile worker. The graduates of KIMEP University are capable of changing trends in the labor market of our country. I have noticed that many employers prefer KIMEP graduates to graduates of foreign universities because at KIMEP we combine high-quality foreign education with a touch of the Kazakhstani mentality. Also,

the graduate of KIMEP University is a universal individual who easily adapts to Kazakhstani customs and procedures as well as to innovations coming from outside. Today, the main trend in the labor market is digitalization and we, as advanced experts, easily plunge into the virtual space where we feel like a "fish in water."

Therefore, KIMEP University instills independence in decision-making and competence in one's field. This year, KIMEP University turns 25, and for all these years, its graduates have worked for the prosperity of our country. By educating the younger generation of this new system, KIMEP contributes to the development of all sectors of the economy and to the modernization of the country. The importance of the University in the educational system of Kazakhstan is indisputable. KIMEP University has developed at the same pace as the country, and we can proudly state that we have been together for 25 years.

Welcome to KIMEP University, HR would be pleased to work with you!

You can find our contact information at <https://hr.kimep.kz> or in Almaty, Abai Ave., 2, offices No. 109, 111, and 113.



CALENDAR OF STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES

PERIOD	ACTIVITY
FALL SEMESTER 2017	
September 22, 2017	Fall/Fail in Love Fest
October 2, 2017	KSA Elections Campaign starts
Weekends of September, 2017	Open Air Movie
October 7, 2017	Homecoming (the 25th Anniversary Celebration open air)
October 28, 2017	Ping Pong Challenge
October, 2017	American Football League
November 4, 2017	Tennis tournament
November 23, 2017	Miss and Mister KIMEP 2018
November 25, 2017	Special Olympics Games
November, 2017	StandUp show

PERIOD	ACTIVITY
SPRING 2018 SEMESTER	
February-April, 2018	KFI Top model
March, 2018	The Smartest Guy in the room
March, 2018	Poetry evening
March, 2018	Book Swaping
March-May, 2018	American Football Tournament
April 21, 2018	Nauryz and Family Day
April, 2018	Stars on Ice 2018
April, 2018	KADA Annual concert
April, 2018	Cultural Festival
May 19, 2018	Graduation

INTERVIEW WITH TAIR CHOKIN, BAE 2006

Deputy Chairman of the Management Board, the National Agency for Technological Development

Why did you choose KIMEP?

I chose KIMEP for its reputation as one of the leading providers of business education in the country. I specifically liked the idea of going through an American styled educational program without the need to actually study abroad and be away from my family. An additional bonus for me was the fact that all of the learning materials and lectures were in English.

What memories stand out from your time at KIMEP?

I think the most valuable aspect of studying in KIMEP for me was the exposure to many different people. Unlike other universities in the country where students are bound to a specific group of class mates throughout their whole period of study, in KIMEP we could take courses from different professors, have different class mates, and form different groups of students to work on a specific project. I met many new people with completely different backgrounds, interests, and aspirations in life. They, in one way or the other, helped form my views, helped me be open to new ideas, and helped build respect for the versatility of opinions and diversity of thoughts.

Do you have any memories of outstanding professors?

Of course. Yelzhas Aubakirov, for instance. He was direct, not willing to compromise with students, and meticulous, as a good professor of accounting should be in the first place, but most importantly, he was a great speaker. He made accounting an interesting subject for me and the knowledge I received from him helped me get my first internship with an international bank later on. Mukhit Yeleuov, professor of law was also outstanding. He was a great person, very knowledgeable, a top professional in his field and a great speaker. He managed to put into one course all the legal essentials a young financier or entrepreneur needs to know to successfully walk through his or her career, and to build a business.

What is your current job and when did you start?

Now I am Deputy Chairman of the management board of National Agency for Technological Development. I started this role a couple of months ago. Before that, I was in finance and banking for 10 years.

How did KIMEP education help with your job?

KIMEP helped catapult my career in banking. Without KIMEP's flexible system of education, where I could take classes I liked at the time of the day I wanted, I would not have been able to have a full-time job as a FX trader in a bank, and be a third-year student with another year to complete my degree at the same time. The economic education I received was quite relevant, in my particular case, because the essence of the work of a trader is to understand how the economy works, observe imbalances in the economy (they always happen), and bet on it. I started working for an international bank, so being fluent in English, particularly business English, was very important. I cannot stress that enough and thanks to KIMEP, I was well prepared for that. Once I excelled at my

first job, it sort of propelled me to the next steps in my career.

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

People say that the bonds you make in college/university are the strongest. I agree with this statement. I am in touch with many of my former classmates, and friends. Once you get older, it becomes more difficult to meet regularly because every one has own family, busy with career or lives in different country. However, I try to allocate at least one weekend a month to meet with them.

What would be your advice to current students?

Stay hungry. Hungry for everything new, new ideas, new knowledge, new activities, new people, and new places. Such an approach will open a wide range of opportunities and you cannot know where they may lead you in the end. Maybe a future billionaire? Maybe a future celebrity? Maybe a well-respected politician? Be proactive. While in college, it is a completely safe environment for you to test things, check and push the boundaries of what is possible, and try yourself in different roles. When you start your career, you will have less of that and usually there will be a cost associated with this. Use your time wisely while you are in a college.

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

Who said I stay calm? Just joking. Gym sessions, jogging just like any other professional. Nothing fancy or unique.

What are your ideas on happiness and success?

Those are two important things one needs to live a great and fulfilling live. Different people define happiness differently: there is no unique definition or formula to it. For me happiness means living a healthy life, having a family and a place you can call home, surrounding yourself with great people who motivate, support and challenge you every day of being better.

Is anything else you would like to share with the KIMEP community?

I think it would be great for KIMEP to organize a special fellowship (stipend) for a gifted student from a poor family that would support each year his or her study in KIMEP. Let's call it the Class of 2006 fellowship where all of the alumni of the class of 2006 would donate a symbolic sum of 5000-10000 tenge a year to support the study of one or two bright individuals that come from a modest background.

I think all of us want to be a leader and being a leader means giving something back to the society that helped nurture your success.



INTERVIEW WITH DANIYAR BIZHANOV, MA 1998

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

Business Development Executive, JetAirlines

Raushan: *Good afternoon, Daniyar! Thank you very much for the invitation and for agreeing to give an interview. So, you graduated from the MA program in 1998. Can you tell us about your life as a KIMEP student?*

Daniyar: It is always a pleasure to recall those years, stories, and adventures I had with my classmates and friends.

R: *Your graduating class was very close to each other, and, as far as I know, you still keep in touch.*

D: Yes, we are very close, and we really had fun studying together. Right now we all keep in touch thanks to Zhenya Kopaigora who always gets us together. Next year it will be 20 years since we graduated from KIMEP. Most likely we will celebrate. Many want to come to the anniversary from different countries.

R: *Do you remember your graduation day? What plans did you have for after graduation?*

D: I remember that the President of the country has awarded our diplomas. When you graduate, you, of course, think about your future job, you want to apply your knowledge. Before graduating, I worked as an interpreter and also unloaded LADA cars from railway platforms. After KIMEP I started looking for a new, more serious job. Since I had a background in electronics, and I was interested in the telecommunication industry, which, in my opinion, was very promising, I focused on telecommunication companies. My first job was as the operator in the Nursat satellite center. There I have learned some basic things about satellite technologies. I was given once the task of making a presentation on the Nursat satellite network in English. The experience I had in preparing presentations at KIMEP helped. After that, I was promoted to the corporate clients' manager. There, I got my first experience with foreigners. My boss was an American – Kurt Hopkins. I became a supervisor for Atyrau, Aktau, and Astana. I took business trips to negotiate with clients and connect offices and business centers. It was a good experience, which was very useful later on.



I worked in Nursat for about 2 years, at which time I had the opportunity to explore the marketing service of the company. When I suggested to the management of Nursat the idea of creating a company that would service telecom companies in the field of marketing and advertising, they supported me. So, we created "ADVision", which was an advertising agency that existed for just over 5 years. This was my first experience in establishing a business. Everybody on the team was young and creative but without much experience in the field. They were mostly graduates of the Kazakh State Architecture and Construction Academy. We received many awards for creativity and design. The first experience like that is always difficult, but it was very beneficial. Our clients were the Nursat Company itself, Kazinformtelecom and Kazakhtelecom for a while. Later many of my employees established their own companies in the field of design and creative development, and are now successful businessmen.

INTERVIEW WITH DANIYAR BIZHANOV, MA 1998

My next stage was as a K-Mobile Brand Manager and later as a Department Director at Kar-Tel. I had been working in this company for three years. Then, the company was bought out by the Russian company Beeline. When Beeline came, I was in the group of people that helped new integration managers understand how Kar-Tel works in Kazakhstan.

Management of the company began to change; local managers were replaced by visiting Russian managers. I was offered a work in the tariff calculation sector, which was not particularly interesting for me, so I began to look for another job.

I found my new job by accident on the Internet. It was at a telecom start-up (a new word for us in those days), which aimed to create a new, as they wrote, a revolutionary product that was to be assembled in the UK. I wrote them and they invited me for an interview in Moscow. They liked me and hired me as the director of product development. The owner and head of the project was a very interesting person, one of the shareholders of RBK, who had successfully sold his shares and decided to engage in what he was interested in. His idea was to create a luxury smartphone for business leaders based on WindowsMobile. At that time, the smartphone, which he began to develop in 2005, was very similar to the iPhone, which appeared later in 2007.

This man influenced me greatly. He had one rule for all employees – we had to take books from his extensive library, read them and write a one-page essay on the book. Loaded with work, we, of course, read the thinnest books there were, but they proved to be the most beneficial, full of meaning. The main ideas and thoughts that I learned from them were that nothing in life is accidental, that the dreams we had as children are where you return for answers, that at the end of one's life a person will regret not realizing the dreams he had as a child. I learned that you must muster courage and start moving towards those dreams, that it will be hard at first, but if it's your passion, then you won't just give up and will see how surrounding starts to help you. I've also learned that a tiny flame in each person's soul can be ignited to become a great fire, and its light grants strength and many possibilities. I've learned much, much more that inspires me to cultivate my abilities. The Moscow subway is a wonderful place – so many books have been read there!

I dreamed of working in aviation from a young age. I wanted to be a pilot or an aircraft designer. However, life has its own plans, which, as I said, has its own meaning that you understand only later. After graduating from physics and math school in 1991, I wanted to join Moscow Aviation University, but I was not allowed to go to Moscow. The situation in the collapsed Soviet Union was very unstable; students from new, independent republics remained without scholarships and housing. That year, the State School of Physics and Mathematics sent us to every university that held entrance examinations. I was looking for something related to aviation, but I could not find it. I entered the Physics Department of the Kazakh State University to major in Electronics. I dreamed of working at Baikonur or the giant factory for the production of military-industrial robots TYP-10K, which were built near the city of Kapchagai. Later, the factory, which stood unfinished for 15 years, was turned into a casino. I graduated from the Bachelor's program and entered the Master's program. Kazakh State University had a 6-year program in English. In 1996, my last year at Kazakh State University, I entered KIMEP, so I was simultaneously studying at Kazakh State University and KIMEP, visiting labs at the Physics department, conducting experiments with a new generation of semiconductors, writing a thesis, trying to do everything in time, and defending my Master's thesis in Physics.

For me, KIMEP was a new and serious test. It was a Western style of education; it had other requirements, new (to me) economic terms and new theories. Studying at this University has seriously changed my views on how to study. The Soviet-style education in the Kazakh State University was completely different, more regulated, monotonous, and overloaded with unnecessary information. It was much less applicable as well. Due to the collapse of the USSR, the KSU did not have any explicit focus; everyone was on the same wave, yet by themselves. At KIMEP you chose your own classes, focused on a certain specialization, often worked in a team, interacted with other students and faculty. You understood how the information you learned was applicable in real life, discussed it with fellow students, and dreamed about how to bring your ideas to life. After starting my work in Moscow and working with designers and electronics engineers on developing a revolutionary smartphone as the Director of product development, I suddenly realized that in Moscow I could

INTERVIEW WITH DANIYAR BIZHANOV, MA 1998

meet interesting companies and people working in the field of commercial aviation. While working at Kar-Tel (Beeline), I regularly observed events in Moscow aviation circles, studied the types of western-produced aircraft and helicopters in use in Moscow, and for which the training was provided. I studied new aviation brands and aviation in the Russian market. Inspired by the books from my boss, I slowly began to contact those companies, explaining who I was and why I would like to communicate with them. Every weekend I went to the airfields and I studied different models of aircraft and helicopters. Moscow aviators were interested in expanding their market in Kazakhstan. I realized that it was time for me to do what I love. After talking with the boss, I received his blessing.

I returned to Kazakhstan and started a new stage in my career – Aviation. I worked in different companies, with planes and helicopters, concurrently learning to fly Yak-18T and Cessna 172 planes. In 2007, I got my PPL (private pilot license). I really wanted to get a commercial pilot license, but in order to do so, I needed a higher education in aviation. With this purpose, I entered the American aerospace university at Embry-Riddle. At that time, six graduates of that university had already become astronauts and flew into space. I earned a Master's Degree in Aeronautics with a major in aerospace projects management (airlines, airports, helicopters and even space operations).

R: Daniyar, so why airplanes? Why did they appeal to you?

D: When I was a child, I remember watching the AN-2 plane fly over our house, and I always dreamed of being inside them. I really liked watching the planes from the Almaty airport balcony when seeing off my grandpa on his business trips. I remember the smell of the jet fuel. My uncle bought me my first model airplane – a German made Pan-American 727 Boeing. I was too young at the time to assemble something like that, so my uncle helped me. I didn't want to go to bed without finishing the plane. I sat on my bed and watched how my uncle, in the light of a desk lamp, was putting together this "white miracle". Later on, I learned to put together these model planes by myself. I had a very large collection of aircraft models – about thirty. And then, of course, I fell in love with flying aircraft models.



When I was a Scout, I was a part of clubs where we made planes. Before that, I tried to make them on my own from paper, cardboard, and wood. And, by the way, they flew quite well.

In 2008, I started working for JetAirlines. I was invited by my high school classmate from Physics and Math School. The company needed an executive. This was the same year that I received my acceptance to the University of Aeronautics in the United States, but here in Kazakhstan I had a good job and a great salary offered. After negotiating with the University, I was transferred to a distance-learning program. I spent three years studying online and the final year studying in the US full-time.

When I returned to Kazakhstan in 2012, I already had plans to establish my own aviation business. In the US, I purposefully studied all the aspects of various models of aviation businesses. It's such a thrill to literally "devour" information with a great purpose in mind.

Upon my return to Kazakhstan, I received job offers from Kazkosmos and the Civil Aviation Committee. I thought it would be useful to work in the administration of civil aviation of Kazakhstan in order to establish my own business in the future. I thought that possibly I would be interested in staying with the civil service. When I flew to Astana for a meeting, I ended up sitting next to Armanzhan Baitasov (well-known media tycoon). We talked and got the idea of creating the first regional low-cost airline in Kazakhstan. One might say the idea was born in heaven.

In the Civil Aviation Committee (CAC) I worked on the integration and transition to global and European flight safety standards. Along with the representatives from ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) and EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency), I worked to ensure that CAC passed ICAO audits so that our airlines were

INTERVIEW WITH DANIYAR BIZHANOV, MA 1998

removed from the European blacklist. After doing civil service for one year, I realized that I am not a civil servant and it's not my thing.

My future partners (Abdulatip Issayev, who has extensive experience in aviation, and investor Armanzhan Baitasov) and I prepared to launch our own airline.

In 2013, we have bought JetAirlines. Now, we have four western-made aircraft in operation. Each flies 40 to 100 hours per month depending on the season. For now, we have decided not to go through with the low-cost airline project.

Regarding the business model of our airline – we do not own airplanes. Instead, we fly them for their owners – our customers, providing a completely transparent and good conservation of expenses for their maintenance and service due to the high level of professionalism and extensive experience of our staff. We employ specialists with extensive experience in the aviation industry. We create the most favorable conditions to maintain excellent conditions for our customers' aircraft and keep them available to fly 24/7. Aircraft owners include various companies and people. We are working on engaging new customers. Right now, we are planning to integrate two more planes.

R: Do you mind telling us how much it costs to fly to Astana from Almaty and back?

D: At least \$12,000 round-trip for 6 people. On our website, we have a special form to calculate the price; we respond to any requests. We also advise everyone contacting us regarding the sale and purchase of aircraft. We have a lot of experience in this area. We successfully helped some of our customers to sell their aircraft profitably, and some to buy them, by analyzing an aircraft and lowering the price by 20-25%. Our company aims to make aircraft less burdensome and even profitable for the owners. In this sense, our long-standing good connections with foreign maintenance centers, training centers, handlers, and airports help us well – they provide favorable conditions without intermediaries.

R: Daniyar, would you want to open an aviation school in the future?

D: We have such a project in mind, and we are currently studying the market. The point is that Kazakhstan has enough training centers already. We are looking for a niche, we study the market, we analyze whether it is worth opening one.

R: What helps you to keep active in your work, maintain clarity of mind and stress resistance, make the right decisions?

D: First of all, it is the support of my family, which for me is in the first place. All I do is for them. Communication with the family gives me great pleasure; my little children (I have four) give me strength and an incentive to move forward. Also, yoga, meditation, morning jogs, and bike rides help to relax and remain calm. It is also as important to be thankful for what you have, for being alive, for being healthy – it's very comforting. Our business is very unstable, different issues arise, so one must be able to remain calm.

R: Daniyar, what advice would you give to current KIMEP students?

D: First, decide on your goals. Determine what you really want to do, what you strive for, and gradually move in this direction. It's hard for a person to believe that he can achieve a lot in an area in which he would be interested. When one starts moving toward a goal, it will be difficult in the beginning, but eventually, he will see that everyone and everything around him are helping him. And another thing is self-improvement, of course. Do not stop learning. Take care of your health; take care of your family. A lot of positive energy is required for full-fledged, productive work.

R: It was very interesting to hear your story. It's rare that one can afford to do what they love, and achieve success.

D: I'm interested in many things. I have many hobbies, many promising business ideas in the field of high-tech. I plan to look for investor-partners, implement a couple of new projects. I will look for smart teammates. In the meantime, it is the development of a new airline in Europe, which will provide benefits to our customers, both in Kazakhstan and in other countries. We have been working on it for a year now.

R: Thank you for meeting with me and for your time! Good luck to you! We very much hope to hear about the first Kazakhstan airline being successful in Europe. Congratulations to you and your classmates on the 20th graduation anniversary, and to all of us on the 25th Anniversary of KIMEP!

ALMAGUL KALYMZHANOVA, BSS 2007

Official Representative & organizer of FrYday Almaty business-networking community
Founder of Inspiration Club – exclusive trips all over the world
Entrepreneur, event-planner, PR, traveler, marathoner, and sportswoman

Hello dear KIMEP Alumni!

My name is Almagul Kalymzhanova, and I am happy to share my story with you. But first, I would like to congratulate my lovely alma mater on its 25th Anniversary! My dear University, I wish a happy and fabulous anniversary to all the staff, students & guest-professors. Keep growing and spread your wings across the world. I am sure you will continue to offer high-quality programs and initiatives to prepare our future managers and leaders to deal with the challenges of the new global era!

I am proud to say that my success story took its start from student life at KIMEP, where I received a world-class education and an interesting social life.

The beginning of my participation in decision-making processes and business communications was part of the first Youth Parliament. I was given many opportunities at the Government Institutions, Ministries, the Parliament, where I even had the chance to work with the Ministers. The other great thing, which my University provided me with during the student life, is the opportunity to start working full-time before the graduation. These favorable circumstances gave me a great chance to work at one of the biggest project institutes, Kazakh Institute of Oil and Gas, owned by KazMunaiGas. It was a wonderful opportunity for any career, despite I was the last year student. There I learned about corporate life, how to write technical business plans and present in front of my bosses and colleagues. But, unfortunately, at this state-owned company, I couldn't use my English skills as much as I wanted. So, after 1,5 years of experience, I decided to leave the company and try to apply to one of the Big Four.

Fortunately, I passed all the exams and interviews, so my next working place became Deloitte LLP. That was the best time of my life: new international staff, modern style of a corporate management system, team-building



activities, seminars, and constant access to new, exciting clients (banks and other financial institutions). We were the first company who moved to the Almaty Financial Centre, which was also a great experience. All this happened and I never wanted to quit this job until the financial crises in 2008. It was a big problem for many companies, and especially for the Big Four. So, this was another unusual experience which made me think about my future and decide what I exactly want to do in my life.

I wanted something new, not connected with finance or auditing. I always thought about marketing or public relations, because I have a creative soul and like to communicate with people. But, with only a financial background and no experience, there was very little chance to find a job in these fields. I did not lose my hope and, in spite of that fact, I continued looking for a job connected with marketing. Thanks to my English skills and my big wish to learn new things, I was hired by the largest insurance company in our country, Eurasia Insurance Co. I joined their marketing team to organize the biggest international risk-management conference. I was responsible for the foreign part of this event, beginning from creating the concept to the logistics of our guests from 45 countries all over the world. Finding sponsorships, working with designers, partners, venues, mass-media and communicating with well-known international speakers was a great experience for me to

ALMAGUL KALYMZHANOVA, BSS 2007

begin my way in event management. Even now when I left my team, I am still in connection with almost all the international guests and speakers. They always send me warm regards and welcome me in their countries with great pleasure. During this priceless time in Eurasia, I understood that success in any part of our life and work comes with good communications and networking.

I always wanted something more from my work that fully used my abilities, skills, and creativity. Also, I wanted to travel a lot, have more sports in my life and to be able to manage time myself. So, all these desires led me to leave the best team I've ever had and begin another, different chapter in my life.

I traveled a lot in Europe. I connected my life with running and took part in international marathons. I have medals from a number of half-marathons from Rome, Riva Del Garda, and Munich. I did my first full-marathon in Madrid, and now I am running actively and preparing for cross-continental swimming contest in Turkey (Bosphorus, 6.5km). Yet, I also continued to learn new things while trying to find a job or project where I could implement my ideas and wishes. I finished an international marketing programme (NIMA) which was provided by the Netherlands Marketing Institute and began my own consulting organization, XpertNet, in collaboration with a European partner.

From this moment, my entrepreneurship took its start. Finally, I was not only the representative here but also the main decision-maker. At that time, destiny brought to me the first networking project of our city – FrYday Almaty – a branch of one of the largest networks of cosmopolitan professionals, currently represented in 20+ countries in Europe and Central Asia. FrYday community provides networking and promotional opportunities across the spectrum of new media and through the organization of popular FrYday events in the biggest cities of the region. To be honest, I never thought I could be the representative of this project here. When I worked for other companies, I always was one of the ordinary participants of FrYday events organized by the first representative Zhanar Nurlybek. But, later, it was a big surprise when she suggested me as a candidate to the international FrYday team to be the new organizer here in Almaty. Again, the result of good communications and networking.

So, now I am proud to say that FrYday Almaty has become the main project in my life. FrYday has given me the opportunity to organize different type of events. I am proud that for the last two years, there are more business-oriented and many Forbes Kazakhstan list businessmen & entrepreneurs, such as Ramil Mukhoryapov (ChocoFamily), Gani Uzbekov (former Capital Bank), Kuanysh Shonbay (Rumi Group), Bakht Niyazov (Falconry, Real Invest Group), Alisher Yelikbayev (the famous PR specialist in KZ) were speakers at my events not once but several times. I am proud that many international organizations, companies and official consulates ready for collaborations and choose FrYday as co-organizer of their big events.

I am happy to say that my big passion in traveling and organizing events from this year resulted to create Inspiration Club where, along with my European partner, we will create exclusive inspiration trips all over the world. Private shows with Fendi, Dolce&Gabbana, Armani; visiting famous private villas, monasteries or beaches; exclusive sailing experiences – all of which will be available for everyone. Inspiration Club is not about tourism but rather something more.

In addition, I should say that being a FrYday representative makes me more active in social networks, share my experience, recommendations, results, and receive regards and warm wishes from my audience. It inspires me to move forward and try many other new things, both in my career and personal life. I am pleased to inspire others to begin something unusual in their lives and to seek more different experiences. I always recommend and try to say to everybody in my life to live the moment and enjoy the life! I follow my heart and passion. Be positive and open. Communicate with people and share your experience. This makes me enjoy little things and yes, maybe this is the real reason for everything that is happening in my life. Now in my thirties, I am happy to say that I already had a good experience in my career, have met many inspiring people from different parts of the world, have had the opportunity to manage my own time, be active in sports, travel a lot, communicate and enjoy the life! This is only the beginning and I am sure more is about to come and explore.

P.S. Networking & communications rules. Do not forget about it.

VLADIMIR GAVRISH, MBA 1998

Dear friends!

Next year we are going to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our graduation. Jesus Christ! Some of you were not even born yet!

About a month ago, I received a letter from CDD with a request to write an interesting story of career success, family, etc. Somehow, I have found a desire to write something to my kids' generation. However, what kind of themes would be interesting for today's youth? In fact, you know much more than we did at your age. Modern pace of life, as well as the pace of maturation, is much higher today than it was 20-30 years ago. Moreover, I cannot brag about my career accomplishments – position of Finance Director in a holding with just USD 30 million annual turnovers, probably, is not comparable with achievements my classmates have reached. So, how my story might be interesting for you? Then, I thought, let my classmates tell you about their amazing careers (My God, theirs are enormous success stories). But I will tell you how I keep the balance between my work and my life.

So, Work Life Balance – What is it? This question has begun to bother me many years ago, but firstly, a little bit of history...

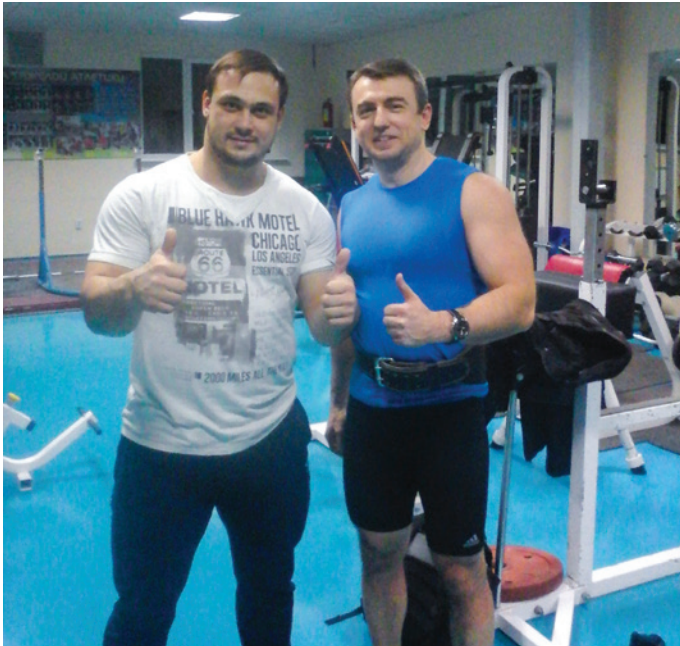
While studying the last semester at KIMEP, most of my mates were actively looking for a job: visiting interviews, sending their resumes everywhere, participating in different job fairs. I did not. In February, that is, four months prior to our graduation, my classmate and I had received job offers from an international company that provided oilfield services all over the world. Our starting position would be Field Service Engineer. As you understand, our future employer did not care about any of the knowledge we had received at KIMEP, but they were only interested in our first technical education background. However, thanks to KIMEP and especially Business Communication course, I managed to prepare such a brilliant presentation about myself during assessment process that they made me a job offer! In terms of salary, it was a dream for a fresh-baked graduate. However, there was one thing! My job meant rotational basis, which was 6 weeks being in the field and 6 weeks being at home. The second part was okay with me, but not the first one! Shortly, after finishing my first 6-week shift, I realized that it was not what I wanted.



It was the first time when I was thinking about work-life balance, although I did not know yet about such an expression. I had been married for 7 years and my elder daughter was 1 year old at that time. Having discussed the issue with my wife, we decided that even such a good pay was not a fair value to bring that interaction to my family. At the same time, of course, I realized that many thousands of families of sailors, oilers, etc. lived this way. But it was NOT MY WAY...

I had started looking for my way. I had changed several companies until I found one where I felt comfortable. That was an international company-leader in its industry, where top-management cared not only about the professional development of the employees but also organized different training. They did a lot of positive spirit building by organizing different corporate events: New Year, Family Day, Team buildings, etc. Nevertheless, my first year in that company was very tough – my line manager was an expat from Germany who beyond her job did not need anything in her life. She demanded the same from her subordinates. When I was going home at 8 or 9 p.m. and she was still working, I felt guilty...

VLADIMIR GAVRISH, MBA 1998



One day my wife got to the hospital. As we did not have any relatives in Almaty, nobody but myself could visit my wife to bring her food and to support her. The third time when I asked for permission to go to the hospital, my boss made a point to me that I was leaving my workplace too often. I felt myself get very angry with her and replied that she should not force me to make a choice between my job and my family since my choice would be in my family, obviously. I guess she had understood my mental condition. Step by step our relationship became better and better, and, when, in a year, she announced that her assignment in Kazakhstan had finished, I was even a little bit upset. However, not for a long time! My new boss from Ecuador was a good guy, and we had a great relationship. We are still in touch, although, he does not work in Kazakhstan.

At that time, I had started thinking that I should not live with only work and only with my job and family mattering in my life. You should definitely find some time for hobbies. For me, that was bodybuilding, which I had loved from my youth. This year, I celebrate the 10th anniversary I had resumed my gym workouts. I have been taking care about my and my family's nutrition for about the same amount of time. Moreover, two years ago, I got a certificate as Fitness Nutrition Specialist (under ISSA, USA). Three years ago, I switched from bodybuilding to powerlifting. It happened because, at some moments, I

began to feel I was losing motivation to work out. The reason was in absence of a BIG goal. I had a small goal to have a nice body. A big goal might be to participate in the competition and to win prizes but I realized that my genetics would not allow me to succeed without taking steroids. Therefore, three years ago, I decided to participate in the Almaty city powerlifting competition. And I won them! The secret was that in my age category, Masters-1, 40-45 years old, nobody participated. This way I became the Champion of Almaty in powerlifting. The atmosphere of competitions was so exciting that I decided to regularly participate in such competitions. In reality not many people train in my age and even less participate in the competition. Therefore, for me, it is like a competition with myself. In addition, I have complicated a task – not to take any steroids. Unfortunately, taking steroids in powerlifting is very common – maybe in 9 out of 10 cases. During many years of workouts, after having read a lot of literature, I have developed my own program for doping-free powerlifters. I am using it right now in my preparation for Kazakhstan Championship (WRPF version) which takes place in September. My goal is to improve my spring result as much as 20 kilos and gather 540 kilos in three exercises. I had completed 405 kilos on my first competition. Feel the difference!

Why am I telling this to you? Because I want you to understand now that work will take a significant part in your life. However, do not forget there are many other things to catch in your life! What do people regret on their deathbeds? They regret how little time they dedicated to their darlings, children, friends, and, more importantly, they regret having not fulfilled their dream! Very few of them regret they worked too little in their lives... LIVE and ENJOY! Meanwhile, I am in hurry for the workout!



AIGERIM AGYLTAYEVA, MAIJ 2014

**TV correspondent analyst of News program
Department
“Kazakhstan Republic TV & Radio Corporation” JSC,
Founder of PR agency “Ai-Media Group”**

For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to be a TV journalist. My first experience as a TV-journalist was in one of the news programs when I was in the third year. Later, thirteen years of work as a TV-journalist allowed me to observe the changes in the format and standards of journalism. I understand that development and improvement of the skills and learning of new format in journalism and new media are essential for my career.

In 2012, I won Dr. Bang’s scholarship and took a chance to study at KIMEP University in the Master of Arts in International Journalism (MAIJ) program. I enjoyed being a student of KIMEP and learning new subjects, like Academic writing, Critical thinking, PR Strategies, Photojournalism, Leadership and Motivation, Marketing, Consumer Behavior, and other.

Because of studying hard, I improved my knowledge and skills as a journalist and PR specialist. I always apply the knowledge that I have received at KIMEP University. The University allowed me to make much headway in the field. Also, I was able to practice and greatly improve the knowledge of English language. Now I can conduct interviews with the international diplomatic community, international businessmen, and finance leaders for exclusive programs. For example, I interviewed the XII President of Afghanistan, Khamit Karzay, Ex-president of Turkey, Abdullah Gul, President of Senegal, Macky Sall, UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, Chairman of “JP Morgan Chase International”, Jacob Frenkel, CEO of “Citigroup”, James Cowles, and other famous international speakers. Presenting myself as an English-speaking journalist, I had a chance to visit CNN Channel through the U.S. Embassy program. Thanks to my English language knowledge and professional skills, I’m qualified to work on international issues, thus increasing my competitiveness in the domestic TV-journalism market.

Furthermore, after completing the MAIJ program, I founded my own business – a PR agency “Ai-Media Group”. At KIMEP, I learned a lot about strategic PR plan, how to acquire clients, what instruments of PR promotion are effective, how to use graphics, etc. It helped me a



lot with my start-up. My agency has several interesting PR-projects in the medical sphere, organizes events such as “Shabyt”, “The International Vocal Artist competition of Bibigul Tulegenova”, and other. Also, I have presented myself as the PR-specialist of Son Pascal, Nurbigul Egizova, Anel Marabayeva, and others. I thank KIMEP University for presenting me with a chance to become successful in PR.

Finally, I conclude my story with a quotation of Jack Ma: “If you achieved a small victory today, you will reach the top tomorrow. Only by knowledge will you know what you need now and what to turn your back on. If you have a goal, then you’ve already won!”

AZAMAT TEMIRBEKOV, MPA 2014

Senior Manager, Department of promotion and tourism, JSC “NC” Astana EXPO-2017”

First of all, I would like to congratulate KIMEP University, its faculty, and students on the 25th anniversary – a quarter of a century of high-quality education and a high level of graduates’ qualifications for the modern challenges of the labor market.

Let me share a story of my post-KIMEP path through the lens of advice for students. I hope my story can inspire at least one person for a personal achievement.

Absorb everything as if you are a sponge!

Sometimes, to explain what it’s like to study at KIMEP, I joked that during all 4 years of my bachelor degree in my previous university I didn’t study as hard, as I did during 1 year at KIMEP. And this is true. KIMEP makes you study and the word “nerd” is more of a compliment than an insult. You become competitive because of a vast network of fellow students with unique backgrounds. And this competitive environment is a unique platform for obtaining knowledge, ideas, and useful tools. Thus, finding myself in such an environment, I began to learn from my classmates and teachers, attended all sorts of workshops and seminars, combined with the hours I spent in the library, which for a while became my second home.

Do not be afraid to work free for the sake of valuable experience!

Once, when I saw an announcement about the SMM internship at the Graduate Admissions Office, I decided to go and get this knowledge, without even understanding how these three letters were supposed to be deciphered but realizing that this was something important. After studying the basics of SMM in theory, I immediately began to apply my knowledge in practice. For the first time, I created a page on Facebook and published my first posts. Later on, this experience was useful to me in my work in the field of marketing.

Another useful experience was an internship I had with a private lawyer, whose lectures inspired me and due to that I was ready to combine study and work. Having a Bachelor’s degree in law and experience of working at the



center of public services, I was very pleased to deal with the legal issues of service companies and took part in civil cases. I personally dealt with one case and won it as a representative of the complainant party.

Set a clear goal which you are ready to make sacrifices for!

In the final year of studying at KIMEP for my Master’s degree, I saw an internship in the Parliament, and I realized that I can and I want to work for the benefit of the country. And at that time, I had a clearly stated goal – to work on the national project EXPO-2017. After my internship was over, I took my resume to all the offices of the national company without choosing any specific department. Encouraged by my parliamentary practice and degree from KIMEP, I thought that my phone was going burst from offers. But I did not receive any calls.

AZAMAT TEMIRBEKOV, MPA 2014

Listen to the tips of elders but have an internal screening.

I had the choice to listen to my parents and return to my hometown, live an ordinary and boring life, or go ahead with my goal without any support. The only person I had in Astana was my cousin, with whom I lived in a small village 30 km from the city. I did not lose any hope when working towards my goal of working at the national company. No help, no calls – I was on my own. I continued to pass through security posts, I knocked on the doors of offices to submit my CV. However, there were no results.

Then my brother gave me a great advice – in order to find a job you need to tell how you can be useful to the company or the EXPO project. Using the Internet, I studied the experience of holding EXPOs and the practice of post-usage of EXPO facilities. As a result, I prepared a presentation, waited for the right moment, and presented it. I was invited for an internship but without any guarantees to be hired.

Work with complete dedication and then you will succeed.

I liked what I did and I worked hard. There were days when I had to spend nights in the office. Every day I traveled by taxi late at night from my office and back to the office at sunrise. But there was not a single day when I woke up and did not want to go to work.

My internship lasted six months. There were several administrative changes in the company's management, so the leaders who saw my work left. I had to start everything from scratch with a new leader and management.

Thus, after many self-restrictions, fewer calls to my parents persuading me to stop working for free, and passing tests and interviews, I was recruited by the national company Astana EXPO-2017.



My recommendations to current students

Official employment gave me even more strength and I worked with confidence. My bosses, after evaluating my efforts and dedication, sent me to the EXPO 2015 in Milan, where our team gained the experience of the organizers and saw the activities at the Kazakhstan pavilion.

During the organization of the Astana EXPO-2017 exhibition, I worked on various cultural, entertainment, scientific and sports projects including the international promotion of EXPO-2017 by means of EXPO-Caravan in Europe, Auto-moto expedition, cooperation with the team of G.G. Golovkin, Astana Pro Team cycling team, the organization of Football Tournament, and the International cycling race Tour of EXPO-2017, etc.

My story proves that you can work wherever you want and wherever you see yourself. Because when you love what you do, you are happy. I want to wish students to be strong and goal-oriented, in order to achieve their dreams and enjoy their own victories!

AINUR TUIMBEKOVA, MIR 2013

Project Assistant, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Thousands of Kazakhstani students study at the best universities in the world through the Presidential Scholarship Program Bolashak. Like my other peers, I was also eager to continue my study abroad and sought any opportunities to pursue my goals. I had a chance to study in the USA and the Netherlands, but after being awarded the Nursultan Nazarbayev Scholarship at KIMEP, I decided to earn my Master Degree in International Relations in the country. KIMEP is known as the oldest and largest North American-style University in Central Asia, founded by President Nursultan Nazarbayev. KIMEP alumni occupy high positions in state and international organizations throughout our huge country and work successfully abroad.

There were many foreign students at the program of International Relations, especially in the Masters Degree program. We spent most of our time in the library preparing for classes and exams and discussing international issues together outside of the campus. It was the most advantageous time for us to learn more about the situations in our classmates' home countries. We liked attending International Cooking Days in the dormitory and other student festivals to get acquainted with new cultures and traditions at KIMEP Great Hall. We went to the dacha of our course mate with our Professors during one Nauryz Holiday to cook shashlyks. I met my best friends - classmates from Tajikistan, Austria, the USA, Sweden, Georgia, South Korea, Iran, and other countries. We still keep in touch with one another; I had the honor of being invited to enjoy a Tajik wedding in Dushanbe. We still discuss and share the news in IR and other topics, despite the fact that we live in different countries and cities. It is a Friendship of Nations that I wish our world would have someday. I do agree with Bruce M. Russett and John R. O'Neal, who wrote the Triangulating Peace Theory, which states that these three elements – Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations – lead the world towards living in peace in this global village. We learned about this theory in the IR Theory course at KIMEP.

All professors gave us invaluable knowledge and every day brought unforgettable memories. I thank Professors Scott Spehr, Ustina Markus, Nargiz Kassenova, Didar Kassymova, Jiri Melich, Steven Green, Nygmet Ibadildin, Zharmukhamed Zardykhan, Alex Danilovich, John Dixon, Golam Mostafa, Richard Rousseau, and all others who taught us throughout the academic years. They gave their best and prepared high professionals for this liberal market. Students were encouraged so much that now most of us continue to conduct research in IR and other related issues. We had a Diplomatic



Briefing Club at the KIMEP Central Asian Studies Center with the Professors to discuss issues in IR. During the academic years, I published my research paper, titled "Government Response to the Global Financial Crisis: Educational Loan System in Kazakhstan," at the International Youth Research Conference, under the supervision of Prof. Alex Danilovich. I was greatly supported by Professor Nygmet Ibadildin while writing my Thesis, titled "Internationalization in Higher Education of Kazakhstan". Under the supervision of Professor Boris Stremelin, I traveled to Tashkent to compare a number of international students studying in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and it provided good results to my research.

KIMEP Alumni Astana branch, led by Ambassador Murager Sauranbayev, meets on various occasions regularly. We have pages in many social networks where alumni share the news. We organize meetings with KIMEP alumni and other public figures, as well as create charity events. The alumni are hoping to finance one KIMEP student via the Alumnus Scholarship. I am ready to support this idea and hope to make it happen soon with our alumni. Whenever I am in Almaty, I meet my KIMEP classmates and visit KIMEP Professors. It is a great pleasure to walk around the campus, go to the KIMEP Grill to have tea or coffee, to look back on the busiest and wonderful time I had at KIMEP.

I was in great demand while I was a student at KIMEP. I had many job offers from employers in Almaty. I started working at the U.S. Peace Corps in Almaty upon the completion of all my required courses. I was able to join this international organization, thanks to the internships I took as KIMEP major courses at the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security of Mazhilis, Parliament of Kazakhstan, and also to the volunteer work I did at the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia.

I have been working for the United Nations Development Program and Ministry of Foreign Affairs project on "Expert support for the establishment of a national official development assistance (ODA) system in Kazakhstan" since December 2014. Prior to joining this project, I worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the same questions at the ODA unit of the Foreign Economic Policy Department. I was one of the responsible staff at the MFA to bring to fruition President Nursultan Nazarbayev's initiative to establish a national ODA system in Kazakhstan. Working on drafting and adopting a law on ODA of Kazakhstan in 2014 was a privilege for me. Kazakhstan was the first country to adopt such a law on ODA throughout the whole CIS.

I advise current students of KIMEP to use all the opportunities KIMEP gives to the students. If you can receive them, they can help you realize your hopes for the future, as you will be equipped with a big bag of knowledge. It opens a way to the world without any borders. You are the ones who will lead the country to the bright and democratic tomorrow.

DIYAR DOSKHOZHAYEV, BSC 2009

Director at “TALAPAI” LLP

Hello, Diyar. Could you please tell us a couple of words about your life at KIMEP University and what happened after?

Hi, Raushan. First, let me express my deepest gratitude to KIMEP and its faculty, who helped me find my own path in my professional life. I got my Bachelor’s degree in 2009 with a Major in Marketing and a Minor in Operational Management. Both helped me a lot. I managed to finish the program in 3 years and was brimming with motivation and knowledge, which helped me find the best place to join. After graduation in 2009, I joined Toyota Company and at first, I was responsible for Logistics. At Toyota, this meant storage, transportation, and insurance of vehicles. All the knowledge I had from my OM courses (which seemed useless sometimes during classes) helped me prove my true competence in the eyes of my management. Then, I moved to the Marketing department, where I was responsible for the Lexus brand. Later, after a couple of years, Samsung invited me to join their Sales department and I was happy to check my sales and marketing skills in the highly competitive electronics market. Years after, I was promoted to the role of Head of the Marketing Department and was responsible for Marketing in 9 countries in Central Asia. Now, I am leading a project in e-commerce called TALAPAI.

Why did you decide to leave corporate life and started your own business?

When I was working for one of the most ambitious companies in the world – Samsung, I realized that in the middle of the 21st century a single person in South Korea launched a small company, which then turned into the biggest electronics supplier in the world. And I thought, why not me?! I know, it sounds somewhat funny and naïve, but I did not care. What I knew at that time was that this idea was fixed in my head. Thus, in 2014, my business partner and I decided to launch TALAPAI. Now TALAPAI is a company that employs more than 20 people and has huge intellectual potential. Last year we had a turnover of approximately 500 mln. tenge and we are still growing. This summer we are celebrating our two-year anniversary. Talapai is an online shop where you can buy electronics and soon we are expanding our assortment to three times the current amount.

What do you think about the competitiveness of KIMEP graduates in the Kazakhstani market?

You know, all the best employers are hunting after KIMEP graduates starting from the moment they graduate. For example, let us look at the Big 4. I think 80% of people in that market are KIMEP graduates. We have great theoretical and practical knowledge that is applicable in the Kazakhstani market. You know, the main barrier in becoming successful is not solely knowledge, it is the fear of the unknown and the perfectionism that all knowledgeable people usually have in their heads. I believe that a KIMEP education builds this confidence, as well as professional knowledge.

What would you recommend to the current students of your alma mater?

I will make it short: Don’t be afraid of challenges. There are many of them coming your way. Always. Move forward and accept these challenges and make sure you overcome them all!



INTERVIEW WITH ZHAZIRA KAMENOVA, BSC 2010

**Chief-specialist-analyst
Baiterek National Management Holding**

“KIMEP MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION NOT ONLY TO MY CAREER BUT TO MY WHOLE LIFE”

Z. KAMENOVA

Why did you choose KIMEP?

I chose KIMEP for its culture.

Before KIMEP, I enjoyed communication with my schoolmates of different nationalities, religions, and social classes. I was always interested in seeing things from many perspectives, finding differences, points of intersection and analyzing the effectiveness of global thinking. When I first came to KIMEP with my sister Aliya Kamenova, one of the brilliant KIMEP students of her time, I had the specific feeling that I belonged to its culture. That day, I decided to become a part of the KIMEP family.

What exactly did KIMEP give you?

KIMEP gave me a great experience.

When I think of KIMEP, I think of:

- learning to express my thoughts in English fluently
- practicing my research and presentation skills
- participating in competitions like Changellenge and X-Culture
- working with amazing people at the KIMEP Undergraduate Admissions Office
- being a part of the KIMEP International Students Association (KISA)
- making friends across the world
- meeting the love of my life

KIMEP was an important step in my life. Thanks to KIMEP, I realized who I want to be, what I want to do, and how I can make my goals come true. KIMEP is a place that is full of opportunities and supportive people. It is the choice of each student to either waste time by having short-term “fun” or work hard to find the keys to long-term success in the competitive and quickly changing world.

Did you join any student organizations?

I was a part of the KISA family.

When most of the freshmen were becoming members of different student organizations, I was all concentrated in improving my English. When I came to KIMEP, my English was not at the level I wanted it to be. I wanted to be able to listen to other people’s speech in English with different accents and easily understand them, and then, in turn, be easily understood by others. Knowing languages can open many doors. It helps different people understand each other better and share experiences. It unites us and preserves our uniqueness at the same time. After a year of Foundation courses, I met my Academic English professors. When they said that my English was the equivalent of the level I would have attained if I had studied abroad for years, I realized that I had achieved my goal. I was proud of myself. My level of English and interest in multicultural communication led me to the KISA family where I met many creative people, organized many interesting events, and learned to be a part of a big team.

What professors do you remember?

I remember each KIMEP professor in my academic life and I am grateful to everyone for their contribution to my life.

Among the long list of the KIMEP professors, I would be glad to say many thanks to a few of them.

I want to thank Alessandro Frigerio for some of the most interesting lectures at KIMEP. From his lectures on the Principles of Ethics, I learned to be attentive to details,



INTERVIEW WITH ZHAZIRA KAMENOVA, BSC 2010

analyze situations objectively, and understand what truly happens when people make certain decisions. I use these skills nowadays to make my decisions. In the beginning, the theory seemed to be hard to remember and the philosophies not easily differentiated. When the professor helped me to see how it works in reality, I started to understand people better, see how people make their choices and decisions and solve dilemmas that seem unsolvable.

I am grateful to the LDP lecturer Alma Alpeissova for letting her students meet many successful people during the lectures. We were able to ask the guests questions directly and learn many practical things for our career.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Michael Conrad. I took two courses from this professor: Principles of Management, Leadership and Motivation. Each class was unique and useful for me. Thanks to his classes, I became even more responsible, self-disciplined, and hardworking. I started appreciating my time and using it effectively. I became more courageous, creative, and unique. I learned how to be one of a kind.



How did KIMEP help you in your career?

In my career, KIMEP helped me in many ways.

After I attended a KIMEP Job Fair in 2015, being a candidate of a Bachelor of Business Administration with Major in Marketing and Minor in Management, I received job offers from companies like KPMG, British American Tobacco, and Synergy Partners. Companies from different spheres like consulting, marketing, law, and others liked my CV, which I created based mostly on my achievements at KIMEP.

My first work place after graduation was PwC. I worked at Marketing Department. I enjoyed practicing my Major for a year.

Then, for family reasons, I moved to Astana in 2016 and it was quite a challenge for me. Everything was new for me in Astana: a new city, new home, new work place, new people, new trails and new achievements – a completely new environment. When I came to Astana, I joined Kazakhstan Project Preparation Fund, a subsidiary company of “Baiterek National Management Holding” as a Public Relations Manager. It was close to Marketing but still was something I really needed to explore. KIMEP taught me to believe in myself, never give up, and work hard.

After four months, I received a job offer from “Baiterek National Management Holding” itself, where I have been working since January 2017. Here, I work at Press Service of the Holding and every day I use the knowledge and skills that I gained at KIMEP. I work on International PR, the Holding’s website, and marketing. As a person who is always ready to learn more, I can now easily understand the journalistic part of my department. KIMEP taught me to be adaptive. That is why I did not lose myself in the new environment.

Do you still stay in touch with your classmates?

I do my best to stay in touch with my classmates.

Frankly speaking, it is not an easy thing to do due to the limited time and the many things I deal with almost every day. Because of the specifics of my department, I always need to stay alert because we deal with lots of

INTERVIEW WITH ZHAZIRA KAMENOVA, BSC 2010

information and nowadays the speed of its sharing is very fast. That is why I created the page on Facebook mostly for communicating with my classmates. I treat my classmates as family members because we all are a KIMEP family. I am glad to know what is going on in their lives, what news they share and where they are. I think it is great that the KIMEP family is big and friendly.

Can you give an advice to students of KIMEP?

I would suggest KIMEP students stay unique and be one of a kind.

Study with passion, work hard, meet new people, travel if you have such opportunities, read a lot, learn more languages, and just be open. Talk to successful people, try to see what is behind their success, make some notes for yourself but do not copy them. Create your own path to success using your perception of life and experiences. Do not be afraid to make mistakes. Just try. Try until you finally do it.

Do you consider yourself a successful person?

I think I am successful, but there is still so much to achieve.

I am proud of who I am now and want to continue my self-development. It is never too late to change your specialization, to move somewhere you want to be, to get an experience you want to get, to make achievements you dreamed of, and to learn more languages.

What did you enjoy most while studying at KIMEP?

At KIMEP, I enjoyed working in teams on projects the most.

At work, I deal with people and a lot of information every day. I learned how to do that effectively at KIMEP. Of course, it was much easier for me to do any work by myself, but when you are on a team, you brainstorm, share ideas and responsibilities, debate, and learn to be argumentative and persuasive, and to trust others.

What are your future goals?

I would like to learn more about journalism, become a professional in it, and publish books.



I love writing. I love to share my thoughts through poems, stories, articles. At home in Almaty, where I lived for a long time, I have so many unpublished poems and stories. I am a creative and sensitive person. Such little things like the song of birds or smile can affect me and then I create music for piano or a poem. I want to make this world a little bit better, happier, and kinder. I believe that I will publish at least some of my creations because I lost many of them during the move and I hope that they will inspire someone.

Do you want to add anything else?

I want to thank my family for all they did for me.

I want to thank my parents for the opportunity to study at the leading university of Kazakhstan and Central Asia and their constant support in my life. I don't know what I would have been doing without my sisters, Elmira and Aliya. Their advice, recommendations, and help made me feel more motivated.

I congratulate the President of KIMEP, Dr. Chan Young Bang, and his team of professionals on the important date – the 25th Anniversary of the foundation of the University. KIMEP already has many achievements and, as I think, the main achievement of KIMEP and its graduates – strong, ambitious, successful, creative, interesting and happy people and true professionals. I wish KIMEP even more achievements, prosperity, and talented students. I want every graduate of our University to remember the student years with a share of warmth. Current students, KIMEP is now in your hands. Make KIMEP proud of you. I wish all members of the big KIMEP family to be happy.

CAREER STORY FROM KIMEP ALUMNA — NADEZHDA TSOY

“THE HEAVINESS OF BEING SUCCESSFUL WAS REPLACED BY THE LIGHTNESS OF BEING A BEGINNER AGAIN” STEVE JOBS

As I reflect on eight years of my professional career, I see a clear pattern – whenever I felt finally settled and successful, I pushed myself out of my comfort zone and started all over again. Along the way, I would learn new things, discover new areas for personal development, and create new ideas. It wasn't all romantic though – I had moments of fear, pain and confidence issues. However, the principle of “being a beginner again” allowed me to constantly grow, and this is what I enjoy the most!

I would like to share some highlights of my journey with magazine readers in case they will find it useful and get inspired to start fresh.

CAREER START AT KPMG

“KPMG is hiring!” – I read with excitement in the ad posted by the Career and Development Center. It was the year 2009 when financial markets were still recovering from the global financial crisis. KPMG hired only 13 graduates that year compared to the 70 in the previous year, and I was one of the lucky 13! I feel so grateful to KIMEP for providing me with strong knowledge of accounting and finance which, coupled with my internships, part-time jobs, and extracurricular activities, secured me a place at KPMG.

There I was, fresh from university, starting my first ever serious career with an international firm. My personal and professional growth there was spectacular on all fronts. The most important skills I mastered at KPMG, which I believe will serve me for the rest of my life, are quick learning and adaptation to the new environment. On average, every month I was starting a new audit project, which meant a new company and a new industry to research, new organizational structure and operations to study, new problems to solve, and new people to build relationships with.

The most memorable and developing experience I had at KPMG is when I was entrusted to lead an audit of our new banking client. Imagine a 20-year-old with limited knowledge of banking industry and a team of 3 older colleagues to manage. I was both feared to death and excited to try myself in the new role. I believed I could do it and took one small step at a time, including asking many questions from my supportive senior colleagues.

Fast forward, a couple of years, at the age of 24, I became the youngest Audit Manager in the local practice history with boosted self-confidence and strong belief that nothing is impossible.

A STUDENT AGAIN

So, I started looking for new challenges again. I had always wanted to get an international experience in studying and working abroad. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program was the only merit-based fellowship sponsoring MBA degree at that time. Having been through a highly competitive selection process, I got in top 2% out of over 3,000 applicants.

Feeling like a super star, I arrived at the Muskie induction course in Washington DC. There I met other 65 finalists with different backgrounds from various countries. They were the brightest people I had met, with great achievements and aspirations. I soon realized how foolish it was to think that I had achieved a lot, and discovered new horizons for my further development. It was a wakeup call for me to raise the bar and set higher standards for myself. Since then, I consciously seek to surround myself with people I look up to, in order to stay humble and constantly fuel the urge for growth.



CAREER STORY FROM KIMEP ALUMNA – NADEZHDA TSOY

UNREAL BECOMES REAL

When I was doing my MBA, I grew a dream that seemed unreal at first – to join the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a private arm of the World Bank Group (WBG). I heard lots of myths how hard it was to get there. The most “scary” for me was that they recruit only MBAs from top B-Schools and experts with a brilliant track record of at least 20 years of experience and that I must live in DC for constant networking. And I did not have any of that! Moreover, I had no idea where to start. But my goal was clear – I aimed to get a temporary assignment at the IFC HQ for the Fall.

As networking is a primary tool for getting a job in the US, I learned how to do it. I emailed over 30 people around the globe reaching out to current and ex-WBG employees and asked them to share their WBG recruitment and work experience with me over a 15-minute call or Skype session. All the effort with crafting every message, hosting calls and building relationships abundantly paid off. I was offered a job as I specifically wanted it.

The lesson I learned here was to always aim at high, and never settle for less than your dream level. Find what you truly want and go for it by taking necessary steps, keep practicing and refining your approach until you get what you want.

CAREER CHANGE

IFC experience opened new doors for me – I discovered a whole new world of global investments. Driven by my curiosity to learn more about the industry, I started looking for new opportunities. This time my search was different – I became more conscious of my career values, i.e. the things that were important for me at work.

My first career value is Impact. I want to see how my decisions and actions lead to the positive changes in our society. The organization I joined, National Investment Corporation of NBK (NIC), manages funds, which belong to the people of Kazakhstan. And in my role, as a global real estate investor, I contribute to constructing an asset management program with the aim to enhance wealth for our future generations.



My second career value is learning and development. My new challenge was to launch a diversified investment program in global real estate from scratch. This had never been done on an institutional scale in Kazakhstan before. I still vividly remember my first day at NIC when I had a meeting with top managers from BlackRock – the first 20 minutes I did not understand what they were talking about! It was all new – terminology, thinking, and communication.

I am glad that I overcame the doubt of leaving my Big4 Manager position and started a new career from the very beginning. It has been a rewarding experience for me so far which stretched me in so many ways: learning a new profession, acquiring a global mindset, and adjusting to a quasi-government organization dynamic.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Having enjoyed my career journey so far, I realized that sweetness from achieving and overcoming yet another challenge does not last long. What kept me fulfilled until now is the joy of helping and seeing others succeeding – my junior team members who I mentored, job seekers who I coached, and the friends who I shared my advice with.

That's why this August I decided to embark on yet another venture – I co-founded career coaching company “ArchiteCT” to help students and young professionals find what they love doing and successfully get through recruitment processes both in Kazakhstan and abroad.

I believe that the more successful professionals we grow, the more prosperous our country will become!

AYAN MEIRAMGAZIN (YAN RAY), BSC 2007

Co-owner, model agency EAT Models

I chose KIMEP because at that time it was one of the most prestigious universities in Kazakhstan and it offered the best education in the fields I was interested in.

Those years were the most fun I had in my life. New friends, new experiences, becoming an adult. All that is priceless.

Every one of my professors had a huge impact and shared the most valuable knowledge with me.

Currently, I'm working on many different projects including Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Almaty; I co-own a model agency called EAT Models and expand projects in restaurants and bar industry with my business partners.

Since I'm co-owning all of the businesses I'm a part of, the main thing that KIMEP helped me with is to learn how to manage all the business processes including the main one - the finances. When you study, you actually take all of the classes as something that you do for parents or for teachers and you are trying your best to ace that, but still you do it automatically. You understand the value of that knowledge only when you face it on your own in real life.

I'm very close with some of my classmates and we hang out every week. It's always good to have around the people who you know for that long. Especially the ones you met in university.



I would recommend current students to pick your education and your path very consciously and believe that everything is possible. Do it for yourself and yourself only.

As for my hobbies, I travel. That's my main remedy from stresses.

My ideas on happiness and success: as long as you are free within yourself, do what you like, surround yourself with the people that uplift and nourish you and you will be in love, you will be happy and successful.

Anything else you would like to share with the KIMEP community? – No one knows what they are doing so don't be afraid.

GULZHAN TUZELBAYEVA, BSC 2005

Trainer in the Actors' school

Gulzhan Tuzelbayeva graduated from KIMEP in 2005 and received her Bachelor's degree in Finance.

"At first I enrolled in NARXOZ University but then my friend persuaded me to go to KIMEP, so I took my documents and went there," Gulzhan says.

According to Gulzhan, there were many reasons that made her choose KIMEP and one of them was the opportunity to study in English and the presence of good faculty members.

One of Gulzhan's favorite professors was Peg Ryan.

"She was teaching accounting," says Tuzelbayeva. "I really liked that she knew her subject in practice because she had her own business. I think I love accounting now because of her".

In her 3rd year of study, Gulzhan Tuzelbayeva decided to transfer to one of the Switzerland universities and get a bachelor degree in Business Administration there. She was studying in Switzerland for one year and then returned to KIMEP to finish the studies.

Gulzhan had a difficult time after her graduation.

"I didn't have experience in my field. I knew only KIMEP's program and felt a little bit lost," she says. "You cannot compare work and study."

According to Gulzhan, it is very important for students to work or have an internship during the summer because work experience is essential in building a career.



"After graduation, I started working as an analyst at the International Department of Modern Politics," says Gulzhan. She had been working there for two months when her KIMEP classmate invited her to work in investment banking.

"It was a great experience for me," she says. After that, she worked at different places, in different positions and understood that working in the office is difficult for her.

"I wanted to continue my education and get a master degree," she says. "At that time I wanted to do something creative, so I found an acting school program at Columbia University."

She went to New York but didn't pass the exams, so she came back to Kazakhstan and started dancing for her own pleasure. Then she went to New York University as an exchange student to the acting courses for four months and entered the Actors Studio Drama School in New York the following year.

"I got the Bolashak scholarship for my studies, even though it was very difficult," Gulzhan says. Gulzhan studied there from 2009 to 2012 and then came back to Kazakhstan.

"I brought a Broadway show "Venus in Fur" to Almaty, which became quite famous and successful," she says.

Now Gulzhan teaches in an acting school, works at Terra Fiori, and writes scenes.

INTERVIEW WITH NODIRA NURIMOVA, BSC 2015

Assistant Corporate Finance Manager

Why did you choose KIMEP?

I chose KIMEP for good, (western) education in the heart of Central Asia, freedom to choose the classes you want, ability to manage your own schedule, and the broad variety of opportunities it provided to its students. Everything I wanted to achieve at university – I did at KIMEP. I studied abroad for two years, learned a new language, participated in many conferences and competitions, met friends from almost everywhere in the world and even lived on an Island in Spain. I am thankful to KIMEP for my very adventurous, diverse, international, and a truly amazing experience.

What memories stand out from your time at KIMEP?

Oh, there are so many. I immediately see the faces of my friends on various occasions and/in from various locations – living in the dorms, traveling, studying, staying up late, working on projects, achievements and celebrations, hard work, excitement to see your friends when you are back from winter holidays, and those little everyday things that made you happy.

Do you have any memories of outstanding professors?

Yes, I will never forget waking up at 6 a.m. on Saturday to go to a Management exam of M. Conrad, haha. The attitude, the setting, and the rules were just amazing! I loved it. I learned a lot and that 'training' was quite useful in real life. Thank you, Dr. Conrad!

What is your current job and when did you start?

Right after graduation, I joined BAT as a management trainee. I now graduated to my new role of Assistant Corporate Finance Manager where I am responsible for planning and reporting of financials for BAT Uzbekistan.

How did KIMEP education help with your job?

KIMEP taught me to think, to analyze, and to make my own decisions. Through all the projects and business cases, you are more prepared to solve real life business challenges. While having had a full load of classes, a part-time job, and a side project, it teaches you to prioritize, plan your time, and stretches your learning capability and the ability to perform in stressful situations or with little time. Studying abroad or being involved in student organizations help you to think quickly on your feet, look for solutions, communicate effectively, and manage people and events. Overall, this is an excellent training that better prepares you for real life, on top of the knowledge you obtain.



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

Yes, of course. Most of them are in different countries so we don't meet as often as we'd like to, but we are in touch online.

What would be your advice to current students?

Work hard, play hard and make the most of your years in school. It's an amazing time. I know you may disagree with me at times but believe me, you will remember those late nights studying for finals with a smile on your face one day. And even more, you will miss those days and people you are studying with, so enjoy!

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

Yes, I exercise and try to meditate regularly.

What are your ideas on happiness and success?

For me happiness is simple. It's your friends and family – seeing them happy. It's working on something that gives you purpose and fulfillment in life and it's those additional 'tiny beautiful things' in your day-to-day life. Success is constant work – it's challenging you with higher goals and always striving to be better.

Is there anything else you would like to share with the KIMEP community?

No, I just would like to thank KIMEP for my friends and my experience.

THE LETTER FROM BRAD MORGAN, KIMEP INTERNATIONAL ALUM

Hello!

My name is Brad Morgan, and I am a KIMEP International Alum! In 2011, I met a kind, beautiful, and intelligent woman at Winona State University in Minnesota (USA) and fell in love quickly. We started dating in the beginning of 2012 and by the end of the spring semester, she had to return home, to Almaty. In her last weeks in Minnesota, I made a promise that I would come to Kazakhstan. In a short period of time, I found a University that had a partnership with KIMEP for an international student exchange program. I quickly enrolled and was awarded a scholarship to study abroad, and by the end of July 2012, after a 10-hour train ride, 24-hour flight with a 12-hour layover, and a crazy taxi ride, I arrived in Almaty. Within a couple of weeks, I began my year-long study at KIMEP. Two years later, we married and are now living together happily in Denver, Colorado! Another important aspect that makes KIMEP such a meaningful place is that my wife is also a graduate of KIMEP!

Over the course of my studies at KIMEP, I met many people from around the world and built great relationships with people that I still keep in touch with today! I keep in touch with several people over social media and have been fortunate enough to have returned to Almaty twice to meet with a few friends! In addition to meeting great people along the way, there were several professors that stood out and made a true impact on me. While all my professors were wonderful, I thoroughly enjoyed my Quantitative Data Analysis course with Azhar, my Macro Economics course with Eldar, and my Operations Management Class with Ha Jin Hwang. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from such sharp minds and be challenged to the next level!

Currently, I work as an Enrollment and Completion Advisor for National American University at the Denver campus in Colorado. My primary role is to enroll students in academic programs, but I have also taken on the privilege and responsibility of working with international students, which is what got me into higher education. I have been in my current role for two years and plan to move into a position working primarily with international students and teaching business classes soon! Since graduating with my Bachelor degree, I have held several positions in banking, business, and now in education, and one important thing that I've learned is that you

have to love what you do. If you go to work and count the minutes till the weekend, you should look for something that better fits who you are. You will be happier and it will show in your work. Therefore, your employer will also be happy!



My experience at KIMEP is what helped motivate me to get into higher education. My experience as an international student convinced me that studying abroad is a college experience that all students should be aware of and have an opportunity to participate in. Studying at KIMEP allowed me to develop my communication skills, my cultural sensitivity, and general openness, which are all skills that are important when working with people from all over the world. I will forever be grateful for this.

The best piece of advice that I can give to current students is to take full advantage of opportunities presented to you, whether it is a club, an event, or an internship opportunity. The actions you take in your studies can have an impact on what you will do after college! I also highly recommend participating in study abroad or student exchange programs. Studying abroad opens your mind to new perspectives and opportunities that can only come from experiencing a new culture! Moreover, it looks great on a resume!



THREE CHILDREN OF OUR FAMILY GRADUATED FROM KIMEP UNIVERSITY

Caspi Meruerty Operating Company BV, Contract engineer

My name is Gulnaz Tasbulatova, I am a KIMEP University graduate of 2010, the Bang College of Business, Bachelor of Accounting and Audit. When I finished boarding school for gifted children, Daryn, in 2007, I had a cherished dream to study at KIMEP.

I had been studying English from an early age. At the same time with preparation and passing the Unified National Testing, I passed KIMEP entrance exams and started searching grant opportunities. I submitted documents to different companies and, thanks to my excellent high school grades, I won a grant from 'Tolkynneftegas' LLP.

During my studies at KIMEP, I won N.A. Nazarbayev President's Scholarship for excellent academic progress. I lived on the campus and combined classes with part-time work as a student-assistant to a professor since KIMEP students have an opportunity to study and work.

My sister, Nabat Retbay, holder of Altyn Belgi award, graduated from the Economic College and also entered KIMEP University. She passed the IELTS exam in the 11th grade and was admitted to KIMEP with a high score. With such excellent results and Altyn Belgi award, Nabat won 50% grant of KIMEP University and 50% grant of 'North Caspian Operating Company' (NCOC). Nabat graduated from KIMEP with the double major from Bang College of Business: Bachelor of Accounting and Audit and Bachelor of Finance. Also during her studies at KIMEP, she worked as student-assistant to a professor.



KIMEP University helps students develop skills and knowledge; its professors are experts in their fields. Nabat and I graduated from KIMEP with high GPA's and diplomas with honors within three years and were employed by one of the Big Four companies, Ernst & Young.

KIMEP is a unique University; students can select lecturers, courses, programs, and the duration of their study – all of which is very convenient.

My younger sister, Ulzira Retbayeva, dreamed of becoming a lawyer. In 2011, the Law School was opened at KIMEP University. She had a goal to be admitted to KIMEP with a grant like her elder sisters. After passing the KIMEP entrance exams with a high score, Ulzira won the Law School educational grant and the Ozenmynaygas JSC company grant.

For Ulzira, KIMEP was already familiar. She learnt about it from us and consulted with us on choosing subjects and lecturers. Heeding our advice, she participated in an international exchange program and went to a leading Slovenian Institute of Business and Economy.



THREE CHILDREN OF OUR FAMILY GRADUATED FROM KIMEP UNIVERSITY



KIMEP helped us obtain a high quality education, gave useful experience, and an active social life. Nabat and Ulzira had professional internship training at the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and at the Ministry of Justice. All three of us took an active part in the life of KIMEP University and were members of various student associations.

KIMEP gives you a bright future. Thanks to the knowledge and skills gained, we found jobs according to our specialties right away. KIMEP graduates are always welcomed in companies, employed fast, and have very good feedback from employers.

Currently, I work in petroleum company 'Caspi Meruerty Operating Company B.V.' (CMOC), a petroleum operator that works on behalf of contracting companies 'OOC 'KazMunayTeniz' LLP, 'Oman Pearls Company Limited' and 'Shell EP Offshore Ventures Limited'. Currently, I am expecting to get Chartered Institution Procurement and Supply (CIPS) certification. Nabat is working for petroleum company 'Astra-Star'. She is also a valuable employee and is respected by her team. Nabat is completing her certification for ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) qualification. The youngest sister, Ulzira, graduated from KIMEP in July 2017 and is now considering job proposals.

We are three sisters who are very lucky and grateful to our parents who invested into our education and opened opportunities for us to develop, grow and test ourselves.

On behalf of my sisters, I sincerely congratulate our KIMEP University, faculty, students, alumni, and administrators on the 25th Anniversary! 25 years is a period for setting high goals. I wish KIMEP community to implement these goals to their fullest! From our hearts, we wish faculty challenging work and dedicated students, we wish students to succeed, and we wish alumni to have the jobs of their dreams. May our KIMEP University flourish and always be in high demand!



ALUMNI LUNCH IN ALMATY, 2017



Every year KIMEP University organizes the Alumni Lunch with its prominent graduates. The Lunch is a platform that allows maintaining a strong relationship between the University and its alumni and helps both build an effective relationship with KIMEP community.

This year Lunch was very special, it was dedicated to the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of KIMEP University and launch of the first of its kind online Alumni Giving Campaign in cooperation with Qazkom Bank e-pay system. All donations received through this Online Donation Program will be contributed to the "Rakhmet" Educational Scholarship Fund, which supports talented KIMEP students in need of financial aid, regardless of their age, sex, nationality, religion, year of admission or program of study.

The event took place in Palladium Restaurant in the center of Almaty. It is the long lasting KIMEP tradition to host the Lunch with alumni in such a family-like, friendly atmosphere. Interesting conversations and news accompanied the event. This year ten prominent alumni donors participated in the meeting. All of them supported the idea of the Campaign because they understand the importance of high-quality education in the present and future of the country. Moreover, giving back is not only about returning to alma mater but about helping others gain such a valuable asset as education, which can determine the direction of their lives.

Dr. Timothy Barnett, Provost and General Deputy to the President, represented KIMEP University at the Lunch. He addressed all the attendees with a welcome note. After, all participants introduced themselves shortly. Then, Raushan Kanayeva, Director of the Corporate Development Department, discussed the details of the Alumni Giving Campaign and KIMEP Alumni Association with the event participants and presented the sixth issue of the Alumni Magazine.

Among other guests of the Lunch, there were Daulet Musstafin (G2015) and Assiya Yermukhametova (G2011) who received grants from alumni during their st

udies at KIMEP University. Now, they are successful young professionals. Assiya chose to be a Donor for other students to reach graduation (she initiated the creation of a grant for a student in need). She stated that nothing is impossible for a young specialist.

After the Lunch, everyone took part in the photo session and received presents from KIMEP University. Alumni Lunch is the great occasion to meet the classmates and old friends and remember university times. KIMEP is not about education only but about friendship, people, and great discoveries and achievements they reach together and that invest to their successful future.

SPRING BISHKEK ALUMNI REUNION, 2017

Spring 2017 was special for KIMEP alumni from Kyrgyzstan and for KIMEP University, there was a first-ever international Alumni Reunion event in the spectacular "FRUNZE" restaurant in the heart of Bishkek city.

More than 30 outstanding KIMEP alumni from Kyrgyzstan gathered for a family-like, friendly dinner.

Raushan Kanayeva, Director of the Corporate Development Department, Farida Kassabekova, Alumni Specialist, Nicolas Zambrana-Tevar, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of the Law School and Natalya Miltseva, Director of the Student Recruitment and Admissions, represented KIMEP University at this very special event.

KIMEP representatives and KIMEP Alumni Ambassador in Bishkek and event moderator, Alisher Khodzhamniyazov (BSS G2014), gave very touching speeches. Many alumni speeches were very sincere and interesting. These young professionals have already achieved so much for their age, and they owed their success stories to their alma mater, KIMEP University.

The official part of the evening included awarding certificates of appreciation to the alumni who contributed to the organization of the event. Alisher Khodzhamniyazov (BSS G2014), Dastan Omuraliev (BSC G2010), Akramdzhan Mavlankhodzhaev (BSC G2013) and Aikhan Nurzhan (BSC G2017) contributed their time and efforts to organize the Bishkek Alumni Reunion 2017.

After a photo session, KIMEP University representatives invited the guests to participate in a trivia game, where alumni answered the questions about KIMEP. Alumni actively participated in the game and were happy to get small memorable prizes from the University.

This event has demonstrated that Alumni Reunions are important for both the graduates and KIMEP University. Alumni from Kyrgyzstan of different classes and ages, working in different fields, all united that evening for networking, supporting each other, remembering their alma mater. All of us – students, faculty, alumni, staff – truly are one big family.



CONTACT US

WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

- Have you changed your job, email or phone number? Update your contact information electronically: cdd@kimep.kz.
- 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, we will be happy to include your profile in alumni-related publications.

Please contact cdd@kimep.kz to participate.

SERVICES FOR ALUMNI

KIMEP University 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:

- 10% discounts for the Professional Development Programs (PDCP) of the Executive Education Center of KIMEP, as well as foreign language courses and preparatory courses for the children for the admission to KIMEP.
- Free access to the resources of the KIMEP Library.
- Free entrance to the KIMEP Sports Center with advance reservation.
- Rental of the conference halls of KIMEP with 10% discount for conferences, training, and seminars.
- Career and Employment Center offers its services to help alumni find good candidates among KIMEP graduates for permanent work and internship opportunities.



THE PERSON FROM THE COVER:



Aidana Bassenova, Graduate of 2017, Bang College of Business, Bachelor of Finance (Magna Cum Laude), KIMEP University

Currently works in KPMG, Almaty Office, Assistant 1, Audit Department

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Scholarships at KIMEP University:

KazEnergy Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship, Nursultan Nazarbayev Presidential Stipend

During the exchange programs:

Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, Baltic International Summer School Valmiera, Latvia
Latvian Government Scholarship

Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey
Mevlana Scholarship / Erasmus+ ICM Scholarship

Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Graz, Austria
Erasmus Mundus Scholarship

Summer Entrepreneurship Leadership Program, Seattle, WA/Chicago, IL, the United States, 2015 (Participant)

CONFERENCES

International Student Week in Ilmenau, Ilmenau, Germany, 2017

International Forum of the European Youth Parliament, Belgrade, Serbia, 2016

ASEF Young Leaders Summit, Luxembourg, 2015 (selected out of 5500 candidates)

Leadership Development Day, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 2014

iLeader. Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, 2013

AWARDS

MARS Case Competition I place

PwC Level Up Case Competition III place

Diploma for Academic Excellence

Changellenge Case Competition High Quality Award



Instagram:

@kimep_alumni_association

Facebook:

Kimep alumni association

kimep.kz |   

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