

**June 2008**

### **First Year Culminates for Enterprise Fellowship Students**

In May 2008, first year recipients of a U.S. – Central Asia Education Foundation (U.S. – CAEF) Enterprise Student Fellowship successfully completed their freshman year at the American University of Central Asia and the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics, and Strategic Research.

The Fellows expressed their appreciation and enthusiasm for the Enterprise Fellowship program, and for the opportunities that they were offered during their first academic year, by demonstrating eager participation and achieving outstanding academic performance. Additionally, many participated in extracurricular university activities that included student government, business groups, competitions, community service, and charitable fundraisers – and also became involved with student organizations that promote diversity, culture, and traditions of different nations.

Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics, and Strategic Research (KIMEP):

Several Enterprise Fellows demonstrated exceptional efforts. Among them are Obidjon Akhmedov, Talgat Kadirov, Arystan Moldabekov and Oralbek Seytmanov.

Obidjon Akhmedov is majoring in Business Administration and Accounting. He finished the year with an overall GPA of 3.29, and he is a member of International Students' organization AIESEC where he was recently elected as NGO coordinator for the term of 2008-2009. This organization's objectives include the establishment and further promotion of relations between AIESEC and Almaty NGOs along with developing various educational projects. Obidjon is also involved in Future Business Group (FGB) at KIMEP and other on-campus activities ranging from competitions to various social events. "My enthusiasm will get much bigger and opportunities provided by the Foundation will motivate me further in my studies as well as in my developing personal and professional skills," says Akmedov.

Talgat Kadirov is working towards his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Accounting and achieved a "perfect" GPA of 4.30 (KIMEP employs a grading system with highest grade of 4.30). He is the member of Youth parliament of Kazakhstan, a student organization based at KIMEP. In light of his academic accomplishments and an active participation in extracurricular activities, he was chosen to be one of the students to meet with President Nazarbaev during his visit to the KIMEP campus.

Arystan Moldabekov is also majoring in Business Administration and Accounting. By the completion of the first academic year he achieved a GPA of 4.22. Arystan was included in the president's list in spring 2008 semester, and he is a member of the student organization called "Karandash". The activities arranged by this organization range from art exhibitions to various conferences and concerts. "Studying here was my main goal from the time I was in middle school... I'd like to thank everybody who is involved in the US-CAEF program, who made this dream of mine come true," says Moldabekov.

Oralbek Seytmanov is working towards his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Accounting. His overall GPA is 4.11. Seytmanov is a member and HR manager at the KIMEP Intellectual Debate Club. He fulfills the tasks of new member recruitment, tournament organization, teambuilding activities, etc. While studying at KIMEP he received an award for the best speaker of English at the Republican Kazakh-British Technical University debate tournament. Seytmanov has also participated in various round table discussions and library meetings at Alliance Françoise, the French Cultural Center, where he eagerly practiced his French language skills.

#### American University of Central Asia (AUCA):

Many of the Fellows, who are in either the Business Administration or the Economics degree programs, were rewarded for their hard work with GPAs of between 3.0 and 4.0, with 15 students achieving GPAs of 3.5 or higher (with 4.0 being the highest grade score at AUCA). Their coursework proved to be extremely valuable for their future careers in the economic and business sectors, including such courses as Microeconomic Theory, Macroeconomic Theory, Finance Mathematics, Composition, and Kyrgyz language classes, among others.

"My dreams have become reality. To study in this wonderful university...is a magnificent opportunity for me to get high-quality education," says Nargiza Enkeleshova.

Oksana Kovalenko comments, "In this first year of study at AUCA I've reached a big progress in my educational process. I improved and extended my knowledge in English and acquired necessary skills in Economics and Mathematics."

Enterprise Fellows also displayed their enthusiasm for university life through their participation in many extracurricular activities. One of the most popular groups for AUCA Fellows was Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), an organization in which members can create and carry out projects related to business and entrepreneurship. Saddam Baialiev, a member of SIFE, speaks highly of his experiences: "I immediately signed up for the SIFE club because I felt that I have particular characteristics to achieve success in this organization...During our meetings I was an active and energetic member. Many new ideas were generated by me and consequently I won the nomination 'Mister Creativity.' This success stimulated me to keep working hard."

SIFE works with an associated group, Teenagers in Free Enterprise (TIFE). SIFE members teach high school students about various aspects of business and creating business plans. Many Enterprise Fellows were selected as lecturers for the TIFE program, and demonstrated their willingness to pass their knowledge on to the next generation of university students and future leaders.

Several US-CAEF Fellows exhibited exceptional dedication to their studies and university activities. One of these is Maria Tsvetkova, who not only achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.97, but also took part in activities such as the Business Administration Student Advisory Panel, the French Drama Art Contest, the University football team, and the Kyrgyz University Olympiad. Tsvetkova summarizes her experiences at AUCA: "This year was very dynamic, interesting, and difficult...It was hard work for me, because I dedicated all my time to studies and wanted to prove my worth to be a US-CAEF Fellow. I learned much more than courses this year...AUCA gave me the opportunity to express myself, discover and show my talents...I am very grateful to the U.S. - Central Asia Education Foundation for providing me with such a wonderful opportunity to grow."