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CENTRAL EURASIA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

## **CELA 8 BIOGRAPHIES**

**Istanbul, Turkey**

**July 13-22, 2011**

*Compiled by Adam Smith Albion, Muzaffar Atamirzaev and Bill Starnes*

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## CELA 8 PARTICIPANTS



**ABDYRESUL AKYYEV**

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Mr. Akyyev is an English teacher and businessman in his hometown, Babadayhan, Mary region. As an English teacher, he works at a school with pupils from the 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> forms. He is the organizer of a business club for students, and has opened an English and German club for adults, as well as an English language resource center with 400 books. As for his commercial activities, most recently he has been business adviser to the cookie company Ekran, and has a snack café in Mary city center. Earlier, he managed a café and food shop in the capital Ashgabat. He also has experience as the administrator of an information access and training program, where he also taught software skills. He once spent six months as a history and nature guide in Turkey, leading tours in English, German and Russian.

Mr. Akyyev graduated from the faculty of foreign languages at the Teachers Training Institute with a concentration in English. He is keen on community development work, and has teamed up with local businessmen and a Peace Corps volunteer for a village water project and to improve streets by repairing and repaving sidewalks.



**AIMAL MARJAN**

**Afghanistan**

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Mr. Marjan is the director-general for information and communications technology at the Ministry of Communications and IT of Afghanistan. His main duties have involved preparations for the introduction of an electronic national ID card, establishing national hardware and software standards, creating a national data center, and launching e-government capabilities in all the country's state agencies. Earlier, he worked as an advisor to the minister. One of his achievements was to work with international

companies like Microsoft on the localization of the Pashto and Dari languages in application software. Immediately after the fall of the Taliban, he began working with the director of the Afghanistan Assistance Coordination Authority on state internet and intranet systems.

Mr. Marjan holds both bachelors and master's degrees in computer science from the International Islamic University, Islamabad. For ten years, he was the president of the Afghan Computer Science Association. He advised the World Bank on the Development Gateway portal for Afghanistan. He has also served as a faculty member in the computer science department of Kabul University.



**AINUR NURTAY**

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Ms. Nurtay serves as NGO capacity development director at the Association of Business Women (ABW). Earlier, she was a senior program officer at the Eurasia Foundation, where she led the foundation's grant-making in the areas of human rights protection, government accountability and transparency, and nonprofit management and capacity building. Thanks to previous jobs as well as public education manager for ACDI/VOCA, and program manager at the Women's Center of the UN-funded women's reproductive health program, she has extensive experience in community development, strategic planning, and implementation of internationally funded programs.

Ms. Nurtay studied social justice at Haifa State University, Israel, and at the executive program for poverty alleviation at the London School of Economics, but most transformative was her time at Grand Valley State University, Michigan, where she obtained an MA in international development. She is a board member of SowHope (an international women support organization) Enbekshikazakh community foundation, and a member of Nonprofit Leadership Institute's advisory board. Currently she is in the process of founding the Center of NGO Management and Development in southern Kazakhstan. Her professional interests are accountability, post-development, and organizational change.



**ALEKSANDR TITOV**

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Mr. Titov works as a lawyer for Act Partnership. He is one of four equal partners who established the firm (a wholly locally owned business) two years ago. His primary functions as partner are to oversee the practice, contact clients, and supervise the fee structure. Earlier, he was the co-founder and partner of GTK Consult, a private legal consulting firm in Ashgabat. Mr. Titov has previous experience as a legal expert for an EU project on international commercial arbitration, and as legal advisor to the oil and gas industry. He has provided Counterpart Turkmenistan with legal trainings for civic activists in Mary, and for entrepreneurs on the legal environment for small businesses under the aegis of USAID in Ashgabat. He started his legal career as an advisor to HO Hemayat, a Turkmen company specializing in education and consulting.

Mr. Titov received his legal degree from the Saratov State Academy of Law in Russia. In 2005, he was at Maine Business School with a Contemporary Issues Fellowship to research legal issues around market entry for small- and medium-size businesses.



**ALINA KASENOVA**

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Ms. Kasenova is the public affairs and event manager at the American Chamber of Commerce in Bishkek. In addition to regular bulletins and financial management, she promotes the chamber's goals among current and potential members, including conducting charity events with their support, and recruits new companies to AmCham. Earlier, she was an in-house lawyer for Reemtsma-Kyrgyzstan, a tobacco production company. In this capacity, her primary responsibility was the regulation of legal issues arising between shareholders and clients. Over time, however, the company entrusted her to the corporate affairs department as an associate dealing with its outreach and networking. She was involved in conducting workshops, charity events for socially vulnerable people, and other networking events.

Ms. Kasenova graduated from the Law School of Kyrgyz National University. She spent

several years in Vienna, where, unable to use her law education professionally, she became involved in theater. She acted in the Vienna Burg Theater, and played for one season in Hauptmann's social drama "Vor Sonnenaufgang" ("Before Dawn"). As a volunteer, she focuses on helping the orphans and poor people of Kyrgyzstan. For example, she has managed a home improvement project at the Children's Orphanage and also collected humanitarian aid that was airlifted to Osh during the conflicts there.



**ALIYA NAZARKASSYMOVA**

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Ms. Nazarkassymova is the marketing director for Tele2 Kazakhstan, a European mobile operator. She moved to this position from commercial director at the mobile operator NEO which was sold to Tele2 Kazakhstan, and was part of the team that acquired Tele2 as a strategic investment partner. Previously she had held the same position with Bitel in Kyrgyzstan, where she had built and led a team of 60 people in marketing, sales, product development, advertising, and communications. Her first job with mobile telecommunications was as head of the marketing group at Beeline in Almaty. She also has marketing and advertising experience with Microsoft in Toronto.

Ms. Nazarkassymova graduated from Boise State University with a bachelor's in business administration. In the last semester, she won a 6-month internship (later full employment) in a local company, Es/drake Inc., where she learned about business as media buyer responsible for overseeing administrative and advertising campaigns.



**ALMAS KUSERBAYEV**

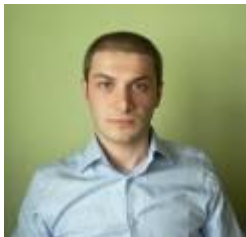
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Mr. Kuserbayev is the chairman of Kaznet Freedom, started 2 years ago as a mass civic movement in protest against the limits on internet freedom in Kazakhstan. As a youth

initiative, it quickly united over 16,000 users in social networks all over the country. Restructured by activists as an organization, Kaznet Freedom agitates against censorship via its own web resources, daily mailing lists, pages on social networks and affiliates in almost every part of Kazakhstan. Mr. Kuserbayev is also co-chairman of the Public Chamber on Youth Policy in Almaty, and represents the Kazakhstan Young Professional Society, with projects to counteract corruption, support student unions, and monitor elections. Before 2007, he had owned a commercial newspaper and an advertising company, which he sold during the financial crisis. For one year, he worked in the municipal town hall.

Mr. Kuserbayev graduated from Kazakh Economic University before taking an MBA at KIMEP in Almaty. As a journalist and freelancer, he has over 500 publications on politics, economics, history, and human rights in newspapers and magazines. In 2010, he received the Hellman/Hammet prize from Human Rights Watch.



## **ARCHIL ZHORZHOLIANI**

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Mr. Zhorzholiani is employed by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) South Caucasus Office as an advisor for its regional program on local governance. The major part of his work involves the analysis and evaluation of the capacities of partner institutions, identification of gaps, and provision of adequate technical and financial support. Prior to this assignment, he consulted for GTZ's community development initiatives for internally displaced persons (IDP) in the wake of the 2008 war with Russia. He worked with a settlement built with German assistance near the town of Gori. Earlier, he headed the division for strategic development at the Office of the Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia. He also worked at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) as national program officer for the South Caucasus region.

Mr. Zhorzholiani obtained a bachelor's of engineering from Georgian Technical University, but reoriented his interests with an M.A. in international politics from the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs. He also holds an M.S. in international development and management from Lund University, Sweden. As part of his Swedish study, he spent time with the UN World Food Program in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Recently, he was selected for the lecturer's position at Ilia State University where he will prepare (and deliver, starting in autumn 2011) a course on public participation in governance. He enjoys tennis.



**AREVIK DAVTYAN**

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Ms. Davtyan works at Ardshininvestbank, where she heads the training center of the bank's personnel management department. Her duties involve organizing and conducting seminars and trainings for personnel, developing new personnel management policies, arranging competitions to recruit new staff, and assessing employee satisfaction. Before she joined the banking sector, however, her specialty was as a biologist. She worked in laboratories and institutes devoted to embryo chemistry, grapevine breeding and hydroponics, and then joined the joint-stock company Wite-gate in Yerevan as its biology expert. She won the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) grant to conduct joint research with German colleagues and published research-related articles.

Ms. Davtyan earned academic degrees up to a PhD at the biology faculty of Yerevan State University. Subsequently, she studied economy and banking at the German-Armenian Financial Banking College. Currently, she is enrolled with the MBA program at the Higher School of Corporate Management under the Academy of National Economy in Moscow. She is a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) alumni club member, and a member of Armenian Human Resources Association. She likes classical, jazz and pop music, and discovering new countries and cultures.



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Mr. Akeleev is the founding director of Promotank HQA, a marketing consulting company. Its regular portfolio of clients ranges from local private sector entities to international organizations and foundations including Bosch Eurasia foundation, JICA and GTZ. The company provides them with market research, economic and business analysis, promotional campaigns, and communication products. Before starting his own business, Mr. Akeleev taught marketing, branding and strategy at the American University in Central Asia (AUCA), while simultaneously chairing and redesigning its fledgling MBA program, and helping to create a business clinic at the university. He continues as an assistant professor at AUCA and chairs the public supervisory board at the Ministry of Finance. Earlier, he was regional marketing coordinator for the USAID/Pragma enterprise development project working in all five countries of Central



Asia.

Mr. Akeleev gained a BA in business administration from AUCA, followed by an MBA from the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University. Meanwhile, he did summer internships with Cummins (diesel engines) and Incaps (biotech). He is active in the Bishkek Business Club, while his company is a member of the Kyrgyz Association of Software Developers (KSSDA). In 2010, he won AUCA's award for best alumni of the business administration department.



## **AZAMAT MATKARIMOV**

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Mr. Matkarimov is the founder and director of DARTS-Group, a private firm based in Nukus, Karakalpakstan, specializing in web-design and the design and production of posters, leaflets, banners, books and other printed materials such as business cards and invitations. DARTS-Group has expanded from professional quality printing to advertising and promotional activities for local companies. He handles web designs as well. He has also launched Nukus' first realty firm, offering intermediary services between sellers and buyers of real estate. At the same time, he worked as an IT specialist for Ustyurt-Zarubezhneftegaz (the company representing Russian hydrocarbon giant Gazprom in Uzbekistan). Before starting his own commercial enterprise, he had worked as a health information specialist for the Child Survival Project of Counterpart International, creating systems to collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative information about children's and maternal health.

Mr. Matkarimov was educated at the famous "Progress" Business School in Nukus, where he studied marketing and management, computers and mathematics, economics and accounting, banking and insurance, English and German. Progress was the first organization in Karakalpakstan with access to the Internet, in 1998.





**AZAMAT USUBALIEV**

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Mr. Usubaliev serves as economic advisor to the chairman of the State Customs Service in Kyrgyzstan. In this capacity (and in his parallel employment as economic consultant to the USAID Regional Trade Liberalization and Customs Reform Project), he supports institutional reforms that Kyrgyzstan needs in its trade and export policies in the light of regional integration processes, particularly the recent formation of a customs union by Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Before this, he coordinated the Presidential Investment Council's program to improve the country's investment climate. He also worked for a year as deputy director of the International Institute for Strategic Research, the main government-funded think-tank, where he had a hand in formulating the Kyrgyz Republic 2020 long-term development strategy. His business experience includes a number of positions at the telecommunications company Bitel.

Mr. Usubaliev holds a diploma in mathematical economics from the Kyrgyz Slavic University. At the moment, he is enrolled in the master's of public administration degree course at the Management Academy in Bishkek. He is a member of the Economic Club volunteering time to train young economists and lead discussions on current economic policies and topics. He is a passionate swimmer.



**BASA JANIKASHVILI**

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Mr. Janikashvili is a television director and producer, responsible for several famous TV projects. He has also worked with FM radio stations as a DJ and art manager. In 2004, he founded FM radio "Ucnobi FM 98.0." He continues to serve as the head of the radio station's broadcasting council. He has his own internet blog ([www.liberali.ge](http://www.liberali.ge)), regularly publishes articles in Georgian magazines and newspapers, and appears on TV and radio talk shows. He is the author of three novels, poetry, radio dramas, and over ten plays which have been performed in theaters throughout the country, as well as in Russia and Scotland.

In 2006, he was awarded with the SABA literature award for the best collection of plays

of the year. In 2009, his play “On the Latch” won the BBC radio play contest for the category of best play from Russia and the Caucasus. His last novel “Shoot 'em Up” is currently being translated into German and Ukrainian.



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Mr. Jumaev is the general director of Pamir Energy Company in Khorog, Tajikistan. It is the only private power company in the country. Under his leadership, communities which had electricity only half of the time four years ago, now enjoy an uninterrupted power supply today. He and his achievement were singled out for recognition in a speech by Secretary of State, Clinton in 2010. Earlier, he was an engineer in the Hydropower Project Research Institute. His career has included jobs with numerous international organizations including the World Bank, USAID/Pragma Corporation, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, UN Headquarters in New York, and Focus Humanitarian Assistance USA in Tajikistan. He was also a consultant to the government of Tajikistan on implementing the World Bank-funded poverty reduction strategy.

Mr. Jumaev holds degrees in electrical engineering from Tajik Technical University and economics from Khorog State University. He continued with graduate study in business management and public policy as a Humphrey fellow at the University of North Carolina. He has a certificate in NGO Management from Duke University as well. He has gone through professional trainings in financial and project management, leadership, and other areas. The European Business Assembly recently nominated him as top manager of the year and Pamir Energy Company as the best enterprise.



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Mr. Shukurov is the deputy general director at Gazpromneft-Aero Dushanbe, a joint-venture subsidiary of Gazpromneft-Aero that provides ground servicing and fueling of

aircraft, and sells special oils and fluids required for aviation. Prior to this, he ran the procurement department for Talco Service (Tajik Aluminum Company), which has the largest production plant in the country. In the three years, he spent at Orienbank, he rose from foreign affairs consultant to head of the Corporate Development Department. In the latter capacity, he launched the initiative that became the Association of Banks of Tajikistan, is created to protect and represent the interests of commercial banks to the National Bank of Tajikistan and the tax authorities. Earlier in his career, he worked on Tajikistan's Raw Materials and Commodity Exchange.

Mr. Shukurov has a BA in economics from the Tajik State University of Commerce. He earned an MA in economics from the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (KIMEP). He enjoys painting landscapes and reading classical poetry.



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Mr. Agabayev serves as business manager for the Turkmenistan branch of Sycon FZE, the exclusive dealer of LG Electronics, Samsung, Hitachi, Whirlpool and Sharp products in the country. He is responsible for the LG and Samsung showrooms in Ashgabat, and coordinates the work of their service centers. He had been the company's sales and marketing manager previously, building strong connections with clients in both the capital and regions of the country. Earlier, he worked as a lead economist for the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan. In that capacity, he oversaw procedures regulating international companies and helped them negotiate issues with the bank authorities.

Mr. Agabayev studied in the Turkmen Institute of National Economy, where he also worked as the head of the youth organization named after Magtymguly. Later, he spent a month in Detroit as a fellow of the Community Connections program, exploring models of private business in the USA. Recently, he obtained an MBA from Tohoku University Graduate School of Economics and management, Sendai in Japan, where the topic of his major research was business strategies for improving socio-economic conditions of citizens by mobile phone companies in Turkmenistan. He is a member of the Rotary Club. One of his memorable experiences was the parachute driving off a mountain.



## **DAVID CHITYAN**

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Mr. Chityan is the director of the Civic Development and Partnership Foundation (CDPF), which fosters the development of civil society of Armenia by strengthening the institutional capacities of non-profit organizations. As the director, he oversees all strategic and programmatic aspects of the foundation's activities and is also responsible for its external relations with members of the public and the donor community. He doubles as the grants manager, supervising the administration of funds and provisions of technical support to CDPF grantees. Earlier, he headed the Population Movement Department of the Armenian Red Cross Society, dealing with issues of refugees, asylum seekers, internal migration and trafficking. At one point he was a senior specialist at Armenia's State Service for Seismic Protection.

Mr. Chityan earned a degree in psychology from Gricor Zohrab University in Yerevan. He is a member of the Regional Disaster Response Team, which is made up of more than one hundred experts in disaster preparedness and response from about 10 Balkan and Caucasus nations.



## **DAVIT TADEVOSYAN**

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Mr. Tadevosyan serves as a business consultant for Grant Thornton Armenia. This multinational entity provides assurance, tax, and specialist advisory services to privately held businesses, public interest entities, and public sector entities. Mr. Tadevosyan participates in business valuation, financial analysis, due diligence, investment and marketing plans, feasibility and sector studies assignments. He has had previous experience in product development, researching competitive markets and launching strategies. He also worked for the American Councils for International Education as a chief accountant.

Mr. Tadevosyan's undergraduate and graduate degrees are from the management faculty of the State Engineering University of Armenia. For two years, he studied in China at Tsinghua, one of the country's top engineering universities, and learned Chinese there. He

is also an alumnus of the Global Village program and member of the Global Village Network whose purpose is helping its members make the most of themselves and maximize their service to others in the world. He is a keen swimmer, football player, and an aviation, model-airplane and skydiving fan who has made three parachute jumps from operational helicopters.



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Mr. Khadjiyev works as a program associate for the Environment, Energy and Disaster Risk Reduction Program at UNDP Turkmenistan. UNDP projects in the area of energy and climate change include the Clean Development Mechanism, carbon finance, energy efficiency in residential buildings, and water governance. Earlier, he was the legal advisor to the OSCE Center in Ashgabat. His core tasks were to interview applicants claiming human rights infringements, to draft legal summaries and supportive documents for submission to the Turkmen Government to draw officials' attention to individual cases, and to monitor court trials. He did a short stint as corporate staff attorney for Dragon Oil Turkmenistan. He began his career as staff attorney at the American Bar Association/Central and East European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI) in Turkmenistan. While there, he launched the project to systematize and publish all of Turkmenistan's environmental laws as well as the international environmental instruments to which the country was a signatory.

Mr. Khadjiyev graduated from Turkmen State University with an LLB in international law, having spent one year at the University of Nevada in Reno focusing on political science. He obtained a master's in international rights law from the Central European University, with a thesis on the protection of human rights through the Constitutional Courts in Hungary and Poland. He is a founding member of the Human Rights Students' Initiative, a Central-East European NGO working in the area of promotion of human rights education. He was awarded a gold medal in the 1987 Ashgabat judo championships.



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Mr. Mikayilov works for Oxfam GB in Azerbaijan in its good governance program, building the capacity of local NGOs to play an active role as change agents in society. Before joining Oxfam, he managed a nationwide survey for households at Caucasus Research Resource Center. It was the first nationwide survey measuring different aspects of life such as economic opportunity, employment, access to services, politics, and regional cooperation. It is now carried out annually in all three Caucasian countries. He worked on decentralization and participatory decision-making at local levels while at the Economic Research Center. He has also done work for the International Republican Institute – working with political parties offering sessions on leadership, advocacy-lobbying, organizational design, speech writing and public speaking – and for the Social and Marketing Research Centre (SIAR).

Mr. Mikayilov holds both a BA and MA in English from the Azerbaijan University of Languages. His second MA was obtained in the decentralized governance stream of the public policy department at Central European University. He has authored a series of policy papers on economic crisis, pension reform, and private-public partnership at the sub-national level. In 2009, he was in the UK as a John Smith Fellow focusing on what kind of mediating functions Azerbaijani think-tanks could play between the government and the public. His hobbies are reading books on identity, leadership and theology, and travelling and swimming.



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Mr. Kvashilava is the deputy director of the Department of Information and Analysis at the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs. He participated in the creation of the new traffic police and continues to develop recommendations on improving the efficiency of police units, combating corruption, and increasing transparency. He is also the founder and the chairman of the board of the Partnership for Road Safety Foundation. He specializes in road safety education – raising public awareness regarding road policing, particularly to address increasing road traffic injuries. He also promotes schemes for sustainable

transport that reduces emissions that adversely impact the environment. He also serves as a member of the state commission on the implementation of the road safety action plan of Georgia. He is the author of the policy paper “Making Georgian Roads Safe.”

Mr. Kvashilava graduated from the department of management and microeconomics at Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University in 1996. He gained a PhD in information technology from the same institution. He has also attended courses in public policy management at the University of Minnesota. In 2006, he was a John Smith Fellow in the UK with a program on good governance, democracy, social justice and road safety issues. His hobbies are playing tennis, contemporary literature, and art.



**GHIZAAL HARESS**

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Ms. Hareess is acting as the executive director of the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program. This is a government program implemented by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. Prior to this job, she served as the senior program manager for the National Democratic Institute, where she led a team working with various departments of the national parliament. She has also worked as the country coordinator for Womankind Worldwide, funding three women’s organizations whose work she oversaw and providing technical assistance as required. Earlier, she headed the Afghan branch of Global Rights. She was responsible for organizing a gathering (Jirga) of Afghan women living in Pakistan and later mobilized refugee women to participate in the historical Emergency Loya Jirga in Kabul.

Ms. Hareess obtained her bachelor’s degree from Kabul University in law and political sciences. Later, with a Chevening scholarship, she got an LLM from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London.





**GULNARA MAMMADOVA**

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Ms. Mammadova has ten years of international development experience managing USAID-funded programs in Post-Soviet Countries. She combines academic knowledge with her project management experience in community mobilization and economic development, civil society building, IDPs (internally displaced persons) and refugees, youth education, and women empowerment.

Her previous work included management of various community mobilization and economic development programs in Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Uzbekistan with CHF International, a US-based non-profit organization. She worked in SII (Social Investment Initiative) and CDA (Community Development Activity) programs in Azerbaijan, GEII (Georgia Employment and Infrastructure Initiative) program in Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli in Georgia and BEST (Building Economic Stability for Tomorrow) program in Ferghana, Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya provinces in Uzbekistan.

Ms. Mammadova has an MA in Russian and Literature from University of Slavic Languages and an MA in Economics from Western Illinois University. She was an Edmund Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program recipient from 2008 to 2010. She speaks Azerbaijani, Russian, English, and Turkish and has advanced experience in the Caucasus and Central Asia regions. Gulnara enjoys working in the development context and making her contribution to poverty reduction worldwide.



**KAYHAN NATIQ**

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Mr. Natiq is country director for the Johns Hopkins University Afghanistan Office. He oversees four health-related projects – independently monitoring and evaluating the public health services, assessing result-based financing (the impact of payments to health service providers based on their performance), surveillance of HIV/AIDS among high risk populations, and a maternal mortality study. Earlier, he was a public health specialist for the World Bank, where he worked on the design and implementation of health service delivery contracted out to non-governmental organizations. He also served as a surveillance officer for the World Health Organization overseeing immunization programs and leading the development of a national health management information system.

Mr. Natiq got his MD from Kabul Medical University, followed by a master's of public health from Columbia University as a Fulbright scholar. He is currently pursuing simultaneously an MS in biostatistics and a PhD in international health, both from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He is a founding member of the Afghanistan National Public Health Association. He is also the founder of the Silk Route Training and Research Organization, a newly established think-tank in Afghanistan.



**LIANA MIKAYELYAN**

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Ms. Mikayelyan works as the regional manager for Peace Corps Armenia since February 2011. Apart from her main responsibilities, she is also the staff liaison for Peace Corps' Women in Development/Gender in Development Initiative. Earlier, she worked as the administrative/human resources officer for Save the Children Armenia Country Office. During her 3 ½ years with Save the Children, she was involved in the agency's international emergency response team and worked in the emergency response operations in Georgia (2008) and Kyrgyzstan (2010). She also became the agency's certified Wellness trainer after attending a 6-weeks course in Melbourne, Australia in 2008 and Lombok, Indonesia in 2009. Prior to joining Save the Children, she was working at International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)/Armenia as community connections program assistant.

Ms. Mikayelyan received her bachelor's degree in finance and insurance from Yerevan State Institute of Economics. In 2001, she became a finalist of the US Department of State's Freedom Support Act Undergraduate Exchange program and spent one year studying Economics at Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio. In 2006, she received her master's in political science from Central European University in Budapest. She is active in international youth work and has represented Armenia at a number of international youth summits and forums.



**LYAZIZA SABYROVA**

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Ms. Sabyrova serves as the deputy director of RAKURS Center for Economic Analysis in Almaty, an independent think-tank that she established in 2008 with the prominent economist and public figure Oraz Jandosov. The center's purpose is to counteract the general dearth of independent and quality national economic analysis in Kazakhstan. It provides practical policy recommendations to economic decision-makers and promotes dialogue among interested parties. Previously, Ms Sabyrova worked with the Asian Development Bank in the Philippines (various water supply projects), Azerbaijan, China, and Central Asian countries. In her latest ADB position, she was posted as deputy director and senior country economist to the bank's resident mission in Kyrgyzstan.

Ms. Sabyrova did undergraduate studies at Kazakh National University in political economy. She went on to obtain an MA and PhD in economics from Indiana University in Bloomington. Among her professional networks is the Global Development Network (GDN), a group of experts dedicated to the improvement of national official statistics in Kazakhstan.



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Mr. Mukhsimov heads the Central Asia representative office of Wilmar Group, based in Tashkent. Wilmar Group is a leading Asian agribusiness company, with headquarters in Singapore, specializing in edible oils. Simultaneously, he has his own partnerships in different companies in Uzbekistan. He came to Wilmar Group from starting his own business in edible and industrial oils and fats where he pioneered the introduction of tropical oils to the Uzbek market. Previously, he held the position of foreign purchases manager for the Demir Group of businesses. There he took part in the financial aspects of hotel and textile factory projects. At the start of his career, he worked for TashKoç Auto, a Koç Group company in Uzbekistan.

Mr. Mukhsimov received a BA in international economic relations from the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies. He also took three years of international business and marketing courses at the Tashkent College of Economics. His interests are skiing, horse

riding, reading and travelling.



**MIRLAN KARABUKAEV**

**Kyrgyzstan**

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Mr. Karabukaev works for the strategic development department of Kyrgyztelecom. As the national telecommunication operator it provides services ranging from fixed and mobile telephony to Internet and television. Mr Karabukaev's job is focused on transparent project management, implementing a balanced scorecard system, and new technology assessment. Previously, he managed marketing in China and Eastern Europe for LedEngin, a startup producing LED chips. As a telecommunications specialist with HR expertise, his career includes other stints with ATT World Services (three years living in San Jose, CA), Kyrcom and Bitel, where as brand manager he helped launch a new prepaid card that rapidly gained four-fifths of market share.

Mr. Karabukaev holds a BA in international and comparative politics from the American University in Central Asia, where he was president of the International Politics Club. His master's of public administration is from Indiana University in Bloomington. He honed his skills in marketing and management with additional programs and internships in Russia, China, and Austria. His goal is to open his own business operating in the Central Asian states and Russia.



**NAIRA GHARAKHANYAN**

**Armenia**

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Ms. Gharakhanyan is the manager of the Child Health Now Campaign for World Vision Armenia, addressing and advocating for maternal and child health. Her job requires not just advocacy in health governance but also integrative cross-sectoral networking with government, media, civil society, and other stakeholders. Previously, she led health and social programs for the Children of Armenia Fund with an emphasis on primary health care and children's rights under conditions of rural development. She has served as an expert in the development of the National Child and Adolescent Health Care Strategy for Armenia for 2008-2013 and Alternative NGO Report to the International Child Rights

Commission. She was a team leader in many research projects funded by UNICEF, World Bank, and Jinishian Memorial Foundation. She is an author of a dozen publications on health and social topics. She began her career in clinical practice, and continues to practice as a neonatologist at a maternity hospital.

Ms. Gharakhanyan graduated from Yerevan State Medical University with a diploma in neonatology. She followed up with a master's of public health (MPH) at the American University of Armenia. Her various medical publications are related to child health and protection issues and performance gaps in Armenia's health care system. She is founder and/or board member of two local NGOs engaged in health related issues, the Children's Health Care Association and the Children First Benevolent Union.



**NURGUL ASYLBEKOVA**

**Kyrgyzstan**

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Ms. Asylbekova is employed with UNDP Kyrgyzstan as its country program gender coordinator. As well as managing specific projects on gender in governance, she has coordinated the introduction of gender mainstreaming into UNDP programs on poverty reduction, environmental protection, democratic governance, parliamentary support, border management, and health and development. Her participation in the UNDP program on promotion of women's leadership, where she got a trainer's certificate, helped her to find her area of professional and personal interest: human rights and equal opportunities for development. Previously, she ran the women's network program for the Soros Foundation, where she also focused on ethnic minority rights and public administration programs. Towards the start of her career, she was appointed deputy director of Kyrgyz State University's scientific library, where she introduced electronic library processes and ran a project for saving rare and valuable publications.

Ms. Asylbekova earned a degree in history from Kyrgyz State University. She went on to do graduate work at Bishkek Humanitarian University on the political, economic and cultural sides to modern Kyrgyz-Chinese relations. Among the trainings she attended was a series in Budapest on diversity management (cultural, linguistic and religious). She is a member of the International Gender Policy Network, uniting gender activists from 18 countries, and of the Alliance of Women's Legislative Initiatives, a local Kyrgyz initiative. Her personal interests include psychology and philosophy (issues of identity), travelling, art and early child development.



**ORKHAN MAMMADOV**

**Azerbaijan**

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Mr. Mammadov is the insurance operations director for Pasha Insurance. His career with the firm has encompassed previous positions as sales and marketing director, retail and bank assurance supervisor, and corporate insurance executive. In 2010, he was named the best manager of the year at Pasha Insurance. Earlier, he worked as an underwriting and reinsurance executive at Gorgud Insurance. Before following a career in the finance sector, he had worked for Elit Mebel furniture production company in the position of business development and quality supervisor. At one time, he worked on a privatization project with German Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

Mr. Mammadov holds both bachelors and master's degrees in international economic relations from the Azerbaijan State Economic University. He has participated in numerous managerial and professional trainings on leadership, business development, management and communication around the world. In 2009, he was awarded a certificate in insurance from the Chartered Insurance Institute, London. His interests include horse riding and cycling.



**SADIQA SALEEM**

**Afghanistan**

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Ms. Saleem is the co-founder and executive director of Oruj Learning Center, providing education to rural girls and women in places where education for females has been traditionally frowned upon or banned altogether. The organization has established six primary schools in remote areas, educating over 3,200 girls. In parallel, she recently founded and leads the Oruj Leadership and Management Community College – Afghanistan's first women's community college – educating around 160 women in two majors; business administration and law. Before taking these steps, she joined the USAID's Afghanistan Higher Education Project as a senior manager to establish and run professional development centers in state education institutions across the country. During this work, she formed the coalition of faculty members that helped in establishing the community college. Earlier, she worked with two women-led NGOs, as a trainer in Pakistan with the Afghan Women's Educational Center, and deputy director at the Afghan

Women's Network, representing her country's women at national and international forums.

Ms. Saleem earned her BA from Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts, with a major in international relations. She previously had received a diploma in computer science from Brains Degree College in Pakistan. In 2011, she will embark on a master's degree in organizational communication at the University of Ottawa.



**SHAMAMMET ANNAYEV**

**Turkmenistan**

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Mr. Annayev is the general director of Turkmen AwtoMerkezi. It is the official distributor of Mercedes-Benz for Turkmenistan. His very first business job was with the company, to which he returned many years later as its director. In the interim, he developed his business expertise during 11 years working for IPC Motors. He started off at IPC Motors as assistant to the spare parts manager and rose, via the position of sales manager, to become the deputy general manager of the whole concern. Prior to entering business, he taught German language and literature at Magtymguly University in Ashgabat.

Mr. Annayev graduated from Magtymguly University's faculty of foreign languages and literature. Subsequently, he spent a year studying at Humboldt University in Berlin. However, he regards his true education as his life experience, the books he has read and the people he has met.



**SHERZOD AKBAROV**

**Uzbekistan**

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Mr. Akbarov is the head of the Economic Governance Unit at UNDP Uzbekistan where he manages a diverse portfolio of development projects in the area of economic governance and poverty reduction. Prior to this work, he managed the Customs Administration Project, which supported government efforts to revise Uzbekistan's



Customs Code, and dealt with the broader issues of trade promotion and state regulation. Also, for two years, he worked on developing a network of credit unions through the country under a USAID-funded microfinance program. His first job was at the State Property Committee of Uzbekistan for state property management and entrepreneurship support, focusing on stock market and private sector development, FDI and corporate governance.

Mr. Akbarov holds a BA from Brown University, where he double-majored in business economics and international relations. He gained a master's in public policy from Harvard University (Kennedy School of Government). He is keen on competitive sports, a fan of football, volleyball and basketball.



## **TAKHMINA TOURAEVA**

**Tajikistan**

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Ms. Touraeva is the Project Manager for the Central Asian Climate Risk Management project and the Ecological Transport Advisor for “Support to Sustainable Transport Management in Dushanbe”, both at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Tajikistan. She is a results oriented professional with substantial experience in project development and implementation, socio-economic, environmental and development issues, public outreach, and advocacy. Her versatile nature has impelled her for education in the most exciting spots around the world. She holds a BA in International Studies and Business from Nebraska, U.S.A., a semester abroad certificate in Political Science from Spain and an MA in Natural Resources and Peace from Costa Rica. Takhmina has won numerous awards and scholarships for excellence in her studies and academic ethics.

Ms. Touraeva strongly believes in volunteerism and goodwill, and thus after obtaining her first degree, travelled to beautiful African countries of Botswana and Zambia in the capacity of the Development Instructor to struggle against HIV/AIDS. Homecoming to Tajikistan resulted in the support of another global campaign to reduce risks of natural and manmade cataclysms, especially in such disaster prone country, as hers. She joined the International Studies for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) organization as the Advocacy Focal Point. This was followed by an employment with the Food and Agriculture Organization as the Emergency Project Manager and Food Security Monitoring Officer. Her passion and an impelling urge to address environmental issues and poverty reduction dichotomy in the wake of the global climatic change, prompted her to pursue another degree in natural resources in Costa Rica.

Though Takhmina's personal interest is literature, books, languages (she speaks Russian,

English, Spanish, and some French besides her mother tongue), music and dances of diverse cultures, yet, those do not limit her athleticism in such sports as volleyball, tennis, and football. The last one, she admits, more as a vibrant and lively fan.



**TAMAR SIGUA**

**Georgia**

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Ms. Sigua is deputy chief of party at CHF International Georgia, a development and humanitarian aid organization. She is the first Georgian national to hold this position. She is responsible for smooth project implementation and directly supervises the finance, administration, HR, IT, and procurement departments. She rose through the ranks in the organization via procurement manager and deputy director of finance and administration. Earlier she was head of the Marjanishvili branch of the Bank of Georgia. She gained expertise in international organizations, working as director of finance and administration for Mobilera Eurasia-Georgia (part of the giant Telyia Soniera company) and handling import-export for Empower Group LTD. She has worked on TACIS and World Bank projects, as well.

Ms. Sigura holds a diploma from Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU) in philology (literature and translation). She completed PhD courses, and then studied medieval studies at Florence State University. Subsequently, she taught Italian language and literature for three years at TSU. She has attended various courses in leadership, grants management, business-finances-taxation, and international banking standards. Her hobbies are reading, swimming, and travelling.



**TATYANA BYSTRUSHKINA**

**Uzbekistan**

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Ms. Bystrushkina is the executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Uzbekistan. Her primary responsibilities consist of organizing monthly gatherings with featured speakers, holding business mixers, and arranging meetings with visiting representatives of potential investors in order to brief them on the general business and investment climate in Uzbekistan. She coordinates five AmCham committees and represents it at official receptions and seminars. She also produces the AmCham quarterly newsletter “Business Connections” and other activity reports. Before joining AmCham, she worked as a guide and interpreter around the country while based in her home town of Samarkand. For a time, she was a teacher at the English for Special Purposes Center in Samarkand.

Ms. Bystrushkina holds a bachelors degree in philology as a teacher of English and French from the Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages. She later completed the intensive MBA type course (professional management program) offered by the Uzbekistan–Japan Center for Human Development. She has also been trained in financial accounting, managerial accounting, and human resources management. She adores sports, and does aerobics, Pilates, running and yoga.



**ULVI AKHUNDLU**

**Azerbaijan**

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Mr. Akhundlu heads the Council of Europe (CE) office in Chisinau, Moldova. Prior to his appointment, he was the program manager of a 4 million euro joint program between the EU and the CE on democracy support in Moldova. Earlier, he worked at the CE’s directorate of communication in the capacity of head of media monitoring unit and press attaché. He has served in the OSCE Office in Baku as political and media advisor. He began his career at ANS TV and Radio, a private company where he worked as a journalist, TV/radio producer and Deputy Director General. He has lectured on European media policies at the Strasbourg-based branch of Syracuse University.

Mr. Akhundli graduated from Azerbaijan State Medical University. He has benefited from numerous short-term courses and training opportunities studying human rights, democracy development and project management at Tufts University, UNITAR, Stanford University, Bologna University and Europa-Universitat Viadrina. He enjoys jazz music, reading, writing stories and PSA (public service announcement) scripts, cooking, and watching documentary films and low-budget movies. “A finely grilled steak, good wine, and a noisy company of friends somewhere outdoors is the recipe for nirvana.”



**VAFA FATI-ZADA**

**Azerbaijan**

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Ms. Fati-zada is currently a graduate student in human rights law at the University of Essex in the UK. Most recently, she was working in Kosovo with the OSCE Mission where she was responsible for coordinating field activities on behalf of the director of the Human Rights and Communities Department. Earlier, she spent over four years with the Embassy of the United States of America in Azerbaijan. For the first two years, she was part of the Political Section, dealing with issues related to human and religious rights and trafficking in persons. Later, she joined the Public Diplomacy section in the embassy, working closely with civil society and NGOs on projects related to democratic development, protection of human rights, rule of law, administrative reforms, conflict resolution and regional cooperation. Her further experience with the OSCE includes previous stints as democratization officer in Bosnia and Herzegovina and as senior program assistant in Baku working on trafficking-related projects.

Ms. Fati-zada studied international relations at Baku State University, and received an MA in social and public policy from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is one of the founding members of the American Alumni Association (US-educated Azerbaijani alumni) and Alumni Network – a network that engages graduates of various exchange programs as well as students enrolled at local universities and schools.



**ZAZA BROLADZE**

**Georgia**

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Mr. Broladze coordinates public sector consulting, internal strategic planning, and capacity building at the Policy and Management Consulting Group (PMCG). He also handles fundraising and developing proposals to international donors. The company implements economic development projects throughout the Central Eurasia countries. In Georgia, it is particularly involved in capacity-building for the public and business sectors. Mr Broladze was previously a monetary economist at the IMF resident representative office in Tbilisi. His most important public service job was as chairman of

the Department of Statistics, the main state body collecting official statistical data. He also has experience running tax and customs policy at the Ministry of Tax Revenues, and working in the budget office of the parliament.

Mr. Broladze has master's degrees in policy economics from both Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Furthermore, he holds a master's certificate in project management from George Washington University, School of Business. He completed PhD courses at the Institute of Economic and Social Problems Research of Georgia. He is fond of fishing, hunting, and spending time in the countryside.

## PRESENTERS



### **ADAM SMITH ALBION**

**Director Emeritus, CELA  
Director of Recruiting, MELA**

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Mr. Albion is the director emeritus and a Board Member of CELA. He currently serves as director of recruiting for the Middle East Leadership Academy – CELA’s sister program, covering 13 Arab countries. He spent 6 years as a Fellow of the Institute of Current World Affairs studying and writing about the Black Sea area and Central Eurasia. He subsequently covered the region for Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) as its Central Asia Analyst. He worked at the EastWest Institute (EWI), an international think-tank with offices in New York, Brussels and Moscow, for four years. He was educated at Harvard University and Oxford University (Christ Church).

He is a member of the advisory board of the Museum of Islamic Art (Pergamon Museum) in Berlin, the Sarre Club, named after the German archeologist who was its first director, and a member of the Volkmantreffen, the annual congress of premier collectors and scholars of Islamic art and textiles from Europe and the United States.



### **BILAL KAAFARANI**

**Chief Innovation Officer and Group President of R&D  
Yıldız Holding  
Istanbul, Turkey**

Mr. Kaafarani was appointed the Chief Innovation Officer and Group President of R&D for Yıldız Holding in April 2011 for all categories except beverages. Yıldız Holding is Turkey's leading conglomerate in the fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector. Established in 1944 to produce biscuits under the Ulker brand, Yıldız Holding now has 68 companies worldwide with operations in various categories ranging from biscuits to chocolate, beverages to dairy products, baby food to personal care products and packaging. With such a large business scope, Yıldız Holding is Turkey's biggest raw material buyer, contributing to the lives of 100 thousand farmers directly and 500 thousand people indirectly. With 56 facilities domestically and abroad, Yıldız Holding

companies are not only pioneers in the country but also in the region.

Mr. Kaafarani started his professional career at P&G Cincinnati. During his career, he worked at Metal & Thermit, HealthCare Industry, Tropicana Products, Kraft Foods, Frito-Lay, PepsiCo International, and The Coca-Cola Company with evolving responsibilities. Mr. Kaafarani was a Senior Vice President of Global Innovation and Technology at the Coca-Cola Company before joining Yıldız Holding.

Mr. Kaafarani was recently honored by Business Week as one of the world's "Top 25 Masters of Innovation" recognizing his years of work on some of the leading brands of the world.

Mr. Kaafarani graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.



**DANIEL GREEN**

**Chief Technology Officer  
Wikistrat  
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Daniel is a co-founder (with Joel Zamel) and Chief Technology Officer of Wikistrat Ltd, a technology start-up developing systems and methodologies for strategic analysis, modeling and planning. Daniel has had a diverse career spanning the use of technology in a range of environments and has completed engagements for Macquarie Bank, Opera Australia, University of Sydney Union and a private security agency. Having had the privilege of access to both Computers and the Internet from a young age, Daniel is quick to adapt to changes in a technical environment and uses this to keep Wikistrat innovative. Daniel has a Bachelor of Technology (Programming) from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology with additional tertiary studies in Security and Counter Terrorism from Monash University and Murdoch University.





**JOEL ZAMEL**

**Founding Director & CEO  
Wikistrat  
Tel-Aviv, Israel**

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Joel is the Founding Director and CEO of Wikistrat Ltd, a technology start-up developing systems and methodologies for strategic analysis, modeling, and planning. Joel also developed the strategic planning methodology of Collaborative Competition, on which Wikistrat's flagship system is based. Joel has a Bachelor of Mining Engineering from the University of New South Wales and a Masters Degree in Government, Diplomacy and Strategy from the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya (Israel), specializing in Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security.

## CORE FACULTY MEMBERS



### **BILL STARNES**

**Volunteer Curriculum Coordinator  
CELA/MELA  
Dallas, Texas**

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As a member of the Society of International Business Fellows (SIBF), Mr. Starnes serves as the volunteer curriculum coordinator and faculty member for both the Central Eurasian Leadership Academy (CELA) and the Middle East Leadership Academy (MELA), both initiatives of the Society of International Business Fellows (SIBF) and funded by its affiliate, the Global Network Foundation (GNF). He previously served as the Managing Director of SIBF from 2001 to 2005, focusing on expanding the number, variety, and quality of its programs.

Mr. Starnes spent 16 years with the Trammell Crow organization, a major, Dallas-based real estate developer, owner and operator of industrial, office, commercial, and multi-family residential properties as well as hotels, hospitals and wholesale merchandise marts. He became a partner in 1989 and Co-Managing Partner of Trammell Crow International (TCI) in 1997. TCI developed, owned, managed and leased real estate in Europe, Latin America and Asia. Mr. Starnes was responsible for determining overall business strategy, opening new markets, entering into joint ventures, approving new investments, and selecting new partners as well as overseeing the overall administration of the business from its headquarters in Dallas, Texas. He traveled extensively to Asia, Europe and Latin America and oversaw the opening of new offices in Japan, China, the Netherlands and Hungary.

Mr. Starnes began his career in academia as an Assistant Professor of Economics at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts following graduate studies at Yale University and an undergraduate degree from Rice University in Houston. He later taught economics at Rice University and the University of Houston. After leaving academia, Mr. Starnes spent three years in general management for a small, family-owned wholesale distribution company in Dallas before joining Trammell Crow.

He lives in Dallas, Texas with his wife, Donna. They have one son, Jon, and a granddaughter, Lexi. He enjoys travel, photography, reading and going to the movies.



**CLARK PLEXICO**

**Resident Director  
National Democratic Institute  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

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Clark Plexico is NDI's resident director in Uzbekistan. Before joining the Institute, Mr. Plexico led a North Carolina-based international consulting company that assisted corporations, non-profits and government leaders on planning successful international business ventures, trade missions and exchanges. He also designed and led successful legislative and regulatory advocacy campaigns for corporations and non-profits.

Prior to this, he was an executive at AT&T leading legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts, as well as the company's philanthropy in North Carolina. Before joining AT&T, Mr. Plexico was elected to four legislative terms in the North Carolina Senate during which he chaired the Education and the Education Appropriations Committees in addition to *ad hoc* commissions on election law reform and environmental issues. Prior to running for political office, Mr. Plexico lived and worked for over a decade in Europe, the Middle East and Southeast Asia as an international businessman.

Since 2002, he has been a facilitator and faculty member for the Central Eurasian Leadership Alliance (CELA), which has helped more than 300 emerging leaders from Central Asia, the Caucasus and Afghanistan to develop skills, gain experience and build an active network throughout the region. He has led education and mission groups throughout the Middle East and East Asia, and is a sought after speaker/trainer on managing and leading across cultures.

Mr. Plexico earned an undergraduate degree in political science from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, and a master's degree in international relations from the University of Southern California's London program. He studied Middle East politics and culture at Tehran University and the Royal Academy of Philosophy, and is a graduate of the Middlebury College School of Arabic.



**GINNY JACKSON**

**Vice-President  
Statement Systems**

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Ginny Jackson is the Vice-President and significant shareholder of Statement Systems Inc., an 18-year-old company in Dallas, Texas. SSI specializes in performing highly

complex data parsing/processing and printing/distribution of complex, highly-personalized variable communications for clients such as Federal Express, JPMorgan Chase, Dell and many other Fortune 1000 companies.

Ginny is active in the SMU Tower Center Forum, World Affairs Council, CELA (Central Eurasia Leadership Academy), the Society of International Business Fellows, Dallas Social Venture Partners, Dallas Women in Philanthropy and is on the Board of the Golden Retriever Rescue of North Texas. She graduated from Occidental College in Pasadena, CA, with a B.A. in Languages.

Ginny's hobbies include cooking (as much as possible, as often as possible, for as many people as possible), reading and all sorts of sports and outdoor activities. She enjoys attending a wide range of arts and cultural events, especially dance and literary events. Ginny and her husband, Steven Raab, share their home with their three Golden Retrievers - Hudson, Cooper and Bo - and two cats.



**MARK A. YOUNG**

**President  
Rational Games, Inc.  
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Mark Young is an independent author, mediator, lecturer, and corporate trainer in the field of negotiation skills. He currently serves as the President of Rational Games Inc., a consulting, training and coaching service organization dedicated to the employment of games and game-like simulations to resolve conflict.

Mr. Young was previously with Price Waterhouse in Germany, where he served as Senior Manager in charge of the German privatization practice. He initiated, marketed, and executed corporate finance transactions for the eastern German Treuhandanstalt and for many clients in western Germany, with an emphasis on the energy and telecommunications sectors. He was elected to the partnership in July 1994.

Prior to joining Price Waterhouse, he managed an office of 20 professionals within the US Department of Commerce with responsibility for trade negotiations and trade promotion events for the U.S. service sector, including financial institutions, professional service providers, airlines, information industries and audiovisual/broadcasting companies.

Mr. Young began his career in banking, first as a credit analyst with Chase Manhattan Bank in New York and later as Assistant Vice President and Marketing Officer for First National Bank of Boston, starting in Boston and later transferring to Frankfurt, Germany. While in Germany, he joined McKinsey as a management consultant working on a variety of project teams in both Germany and the United States covering marketing, organization and logistics issues in the consumer goods, automotive, steel and retail industries.

Mr. Young received a B.A., Summa Cum Laude, in Philosophy with a minor in Economics and Political Science from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA. He got a Masters of International Management with an emphasis on International Finance from the American Graduate School of International Management in Phoenix, AZ., where he spent a semester in Fujinomiya, Japan studying the Japanese language and business methods. He received an interdisciplinary PhD from Humboldt University in Berlin in philosophy and economics.

He is fluent in English and German, proficient in French and Spanish, with a working knowledge of Japanese. He is a member of the Aspen Institute in Berlin, an Eagle Scout and National Merit Scholar.



**MR. MICHAEL KOULY**

**President  
Cambridge Institute for Global Leadership  
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Michael Kouly is the President of CIGL -- Cambridge Institute for Global Leadership, a Leadership Think-Tank and advisory body that grew out of the studies and research of its founders at Harvard and Princeton universities. The purpose of CIGL is to generate knowledge on the subject of leadership and to actively enhance the leadership capacity of people and organizations worldwide. Michael is also a senior international executive, writer, journalist, and a scholar who has studied and researched Global Leadership at several universities, including Harvard, Princeton, and Maastricht Universities. He has spoken on Leadership, Authority, Strategy and Policy-Making matters to thousands of top business, government, education and NGO executives in dozens of countries, stretching from the United States to Asia. His practical field knowledge comes from a 16-year international career with Reuters where he worked in 22 countries managing and leading people from 47 nationalities. His last responsibilities were Managing Director of Reuters Middle East Ltd. and executive board member of Reuters Continental Europe, Middle East and Africa.

He studied the subjects of Strategy and Microeconomics of Competitiveness with the world renowned Professor Michael Porter of the Harvard Business School and the subject of Leadership with Professor Ronald Heifetz. While at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, Michael also served as a Teaching Fellow on leadership across cultures where he took part in the leadership education of senior business executives, scholars, government officials and diplomats. Michael is a World Bank Fellow, a Robert McNamara Fellow at Princeton University, a Mason Fellow at Harvard University, a Fellow at the Munk Centre For International Studies at University of Toronto and a Research Fellow at Maastricht University.



**STEVEN RAAB**

**Chairman and CEO  
The InSource Group  
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Steven Raab is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The InSource Group which provides a variety of Information Technology services and highly qualified Information Technology professionals to its commercial and federal government clients on a contract basis. As Chairman, CEO and one of the founders of The InSource Group, Mr. Raab is responsible for the current and future performance of the business including the strategic direction, profitability, board management and governance, and ultimately operational excellence. The Insource Group was a three time qualifier in the SMU Cox Business School of Business Dallas 100, has received numerous other awards, and previously was recognized as one Texas' fastest growing Women Owned Businesses.

Mr. Raab began his technical career at IBM, where he held various line and staff management positions in sales and vertical industry markets over a period of 17 years. He also has been the founder and President of his own custom home building company, Executive Vice President of Real Estate and Real Estate Lending for Champion Savings & Loan, and EVP of Real Time Financial Systems, Inc.

He is the past President and current member of the board of The Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture, past Board Chair and Board member of Dallas Social Venture Partners, board member of Social Venture Partners International and board member of SIBF's Central Eurasia Leadership Academy (CELA). He is serving as facilitator coordinator for the MELA program.

Steven is keenly interested in geopolitics, international security, and foreign affairs and in that pursuit he is a member of The Tower Center Forum at SMU, World Affairs Council of Dallas/Ft. Worth and Dallas Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Raab is also interested in social innovation, travel, motorcycle riding, hand and shot gun sports (particularly skeet/sporting clays), learning piano, and reading. Steven has a son and two grandsons, and he and his wife, Ginny, also share a passion for their three rescued golden retrievers, Bo, Cooper, and Hudson.

## FACILITATORS



### **BRIAN SADDLER**

**Co-Founder and Manager  
Sagittarius Capital Partners  
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Brian Sadler co-founded and currently manages Sagittarius Capital Partners, a small private equity fund of funds. He also serves as an independent board director of All Metals, a steel service and logistics company. He also currently serves on the board of directors and is Co-Chair of the Georgia Chapter of SIBF.

Brian is a former investment banker and management turnaround consultant with over 20 years of corporate strategy, private equity, mergers and acquisitions, and financial operations experience focused on middle market companies experiencing high growth, high leverage and/or turnaround situations allowing significant value to be created through financial and operational improvements. For the past six years, Brian has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Chamberlin Edmonds & Associates, Inc., the largest provider of government healthcare eligibility and enrollment services in the US. The company recently merged with Emdeon, Inc. (NYSE: EM), a leading US-based healthcare information technology services company.

Prior experiences include: four years as an independent turnaround management and financial restructuring consultant; eight years as Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Legacy Investment Group, a Southeast-based investment and merchant banking boutique; four years as a corporate real estate debt restructuring officer at Citibank/Citicorp; and two years within the entrepreneurial services group at Price Waterhouse where he began his career.

Brian received an MBA from Cornell University and a BS in Commerce with Distinction from the University of Virginia along with a CPA from the State of Virginia. He is also a graduate of Citicorp's Global Finance Institute. In 2009, Brian was awarded Atlanta Business Chronicle's CFO of the Year for medium-sized private companies.

Brian is a cycling and triathlon enthusiast and he and his wife Karla of five years are avid travelers who are hoping to spend much of 2012 visiting the rest of the world.





**GINNY JACKSON**

**Vice-President  
Statement Systems**

[gjackson@statementsystems.com](mailto:gjackson@statementsystems.com)

*See Core Faculty Bio Above.*



**JOHN MILLS**

**Managing Director and Chief Technology Officer  
Green Star Group, Ltd.  
Dallas, Texas USA**

[jmills@msn.com](mailto:jmills@msn.com)

John C. Mills is an entrepreneur who has been involved in multiple applied technology startups, focusing on bringing their technology to market. He has executive level experience in manufacturing, importing and exporting within the Americas, the Pacific Rim and the EU. He is currently Managing Director and Chief Technology Officer of Green Star Group, Ltd. which he founded to provide environmentally beneficial products such as the Dragon Fire 888™ technology, a fuel combustion enhancing technology for which he holds a US patent and which has demonstrated significant fuel savings and pollutant reductions globally. This technology is currently rolling out in Southeast Asia, Middle East, North Africa and Central America.

As a CPA and certified mediator, Mills has provided testimony as an expert witness in disputes regarding business valuations and chemical damages. He has also provided due diligence for potential mergers and acquisitions of banks, defense contractors, international NGOs, and business associates.

Mills has served for eight years as a facilitator at the Central Eurasian Leadership Academy (CELA) at Koç University in Istanbul. He is also a founding Director of the Middle East Leadership Academy (MELA), assisting in curriculum development, program planning and serving as Managing Director of the Inaugural Program in 2011. Together these programs serve emerging leaders in over 20 countries. He provides continuing professional coaching and mentoring for emerging leaders in Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

John is a member of Rotary International, Water & Sanitation Rotary Action Group, the Rotary Club of Dallas (Paul Harris Fellow), The Society of International Business Fellows, the Dallas Committee on Foreign Relations, Financial Executives International,

The Tower Center Forum at Southern Methodist University and has served on the Boards of the YMCA, Chamber of Commerce, Dallas Symphony Association and The Dallas 500.

A native of Dallas, Texas, Mills attended Southern Methodist University and Texas Tech University, graduating with a BBA in Business Administration with High Honors.

His philanthropic interests include Dallas Social Venture Partners, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, Predisan Rural Medical Clinics in Catacamas Honduras, the Global Network Foundation and the Boy Scouts of America. His recreational interests include sailing, SCUBA diving, fishing and travel. Mills holds a private pilot's license and is Instrument-rated.

He lives in Dallas and is the proud father of two adult sons. He recently became a grandfather for the first time.



**KARLA SADLER**

**Member of the Board  
Georgia Center for Child Advocacy**

[karla.sadler@yahoo.com](mailto:karla.sadler@yahoo.com)

Karla has over 20 years of broad experience in the retail industry, including buying, planning, and sales. She spent 15 years with Macy's Department Stores (NYSE: M), the largest department store chain in the US with annual revenue exceeding \$25 billion. She most recently served as a Divisional Vice President of Planning, managing its Better Women's Clothing division, a \$500 million annual revenue business. Previously, she served for six years as a Regional Sales Account Executive for Liz Claiborne (NYSE: LIZ), a major international apparel brand.

Karla is very involved within the community and works with multiple non-profit organizations in Atlanta. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy and has chaired their major fundraiser event for the past two years. While at Macy's, she served as Co-Chair for its Partnership Against Domestic Violence. In 2004, she was recognized as a YWCA Woman of Achievement.

Karla graduated with a BS in Marketing from the University of South Florida.

Karla's other interests include travel and exercise. She is an eight-time marathoner and recently completed her first triathlon. She and her husband Brian of five years are avid travelers who hope to "travel the world" in 2012.



**MARINE GHAZARYAN (CELA 3, AM)**

**Chief Financial Officer  
Mother See of Armenian Apostolic Church**

**Etchmiadzin, Armenia**

[maraghazaryan@yahoo.com](mailto:maraghazaryan@yahoo.com)

Ms. Ghazaryan is the Chief Financial Officer of the Mother See of Armenian Apostolic Church, in Etchmiadzin, Armenia. Her primary responsibility is the supervision and management of the Finance and Accounting departments of Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, including ten Dioceses in Armenia and Artsakh, the Hospital, Printing Press, Candle Production Plant, Construction company, TV channels, Seminaries, Soup Kitchens, Youth Centers, and other organizations which are all part of the extended operations of the Mother See.

Prior to the employment at the Mother See, Marine Ghazaryan worked in the Armenian branch of Admiralty Investment Bank of New Zealand, first as financial analyst and then as an executive vice president / country director. As a financial analyst she performed diagnostic reviews of the state owned large enterprises and recommended restructuring strategies for each. She also developed short-term action plans for the development of the internal control and financial recovery of these enterprises. After Admiralty Investment Bank, in joint venture with Merrill Lynch, successfully bid for ten of the largest Armenian Enterprises in a World Bank tender, Marine prepared the extensive company profiles for two of the ten enterprises to be privatized through international tender: the Cognac Factory and the Giumry Textile Plant. The former has been sold to Pernod Recard group.

Ms. Ghazaryans education includes an MS in Mathematics from Yerevan State University Department of Theoretical Mathematics, an MBA from American University of Armenia (an accredited affiliate of UCLA) and an MS from Texas A&M University. She completed professional development trainings at Cambridge University, UK and Harvard Kennedy School of Governance, USA. She is an alumna of CELA 3.



**MARY A. MADDEN**

**Chair and Executive Director  
Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Corporate  
Directors**

[marymadden@mindspring.com](mailto:marymadden@mindspring.com)

Mary is an experienced senior executive who has worked in numerous early stage, high growth and mature companies serving in such roles as CEO, President, COO and consultant.

From 1981-1994, Ms. Madden was the President, Founder, and Co-CEO of Information America, the first company to offer on line access to public record data. She created the firm, raised over \$8 million from angel investors and venture capital, grew profitable revenues to \$25 million, took it public, and then sold the company to Westlaw delivering an attractive return to shareholders. Subsequent to Information America, Ms. Madden joined ChoicePoint as Vice President of Public Records. There, she oversaw the development of a system to collect, route, and track document orders; developed a marketing strategy for the legal market; and handled acquisition initiatives. Ms. Madden has worked with ValuBond, Inc. (sold), eAttorney (sold to Lexis), fabric.com (sold to Amazon), Miavendia.com, LVGRM, and LAWDOCS. She has done turnaround work with Grisanti Galef and Goldress.

Ms. Madden has received numerous awards including: inclusion on Inc magazine's 500 List for three years running, finalist for Inc's Entrepreneur of the Year, and the Information Industry Entrepreneur of the Year. She is a member of the Committee of 200, CEO Netweavers, and the Society of International Business Fellows. She has traveled to Istanbul for leadership seminars for emerging leaders from Central Eurasia, and traveled to Belfast to mentor technology companies. She has served on private and public corporate boards. She is and has been on several advisory boards for TI:GER program at Georgia Tech and Emory University, Kennesaw University Center for Corporate Governance, the Grove, and the Global Foundation Network. She is co-founder of the Atlanta Chapter of Women Corporate Directors for women on public and private corporate boards.

Ms. Madden received a BA in Math and Economics from Vassar College and an MLS in Library of Science from Columbia University.



**MEADE C. SUTTERFIELD**

**Private Equity Investor  
Atlanta, Georgia USA**

[meadesutterfield@comcast.com](mailto:meadesutterfield@comcast.com)

C. Meade Sutterfield is a private equity investor primarily in emerging telecommunications and wireless communications entities. He currently serves as an advisor to Counsel Ventures and Antares Capital, as well as a director on the board of two companies among the 30 in which he is or has been an angel investor.

He was formerly a founder and President of PowerFone, Inc., the largest Specialized Mobile Radio (SMR) carrier in the major markets in Michigan and Ohio, which was merged into the rollup which created Nextel Communications as a nationwide company. Meade's experience with the SMR industry began in 1986, when he purchased Johnson Communications Corporation (JCC). As President, he built JCC into one of the nation's

largest SMR carriers and this too was sold into Nextel.

In 1984, Meade became President of AllianceWall Corporation, the world's largest provider of porcelain enameled steel, which was subsequently purchased by a buyout group within a year. Meade had come from Kimberly-Clark, where from 1980-1984 he had held several positions leading to Vice-President and General Manager of the Service and Industrial Division. His initial employer was Scientific-Atlanta, where he held a number of sales, marketing, operations and general management positions in Europe and America during his tenure from 1974-1980.

Meade's education includes a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1972 and a Masters in Business Administration from Harvard University in 1974, both with honors. In 1986, he was the President of the Harvard Business School Club of Atlanta. Meade is a Director of the Radio Club of America and a Director of the Atlanta Technology Angels. He is a past Chair of the Alumni Association of the Georgia Institute of Technology and currently serves on its Foundation Board, the Research Corporation Board and Capital Campaign Steering Committee, as well as the Advisory Board for the College of Engineering. He is a past Chair of the Society of International Business Fellows (SIBF) and is currently Chair of the Global Network Foundation of SIBF. In 2002, he was one of the founders of the Central Eurasian Leadership Academy (CELA). He is also involved, through GNF, in the Middle East Leadership Academy (MELA) which is beginning a parallel organization to CELA and SIBF for young leaders from the 13 Arabic states in the Levant, Arabian Peninsula and Egypt.

He is married to Susan and they have four married children and four grandchildren.



**PULOD AMIRBEKOV (CELA 7, TJ)**

**Director, Promotion LLC  
Dushanbe, Tajikistan**

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Mr. Amirbekov is the Founder and Director of the Branding Agency “Promotion”. His company mission is creation and promotion of local Trade Marks in Tajikistan. He believes that “brand” is the philosophy of the businesses. He has 35 full employees, two offices in Tajikistan and large portfolio since 2006. He has also worked as a Marketing and Trade Specialist for the USAID Enterprise Development Project in Central Asia, for which he conducted marketing workshops and developed marketing plans for more the 50 businesses. For five years, he served with UN Mission observers in Tajikistan, and later with the UN Mission in Sierra Leone as Budget Controller. He has performed other financial jobs for Save the Children, and Khorog State University.

Mr. Amirbekov holds degrees in International Economic Relations from Khorog State University, and in Law from the Tax and Legal Institute in Dushanbe. He is active member of American Chambers of Commerce in Tajikistan, and National Association of Small and Medium Businesses in Tajikistan. He is an alumnus of USAID Community Connection program in 2008. He combined his interests through study tour to the US where he visited business clubs in Michigan, Illinois and Indiana. He is an alumnus of CELA 7 and CELA Tajikistan Council for 2009.



**RATI JAPARIDZE (CELA 6, GE)**

**Co-owner, Online Express  
Tbilisi, Georgia**

[ratijaparidze@gmail.com](mailto:ratijaparidze@gmail.com)

Mr. Japaridze is a co-owner of a shipping company, Online Express, where until 2009 he worked as a Managing Director. Subsequently, he has taken a more passive role in the company's management and pursued work on the topic of forests preservation and good governance as a consultant from the World Bank. Mr. Japaridze is a strong supporter of environmental causes as a result of his work as a World Bank program director in 2005 in charge of multimillion dollar programs in the area of forestry, protected areas and coastal zone development. He is an author of several publications on the topic of forest preservation and policy development.

In the past Rati Japaridze had been involved in the work for the US Embassy, USAID, International Finance Corporation and Deloitte Touche. He has an economics diploma from Tbilisi State University and master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University. Mr. Japaridze is a keen bike rider and traveler. He is an alumnus of CELA 6.



**SHELBY GRUBBS**

**Attorney and Member of the Firm  
Miller & Martin PLLC  
Atlanta, Georgia USA**

[shelby.grubbs@sibf.org](mailto:shelby.grubbs@sibf.org)

Shelby Grubbs is a lawyer and a partner in the Atlanta, Georgia office of Miller & Martin, a law firm based in the southeastern United States. He has over 32 years of experience in law practice which has included serving as lead counsel for Fortune 100 and FTSE 100



companies and as special master in litigations involving toxic tort claims and Medicare reimbursement programs. While Mr. Grubbs remains active as counsel in class and other complex litigation, his professional work today is largely focused on dispute resolution and dispute management. He has acted as an arbitrator or mediator in numerous business, construction and intellectual property disputes.

Mr. Grubbs' interests and experience include international and comparative law. He is currently chairing the Litigation, Arbitration & Dispute Resolution Section of the World Law Group, a network of law firms with more than 12,000 lawyers in 46 firms in 37 countries. He is editor of *International Civil Procedure*, a 2004 publication comparing litigation and arbitration procedure in 34 separate countries and jurisdictions.

A former president of the Chattanooga Bar Association, Mr. Grubbs is a 1975 graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law where he was a member of the *Alabama Law Review*. He has served on numerous civic boards including the Chamber of Commerce, the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Heart Association and the Audubon Society. He is Chairman-elect of the board of the Global Network Foundation and is active with the Greater Atlanta Heart Association. He is married to Lynne Dodge Grubbs, formerly of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. They have three grown children, Nathaniel, James and Elizabeth Victoria.



**STEVEN RAAB**

**Chairman and CEO  
The InSource Group  
Dallas, Texas USA**

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*See Core Faculty Bio Above.*



**STEWART MOTT DANSBY**

**Civic Leader and Philanthropist  
Birmingham, Alabama USA**

[amcbhm@aol.com](mailto:amcbhm@aol.com)

Stewart Mott Dansby is immediate past chairman of the Global Network Foundation, a supporting foundation to the Society of International Business Fellows (SIBF). The



foundation's mission is to facilitate global philanthropy in partnership with foundations, institutions, corporations and individuals by leveraging the expertise of SIBF members to further global understanding. The Foundation focuses on projects that permit members to give of their time and expertise as well as their financial support.

Stewart's career has included working in the urban planning division of a Birmingham architectural firm, two years in Detroit with an investment counseling firm, and five years with the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce where he was Manager of the Public Affairs Department. He later co-founded a GIS consulting firm, American Cadastre, Inc. ("AmCad") that advises clients on computerized mapping. In addition to the United States, AmCad has done work in several countries including Russia, Armenia, Canada, Mexico and Kazakhstan. In 1999, the company was sold, and Stewart became the first Executive Director of the Vulcan Park Foundation. After serving as both president and chairman, he relinquished his management role in 2001 and joined the board of directors.

Stewart serves on the boards of several nonprofit institutions. In 1996, he had the honor of being named "Outstanding Civic Leader" by the Alabama Chapter of the National Society of Fundraising Executives (now known as the Association of Fundraising Professionals).

Stewart was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, raised in Birmingham, and graduated from high school at The Lawrenceville School in New Jersey. He received a B.A. in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Biology from St. Andrews Presbyterian College in North Carolina. He later earned an M.B.A. from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

Stewart has two children: Stewart, Jr., and Susan.



**SUSAN J. SUTTERFIELD**

**Atlanta, Georgia USA**

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Susan J. Sutterfield has 20 years experience as a hospital nurse with a focus on physical rehabilitation and pulmonary medicine. She has a B.S. in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She continues her medical work part time on an international research study which focuses on Type 1 diabetes development in children.

Susan's other main interests are international travel, history and politics and she also enjoys cooking and regular exercise. In addition to living in France, she has traveled throughout Europe, the Middle East, Asia and South America. Through the Central Eurasia Leadership Academy (CELA) she has participated in all of the Academies, 12 of

the 15 reunions and as a result visited all of the nine member countries from the South Caucasus through Central Asia.

Susan and Meade have three adult married children and are the proud grandparents of four children ranging in age from 3 through 6.



**TALGAT IMANGALIEV (CELA 7, KZ)**

**Director of Government Affairs and Business Development,  
WorleyParsons**

**Astana, Kazakhstan**

[talgat@hotmail.com](mailto:talgat@hotmail.com)

Mr. Imangaliyev handles national government relations and business development in Kazakhstan for WorleyParsons, Australia's largest engineering firm providing professional services to Kazakhstan's energy and resource industries. He is in charge of local agency, government and key client affairs. Earlier, Mr. Imangaliyev worked as the OE/HES manager of regulatory affairs for Tengizchevroil, the country's largest petroleum company. In that capacity he was responsible for local and national regulatory, government and compliance affairs as part of the OE/HES. He began his career in the Office of the Governor of Atyrau as the lead officer for foreign investment affairs.

Mr. Imangaliyev gained his bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in Seattle. He followed with a master's from the same institution. In 2004, he graduated from Atyrau State University with a degree in Jurisprudence. He is also an alumnus of the Harvard's JFK School of Government. Mr. Imangaliyev is an alumnus of CELA 7.



**TAMARA BOKUCHAVA (CELA 3, GE)**

**Barcelona, Spain**

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Ms. Bokuchava graduated from the Royal University of Groningen, the Netherlands with a Master of Science degree in International Business/Marketing. She is currently a PhD candidate with the title of DEA in Public Communications at the University of Pompeu

Fabra, Barcelona, Spain. Her doctoral thesis is on immigrant integration policies, focusing on the gap between theory and practice. Her areas of expertise and specific interests include: Intercultural Communications, Social Coherence, Social Photography for the social uplift, and Migrations.

Membership with professional bodies include: GRITIM, UPF (Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration), SAED, UPF (seminar for discourse analysis), CELA (Central Eurasia Leadership Academy). She is an alumna of CELA 3.



**TAMUNA TRAPAIKZE (CELA 6, GE)**

**Project Manager, Save the Children Georgia  
Tbilisi, Georgia**

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Ms. Trapaidze serves as Chairman of the CELA Board of Directors and works as a project manager at Save the Children Georgia Country Office (SC). Her current project, “Supporting Equal Opportunities for People with Disabilities,” is a USAID funded project implemented by SC. As a project manager, Tamuna’s core task is overall management of the project. She is directly responsible for the education component of the project, which implies promoting inclusive and special education for children with disabilities at regular/mainstream or special schools.

Having worked as a project manager, lead researcher, and monitoring and evaluation analyst, Tamuna has extensive experience in various spheres of development work. She has a solid understanding of the situation at the grassroots level in Georgia due to her close and interactive working relation with the most marginalized parts of Georgian society, including working with IDPs (internally displaced persons), PWD (people with disabilities) and other vulnerable groups.

She is a trained physician having majored in General Pediatrics at Tbilisi State Medical University. She also has a master’s degree in International Public Health and Epidemiology from the University of Umea (Sweden). Prior to obtaining her MPH degree, Ms. Trapaidze worked as a Pediatric Endocrinologist at the Tbilisi State Medical University Pediatric Clinic.

Ms. Trapaidze is alumna of CELA 6.



**TSOVINAR BABAYAN (CELA 1, AM)**

**London, UK**

**[tsovinar@hotmail.com](mailto:tsovinar@hotmail.com)**

Ms. Tsovinar has a background in consulting on corporate strategy with an emphasis on organizational structure/development and marketing strategy across industries and within the Russia/CIS markets. She is now an independent consultant based in London, advising clients in Russia/CIS countries.

She has advised clients in Armenia while working for Ameria Consulting, and has implemented advisory projects in Russia with Ernst & Young, London Marketing Group and Eastern Ventures Holdings, a leading Russian investment vehicle.

Ms. Tsovinar has also experience working in the NGO world. She has managed a project for Save the Children in Armenia, and has worked on developing a program portfolio and strategy for Russia's largest children's foundation within the team of McKinsey & Co.

She has studied Economics at Yerevan State University and holds a Masters degree in Management from the London School of Economics.

Her interests include the jewelry business and design. She is a native speaker of Armenian and Russian, and is fluent in English. She enjoys travelling, playing tennis and piano.

Ms. Tsovinar is an alumna of CELA 1.

## GUESTS



### **VICKIE COX NEIGHBOUR**

**Member of the Board  
Cox Industries  
Columbia, South Carolina USA**

[vneighbour@coxwood.com](mailto:vneighbour@coxwood.com)

Vickie is a member of the second generation of the Cox family. In 1952, her father, William B. Cox, Sr., founded Cox Wood Preserving, now Cox Industries. She currently serves on the company's Board of Directors, where one of her areas of responsibility is the promotion of family continuity and communication. In support of her role on the board, Vickie is currently attending Kennesaw State University where she is pursuing an EMBA with a focus on family owned businesses. She previously served the company in various capacities, including Sales and Marketing, Corporate Communications, VP of International Business Development, and Corporate Secretary. Vickie retired from day-to-day operations in 2008 after 16 years with Cox Industries.

Vickie is a member of the Society of International Business Fellows (SIBF) Class of '96 and currently serves on its executive board as well as on the board of SIBF's philanthropic institution, Global Network Foundation (GNF). Vickie has previously served as a facilitator for CELA. Vickie also serves on the executive board for Children Come First, an advocacy group for foster children. She previously served as a member of the Richland County Foster Care Review Board from 2004-2008 and continues to participate in its monthly Child Care Program, providing activities and meals for children while their foster and adoptive parents attend training. Vickie is a graduate of Leadership SC, Class of 2001, and a sustaining member of the Junior Service League of Orangeburg, SC.

She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Vickie lives in Columbia, SC, as do her two sons, Brian, 30, and Matthew, 28. She is married to Pete Neighbour, a professional jazz musician from London, England. She enjoys travel, tennis and reading/learning; and she is completely in love with her 2-year-old black miniature Schnauzer, Abby.

## STAFF



**MUZAFFAR ATAMIRZAEV**

**CELA Network Senior Manager**

[atamirzaev@gmail.com](mailto:atamirzaev@gmail.com)

Mr. Atamirzaev has been a core CELA staff member since 2008 and CELA Network Senior Manager since 2011. For the previous seven years, he worked in the microfinance field of Uzbekistan, most recently as microfinance development adviser for the UNDP/Support to Reform Process in Uzbekistan. Earlier, Mr. Atamirzaev worked on various microfinance programs of international NGOs, and as a member of the Committee for Coordinating Humanitarian Assistance within the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Mr. Atamirzaev obtained his MA in Economics from Plekhanov Russian Academy of Economics in Moscow and BA in Economics & Management from the Tashkent Transport Engineering Institute, coupled with research at the World Bank Institute in Washington DC. In 2005, he studied credit to micro and small enterprises at Arizona State University on a Cochran Fellowship.

He is a native of Uzbekistan and an alumnus of CELA 6.



**ZARA JANIBEKYAN**

**CELA Fundraising & Communication Manager**

[zara\\_j2000@yahoo.com](mailto:zara_j2000@yahoo.com)

Ms. Janibekyan recently joined the CELA staff as the Fundraising & Communication Manager. Zara, a Yerevan native, graduated from the State Medical University in Yerevan with a specialty in pediatrics before earning a Master in Public Health from the American University of Armenia. She furthered her education in Atlanta, Georgia and later at the University of Sussex, UK.

Since 1997, she has been working at the Jinishian Memorial Foundation as a Health program Coordinator with responsibility for the development, implementation, and evaluation of health projects. In this capacity, she conceived of and undertook the challenge of rebuilding the Armenian rural health system.

In 2000, Ms. Janibekyan founded the Open Medical Club (OMC), a Non-Governmental Organization in Armenia. The mission of OMC is to have healthy communities and high quality health care services in Armenia. Its main project, among many, is the “Breast Cancer prevention and Early Detection in Armenia” project implemented from 2007 to 2010.

She is an alumna of CELA 5.



**ALP EREN SARAR**

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Alp Eren is a recent MBA graduate from Koç University. He graduated from Koç University in 2007 with a double-major degree in International Relations and Economics. He worked in Arkas Logistics as a project engineer for one year and in MLS Holding as international relations officer for one year. He completed his military service just before pursuing his MBA. He speaks English fluently and Spanish at the intermediate level. He is also a dance instructor and manages dance events in Turkey.



**BENAY HAKLI**

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Benay holds a bachelor’s degree in Economics from Koç University. During her undergraduate years, she worked for the Corporate Relations Department at Koç University as marketing coordinator for 4 years. She had internships with Sabancı



Holding Strategic Planning and Business Development Department and Monster Recruitment Company Turkey Sales Department. Benay has been working as a Junior Sales Representative in Commit Network FZC Dubai since August 2010. She can speak English fluently, Italian and German beginning level. She has a special interest in traveling, having traveled by inter-rail across Europe and taken road trips across the USA.



**SUSAN DANSBY**

[dansbysw@muohio.edu](mailto:dansbysw@muohio.edu)

Susan Dansby graduated from Miami University of Ohio in 2010 with an emphasis in psychology. Since then, she has worked on a political campaign for the elected official, Luther Strange, Attorney General of Alabama. She is currently working closely with SIBF members to develop an associative organization known as the SIBF Academy. She plans to attend graduate school for a Master's in Counseling. Susan is also an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and currently resides in Birmingham, Alabama.