

ASPIRE

ALUMNI MAGAZINE, ISSUE 01, MARCH 2021

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"40 UNDER 40 AWARDS"
RECIPIENTS

INTRODUCING ALUMNI
OF THE MONTH FOR THE
YEAR 2020

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CLASS OF 2020
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FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Dear Kardan University Alumni:

I hope you and your loved ones are doing well during these challenging times. It is my immense pleasure to congratulate our talented alumni community on the first-time publication of *Aspire*, Kardan University's alumni magazine.

For the past 18 years, I have been working closely with our students, alumni, faculty, and staff to create an inspiring and intellectually rigorous environment at Kardan University. I am proud of the tremendous accomplishments of our over 30,000 alumni community who are remarkable changemakers, trailblazers, entrepreneurs, and leaders of Afghanistan's public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Despite the challenging socio-economic context in Afghanistan, I recognize that many of you embarked on your learning journey at Kardan University with full passion, dedication, and persistence.

Thanks to your exemplary hard work, we are now focused on educating the next generation of talented young Afghans – individuals who have the potential and desire to propel our country to the much-anticipated path of development and prosperity.

Whether you are a recent graduate, a PhD Scholar, an entrepreneur or a computer scientist, I am confident that your contributions will ultimately inspire our youths to follow your ambitions and paths. I sincerely hope that you will continue to pursue knowledge and use the skills and experiences gained at Kardan University to make this world a better place for our current and future generations.

Furthermore, I remain committed to working with the University community, particularly our distinguished alumni, to transform Kardan University into an internationally recognized academic institution.

We are proud of our recent achievements, including but not limited to Kardan University's recognition as the first University to be ranked by the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking and Kardan MBA's accreditation with the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE).



I am proud of the tremendous accomplishments of our over 30,000 alumni community who are remarkable changemakers, trailblazers, entrepreneurs, and leaders of Afghanistan's public, private, and non-profit sectors.

We are now focused on articulating Kardan University's second strategic plan for the years 2021-2025, and look forward to our alumni community's valuable insights into the development of a growth-oriented and ambitious five-year plan. I invite you to join us on this exciting journey to further consolidate our status as Afghanistan's most prestigious academic institution.

Our alumni are incredible assets whose contributions are vital to Kardan University's sustainable development. I hope that you will continue to support our Office of Alumni Relations to offer valuable developmental insights, enhance the reputation of the University nationally and internationally as well as contribute towards creating meaningful socio-economic impact across our communities. I commend our alumni for your continued social, cultural, and professional development initiatives in support of our mission and vision. On behalf of Kardan University community, I offer my best wishes for your continued success and prosperity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roheen Rahmani', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Roheen Rahmani
Founder & Chancellor
Kabul, 2021

OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Our alumni, as Kardan University's greatest assets, are incredibly important to us. We are here to help you build a lifelong relationship with your University and your alma mater. Wherever you are in the world, and whenever you studied, we invite you to stay in touch and be an active part of our amazing community.

The Office of Alumni Relations is home to Kardan University's alumni community dedicated to connecting and inspiring the next generation of professionals and leaders. The Office delivers programs, events, benefits, services, and volunteer opportunities to our alumni's ever-growing constituency, which now exceeds more than 30,000 competent individuals.

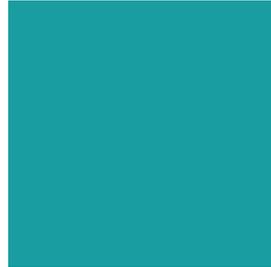
Explore our website to learn how you can grow your professional and personal networks, build lifelong career skills, attend engaging events to keep in touch with your alma mater, and make a positive impact through volunteering and philanthropy.



STAY IN TOUCH



FEATURING "40 UNDER 40 AWARDS" RECIPIENTS FOR THE YEAR 2020



The annual "40 Under 40 Awards" at Kardan University is designed to recognize 40 exceptional students and alumni who are under the age of 40 for their significant impact.

The winners are selected through a formal nomination and selection process overseen by the University's leadership team. All Kardan University students and alumni under the age of 40 are eligible to apply for this prestigious award.

"40 UNDER 40 AWARDS" RECIPIENTS FOR THE YEAR 2020



Ahmad Nawid Akbary

BCE '15

Mr. Ahmad Nawid Akbary obtained a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Kardan University in 2015. Mr. Akbary started his professional career as a Site Engineer with BORDA Afghanistan and was promoted to higher positions later. Since 2016, he has been working at Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation (AUWSSC) in different capacities. Currently, he works as an Acting Manager of the Wastewater Management Department. At AUWSSC, he manages six major cities' sanitation master plans.



Arash Bakhshi

BBA '19

Mr. Arash Bakhshi holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Kardan University. Mr. Bakhshi started his career at Hamid Karzai International Airport and since then he has worked in several managerial positions such as AVSEC Security Screener, Security Screener Supervisor, Duty Manager, and Cargo Operations Manager. Currently, he works as the Airport AVSEC Manager, supervising more than 371 staff members, including Senior AVSEC Operations Managers, Duty Managers, Supervisors, Security Screeners, and Aviation Security Officers in several security checkpoints. Additionally, he supervises the Canine Detection Team (K-9), supporting the airport management and other control agencies in Aviation Security Field.



Arash Sahebe

MBA '17

Mr. Arash Sahebe completed a master's degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Finance at Kardan University. Currently, Mr. Sahebe is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Management at Limkokwing University, Malaysia. He is the Founder and President of Sahebi Financial Services (SFS), a private company providing taxation services to national and international entities in Afghanistan. He serves as the Member of the Advisory Board of Afghanistan Chambers Federation (ACF) and Deputy Chairman of the Tax Policy Commission at International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Mr. Sahebe is the author of ten research papers on corporate taxation in Afghanistan, which have been published in peer-reviewed international journals such as AIJBM Scopus Index, IJCRT, IJRAR, and JETIR.



Azizullah Areiyaae

BBA '19

Mr. Azizullah Areiyaae holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Kardan University and started his professional career with a construction company in 2007. Currently, he works as the Executive Director of the Organization for Empowerment and Development of Afghans (OFEDA), a nonprofit organization aiming to promote women's rights, gender equality, health, and education in Afghanistan. He has worked in different capacities with renowned national and international organizations such as USAID, Independent Administrative Reform, and Civil Services Commission of Afghanistan. He also serves as the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) of JAHISH, a volunteer-led charity operating in Afghanistan.



Ershad Quraishi

LLB '19

Mr. Ershad Quraishi completed a bachelor's degree in Law at Kardan University in 2019. He has represented Kardan University in various inter-university and national moot court competitions, including the International Criminal Court (ICC). He has a keen interest in legal research and has conducted research on different aspects of international criminal law and International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Mr. Quraishi's research essay on IHL and New Technological Warfare won the runner-up award in the IHL Essay Competition organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Afghanistan.



Fariha Easar

MBA '18

Ms. Fariha Easar earned her master's degree in Business Administration from Kardan University. Ms. Fariha is a lawyer, civic activist, and researcher. For the past 12 years, she has worked with the justice institutions and delivered services for the justice sector development. As a justice specialist, she works to support organizational capacity building, legislative drafting, and case management development for the justice institutions. In addition, she previously had responsibilities as a legal trainer and legal fellow in various international and local organizations. As a researcher, she has conducted many field researches on peace, gender inequality, and women with disabilities and published several articles about women's rights, social justice, and the role of women and youths in the peace process in well-known national and international publications.



Gul Rahim Akhtar

BCE '18

Mr. Gul Rahim Akhtar is a graduate of the Civil Engineering Department of Kardan University and is now pursuing a master's degree in Hydraulic Engineering at Gaziantep University, Turkey. Mr. Akhtar has worked as a Site Engineer with Universal Star Construction and Engineering Services (USCE) through which he participated in construction activities in different provinces of Afghanistan. During his studies at Kardan University, his academic performances have been outstanding. He received the Academic Excellence Awards for three consecutive years. He intends to serve as a Hydraulic Engineer in Afghanistan and provide technical input on design construction and alternative engineering solutions for water/wastewater modeling and planning projects.



Hasibullah Tarin

BBA '16

Mr. Hasibullah Tarin holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a master's degree in International Relations from Kardan University. Mr. Tarin is a writer and an advocate for human rights in Afghanistan. He started his career with Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC), a nonprofit and the first humanitarian Mine/ERW clearance organization in Afghanistan. Mr. Tarin has a keen interest in writing about social and political issues in Afghanistan. 'Marble Industry in Afghanistan,' 'The Rise of the Taliban and its External Dimensions,' and a 50-page first peace plan titled 'Role of the Young Generation in Peace Negotiations with Taliban' are some of his recent publications.



Manizha Muhammadzai

MBA '20

Ms. Manizha Muhammadzai holds a master's degree in Business Administration from Kardan University. She works as a Human Resource Manager for a World Bank-Funded Project at the Ministry of Urban Development of Afghanistan. Ms. Muhammadzai has worked with various national and international organizations in different capacities over the last couple of years. She also participated in Afghanistan Consultative Peace Jirga as a Human Resources Executive. Ms. Muhammadzai has attended many capacity development training programs, including the 'Women's Rights Essential for Lasting Stability in Afghanistan' conference held in NATO Head Quarter in Brussels, Belgium. She is an active member of Amarbaba Social Society and Global Peace Chain Ambassador at the Global Peace Chain Afghanistan.



Mirza Ali Wasiq

BBA '19

Mr. Mirza Ali Wasiq earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Management from Kardan University. Mr. Wasiq is the President & Founder of VEER Management Consulting Services and the Co-Founder of Nakhcheer Restaurant. He is a seasoned Human Resources Development (HRD) and capacity-building professional with more than ten years of experience. He has worked in leadership positions with renowned national and international organizations, including United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Media Action, Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), and Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR). He is a Certified International Professional Trainer (CIPT) and a Certified Trainer, as recognized by the International Finance Corporation – The World Bank Group.



Mohammad Saboor Mansouri

BCE '19

Mr. Mohammad Saboor Mansouri completed a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering at Kardan University in 2019. Currently, Mr. Mansouri works as a Power Plant Supervisor of Afghan Air Forces (AAF) at the Ministry of National Defense. He also serves as a volunteer member at Rotary Kabul, a nonprofit international organization that brings leaders together to exchange ideas and take action to empower youth, enhance health services, promote peace, and eradicate polio. He also joined the International Rescue Committee (IRC) voluntarily in 2018 and served the people affected by conflict and natural disasters by implementing projects in the education and health sectors. Mr. Mansouri is a winner of the First Bridge Competition organized by Kardan University in 2019.



Naeema Safi

LLB '20

Ms. Naeema Safi holds a bachelor's degree in Law from Kardan University. She is a social activist and is passionate about volunteerism. Ms. Safi has successfully represented Kardan University in KK LUTHRA Moot Court in India, where Afghanistan secured the sixth position among 60 teams from nine countries. Ms. Safi has worked as Licensing Director at Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), as Chief Customer Service with Afghanistan International Bank, and as an Internal Auditor at Micro Finance Bank of Afghanistan. Ms. Safi has delivered various trainings on basic life skills to women in marginalized communities.



Obaidullah Otmankhail

MBA '16

Mr. Obaidullah Otmankhail obtained his master's degree in Business Administration from Kardan University in 2016. Mr. Otmankhail is the recipient of the Civil Society Leadership Scholarship Award. He is currently pursuing his master's degree in International Affairs at Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs. Mr. Otmankhail serves as a Junior Policy Analyst at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris. He has previously worked with Sanayee Development Organization in different capacities, where he has implemented large and small national-level programs and projects in rural and community development, peace-building and conflict resolution, education, and policy influencing. Mr. Otmankhail has also trained a large number of trainers in designing and implementing competency-based training programs.



Ruhullah Sharifi

BCE '14

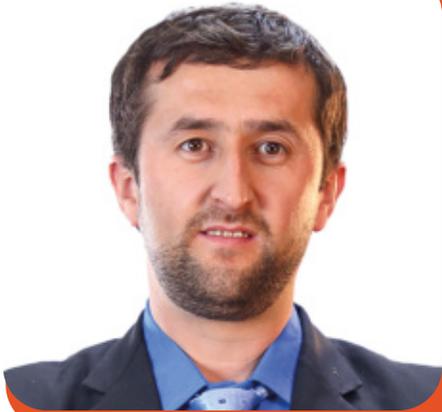
Mr. Ruhullah Sharifi graduated from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology of Kardan University in 2014. Mr. Sharifi is a successful entrepreneur and social activist. He is the Co-Founder of Great Valley Logistic Services Co and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Great Valley Group Construction Company. He has more than eight years of experience in the construction industry, and is currently managing his own companies operating throughout Afghanistan with 15 permanent employees and 50 project-based employees.



Sabir Ahmad Stanekzai

BCS '15

Mr. Sabir Ahmad Stanekzai holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Kardan University. Mr. Stanekzai started his professional career as the Executive Assistant to Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement of Kardan University in 2015. Later, he served as an Admission and Information Officer at the same institution, where he showed a high level of motivation, competency, and team working attitude towards his responsibilities. Currently, he works as a Logistic Specialist at the Ministry of Interior Affairs. As a successful computer science engineer, Mr. Stanekzai has developed a proper Core IMS system for inventory management in the National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) enabling the development of a proper and transparent online system.



Sayed Eshaq Muqbel

MIR '20

Mr. Sayed Eshaq Muqbel completed a master's degree in International Relations at Kardan University. Mr. Muqbel has more than seven years of experience in communications and translation. Currently, he works as a Communications Officer and Translator at the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH), where he is responsible for the agency's external visibility, communication, and outreach publications. Mr. Muqbel also serves as the Head of the Cultural Committee at Pamir Youth Social Organization (PYSO), a youth-led nonprofit organization. At PYSO, he works to build the capacity of youths and supports the underprivileged writers and poets by organizing events to showcase their works and connects them with the publishers. He has attended several national and international conferences, workshops, and trainings including the International Young Leader's Assembly in Dubai, UAE and received several prestigious awards and certificates from several national and international non-governmental organizations, including the Aga Khan Development Network, and Justice Institute of British Columbia.



Sowaida Nazari

LLB '20

Ms. Sowaida Nazari completed a bachelor's degree in Law at Kardan University in 2020. Ms. Nazari has been an active member of Kardan University's Moot Court Team. She works as an intern with CARE International organization, where she manages documentation of ongoing legal cases. She has also completed a six-month internship with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Ms. Nazari has an impressive academic background with a 4.0 CGPA during her study period at Kardan University. She has been the consecutive recipient of Kardan University's Academic Excellence Awards since 2018.

Congratulations to Kardan University's alumni for winning the prestigious "40 Under 40 Awards" for the year 2020!

RESEARCH SOCIETY

Are you passionate about research? Do you want to improve your research skills?

The Research Society (RS) provides leadership and support for Afghan researchers, empowering research candidates to achieve their research goals and keep them engaged in creating new knowledge, disseminate new information and promote a research culture.



Membership Benefits

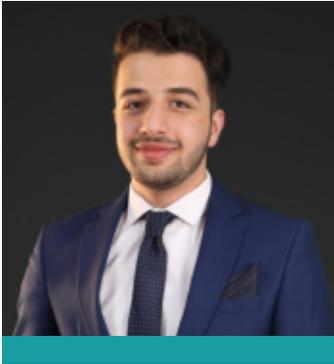
- Access to the latest research and developments in the field
- Complimentary subscriptions to Kardan Journals
- Free access to Turnitin and digital library (JSTOR)
- Networking opportunities with the Research Society community
- Grants and funding opportunities for early-career researchers



#IBELIEVE

Kardan University is proud to launch a special campaign to boost optimism and resilience among Afghanistan's young generation during these challenging times. Thank you to all the graduates who joined this campaign and shared with us why they believe in the future.

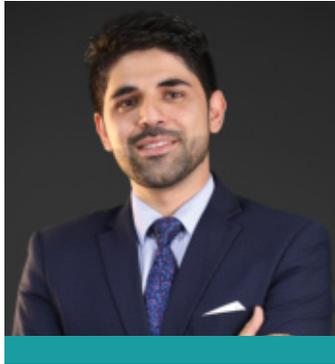
#IBELIEVE



Sohrab Solamal
BCE '19

“““ —————

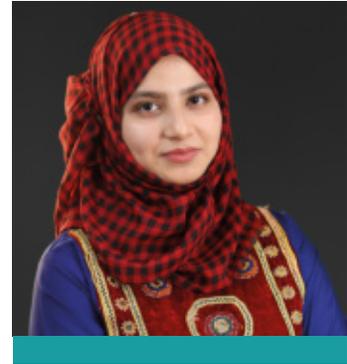
"I believe that education prevails, no matter what the circumstances are. All it needs is persistence and devotion to accomplish and to achieve our goals and to make the world a better place."



Yaseen Zazai
MBA '19

“““ —————

"I believe in education and self-confidence being a permit for a successful future for those who fill it out with diplomacy, professionalism, and political-will within the Islamic framework."



Masouda Khairkhawa
BBA '20

“““ —————

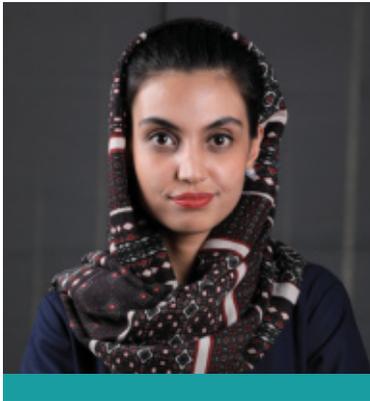
"I believe, if women believe in their strength and potential, neither societal boundaries nor people's mindsets will stop them. Women's bravery leads to a prosperous life and great achievements."



Mohammad Tariq Dildar
BBA (Gold Medalist), MBA '19

“““ —————

"I believe that Kardan University is inspiring students' intellectual and professional excellence and is playing a vital role in shaping their future as impactful individuals."



Zohra Jalal

BBA '19

“““ _____

"I believe that women have the potential to play a critical role in peace-building and development of our country despite all the challenges and the crises we face. The girls and women from every part of Afghanistan are hopeful for a peaceful future and passionate to continue their education."

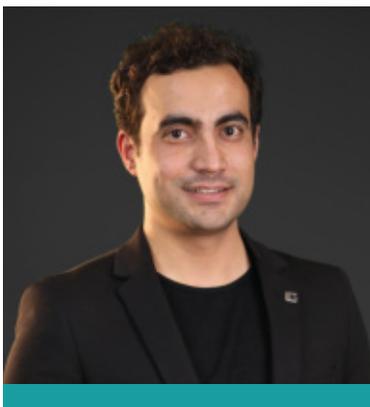


Sudaba Zahidi

MBA '19

“““ _____

"I believe that quality education specifically enjoyed by women at all levels can lay the foundation for social awareness, as well as the culture of learning, leading to the development of a progressive society which can enhance the life quality and strengthen the economy."



Mohammad Tariq Roostayee

BCS '15

“““ _____

"I believe that learning is the only way of progress and the only key to success is to have creativity, and innovation in every part of your life."

KARDAN UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN (2021 – 2025)



Kardan University is in the process of developing its second strategic plan for years (2021 – 2025) under the guidance of the Strategic Planning Taskforce (PTF) led by Chancellor Roeen Rahmani.

Building on the lessons learned and best practices of our first strategic plan, we look forward to developing our next strategic plan in a participatory, transparent, and inclusive manner.

The strategic planning process is an important endeavor to ensure that Kardan University is able to transform, compete, and grow as a world-class academic institution.

As valued members of our community, our alumni's input and voices are vital as we plan for the future of the University and define its strategic direction for the next five years.

Please join us in the University Strategic Planning Process by providing your feedback, insights, and ideas via alumni@kardan.edu.af so that our new strategic objectives and initiatives also incorporate our alumni input, ambitions, and reflections.

We look forward to your valuable contributions towards Kardan University's strategic development.

FACULTY REFLECTIONS



Dealing with change and learning in a complex environment requires patience and persistence. Our alumni are trailblazers and change-makers. They have the spirit and courage to move forward and embrace change.

Muhammad Shahid Shams

Assistant Professor, Kardan University



I have had the privilege of teaching at Kardan University for the past 14 years. Today, I call on my committed current and former students to persist and persevere despite the ongoing difficulties. While our current challenges are temporary and complex, I ask you to stay positive and focused on your goals. You will emerge stronger and more determined as a result of this challenging experience.

Murtaza Masud Niazi

Assistant Professor, Kardan University

SUSTAINABILITY AT KARDAN UNIVERSITY

Did you know that Kardan University is the first and the only University from Afghanistan ranked in the 2020 Times Higher Education Impact Ranking?



Sustainability is a strategic priority at Kardan University reflected in everything we do from training our students on the fundamentals of sustainability to conducting cutting-edge research and ensuring that our campus operations are delivered in a sustainable and future-friendly manner. We work with national and international sustainability partners to integrate sustainability into our work.

We are proud to be the first Afghan academic institution to be ranked in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking for our contributions towards the sustainable development goals in Afghanistan. Please join us as we work together to achieve a more sustainable future for our current and future generations.



ALUMNI UPDATES & ACHIEVEMENTS



Mohammad Haroon Chakhansuri

BBA '10

Mr. Mohammad Haroon Chakhansuri holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Kardan University. Mr. Chakhansuri was elected as the Minister of Mines and Petroleum by obtaining Parliament members' votes in October 2020. He has worked with various government and international organizations for over 16 years. He has previously worked with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Ministry of Public Health, World Bank, Administrative Office of the President, Chief of Staff Office to the President, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We wish Mr. Chakhansuri continued success as he strives to lead vital national development priorities of Afghanistan.



Mukhtarullah Mukhtar

BBA '11

Mr. Mukhtarullah Mukhtar earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Management from Kardan University in 2011. In March 2020, Mr. Mukhtar was assigned as Minister Counselor at the Afghanistan Embassy in London. Mr. Mukhtar started his career and professional life at the National Solidarity Program (NSP) of the Ministry of Rural and Rehabilitation Development (MRRD) in 2004. He pursued the pathway in various development projects such as NSP and Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP) at middle and top-level capacities for six years. We wish Mr. Mukhtar continued success as he serves Afghanistan as a competent and proud diplomat.



Mohammad Nasir Rahmani

LLB '18

Mr. Mohammad Nasir Rahmani holds a bachelor's degree in Law from Kardan University. Mr. Rahmani has been appointed as a legal and communications advisor at the Ministry of Public Health. His legal practice focuses on corporate law, commercial law, and communications. We wish Mr. Rahmani all the best as he embarks upon his legal career.



Dr. Kanishka Wahidi

BSc. Economics '12

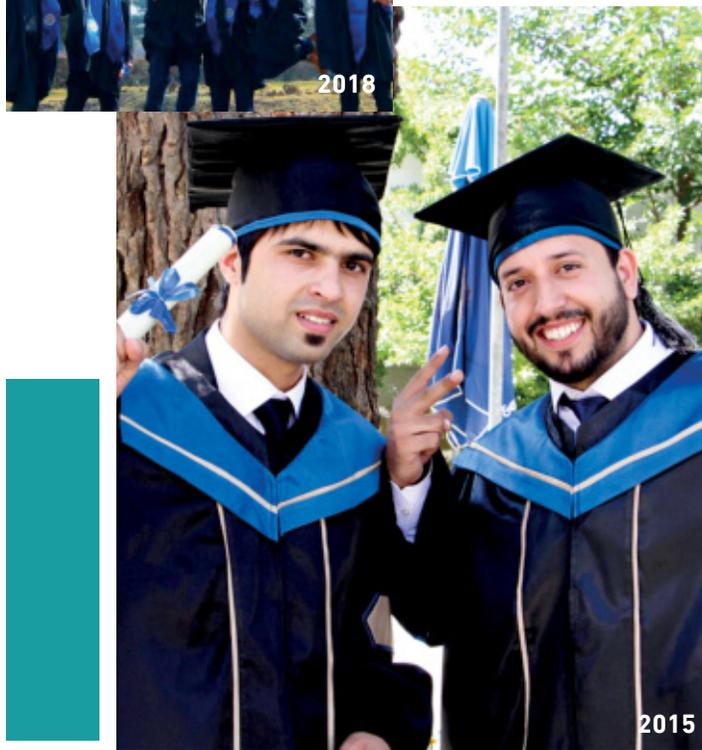
Dr. Kanishka Wahidi obtained a bachelor's degree in Economics from Kardan University in 2012. He has recently completed his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Erfurt, Germany. Currently, he is working as Assistant Professor at the University of Erfurt. We wish Dr. Wahidi all the very best as he serves the academic community with passion and dedication.

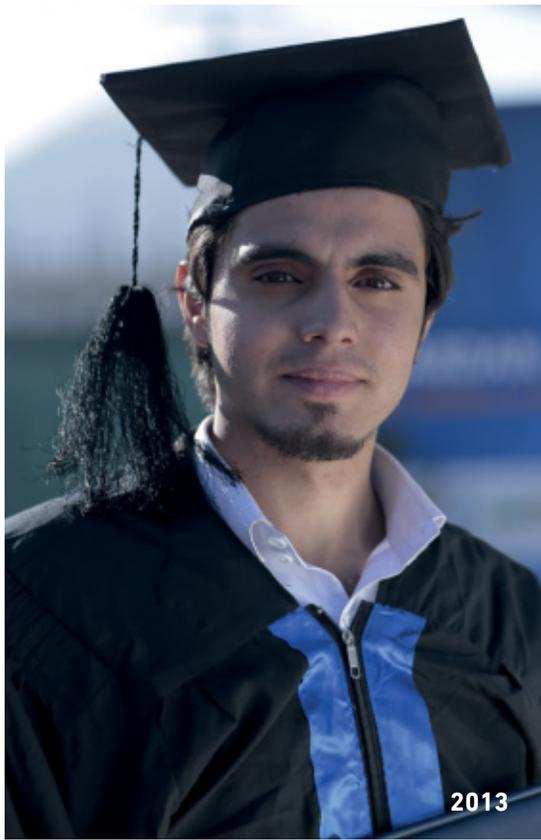


Jawad Faryad **MBA '15**

Mr. Jawad Faryad, Kardan University's Master of Business Administration graduate successfully completed the Humphrey Fellowship Program at Boston University. Mr. Faryad is an Economic Researcher at Da Afghanistan Bank. His work includes conducting analytical and empirical research on the monetary, financial, and banking sectors and reviewing research undertaken by central banks and researchers related to the financial sector. We wish Mr. Faryad all the best on his achievements and future ambitions.

GRADUATION MEMORIES





ALUMNI REUNIONS





ALUMNI OF THE MONTH FOR THE YEAR 2020

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH FOR THE YEAR 2020



Sayed Nazeer Hashimi
January 2020

Mr. Sayed Nazeer Hashimi holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Finance from Kardan University. Mr. Hashimi is serving as Deputy Chief Information Officer at the Afghan United Bank (AUB), leading a large team of more than 30 people comprised of professionals and experts in the field of Information Technology and Banking. He has more than 11 years of experience in the country's banking sector.



Azizullah Sikandari
February 2020

Mr. Azizullah Sikandari obtained his master's degree in Business Administration from Kardan University. Mr. Sikandari is a Senior Researcher at Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB). He has published several research papers on banking and technology for Da Afghanistan Bank so far. Mr. Sikandari also serves as a Chairman at one of the largest International Working Groups called the Digital Financial Services Working Group (DFSWG) in Malaysia.



Mohammad Naqeeb Totakhail
March 2020

Mr. Mohammad Naqeeb Totakhail completed a bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Kardan University in 2011. He is currently working as Capacity Building Specialist with the National Procurement Authority (NPA) at the Administrative Office of the President. Mr. Totakhail has also conducted several academic research projects on Public Sector Corruption and Anti-Corruption measures in Afghanistan as well as on Institutional and Human Capacity Development.



Aemal Sayer
April 2020

Mr. Aemal Sayer obtained a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Kardan University in 2010. Mr. Sayer is a DAAD scholar with a specialization in Web Science. He is a software architect and entrepreneur currently running two online software businesses in Germany. He mainly runs ReactGeeks.com, where he helps other startups with building their web and mobile apps, and as a part-time activity, he runs FeedbackHero.io, a collaboration tool for enabling companies that work remotely to become more productive.



Farhad Mohammad Afzali
May 2020

Mr. Farhad Mohammad Afzali holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Kardan University in 2010. Mr. Afzali was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to complete his Masters of Science in Management Information Systems at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO).

He is currently in the final year of his doctoral program and is a part of the instructional team teaching Java programming, database management, and statistics courses. He has presented his research papers at professional conferences such as Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences and America's Conference on Information Systems.



Obaidullah Abdulhaq
October 2020

Mr. Obaidullah Abdulhaq earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Kardan University in 2014. Mr. Abdulhaq works as a Research Assistant at Roskilde University, Denmark. His research interests are primarily in the development areas, including informal institutions, and governance dynamics within conflict-torn states. "Can Afghans Work Toward a Lasting Peace Deal?" is one of his recent online publications. Mr. Abdulhaq is also the founder of the Afghan Youth Association - Hela Afghan Youth Association (HAYA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to enabling Afghan youth's engagement in meaningful dialogue and professional growth in Denmark.



Ahmad Muslim Khuram
November 2020

Mr. Ahmad Muslim Khuram completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Administration at Kardan University. He is a competent journalist and aviation specialist. Mr. Khuram is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bakhtar Afghan Airline; Afghanistan's second national airline.

He has played a vital role in re-establishing Bakhtar Afghan Airline. He has contributed to the development of policies, procedures, and guidelines for the airline establishment. He is also the co-founder of Taqaror.com; an online job portal in Afghanistan.



Nasim Jamal Muradiyan
December 2020

A graduate of Kardan University's Bachelor of Business Administration in 2012, Mr. Nasim Jamal Muradiyan is an accomplished and passionate entrepreneur. He is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Turkish Airlines Cargo Services (TKACS) in Afghanistan. Mr. Muradiyan has played a vital role in expanding Afghanistan's exports by air and paved the way for opening a series of air corridors with Europe, Russia, America, the Far East, China, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He is also the founder of Kabul Wings, which provides customized services in various sectors like Aviation, Real Estates, Logistics, Health, and Tourism.



DETERMINATION & DRIVE

An Interview with Zabih Barakzai, BBA '10

Eqbal Nahzat, Kardan University's Alumni Relations Officer, conducted a brief interview with Zabih Barakzai, one of the first graduates of Kardan University's nationally and internationally accredited Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) program. In this interview, Mr. Barakzai shares his learning journey, career achievements, and future ambitions as well as personal message to Kardan University community.



What have you been up to in the 10 years since you graduated?

Like many students, I was working during my studies, and this was the beauty of studying at Kardan University. While studying at Kardan University, I was gaining experience and making money to support my family and education. People often say that private education is expensive but I beg to disagree. Private education is cheaper as you can manage your school time and gives you the freedom to work and select the school of your choice. Throughout my career, I have pursued two parallel career paths. I have been working as an election expert with one of the most renowned organizations of the world called the International Foundation of Electoral System (IFES), and at the same time, I have been running and managing my own business. Working with IFES gives me a sense of accomplishment, and the monetary reward of running my own business gives me the means to provide a decent life for myself and my family. Ten years after graduation from Kardan University, I run a successful business in Afghanistan, UAE and Turkey while continuing to work as an international consultant with the IFES.

You have studied business administration, but now you are working as an elections expert for an international organization; why did you go in a different direction?

Before joining Kardan University, I was a student at Kabul Medical University. However, the medical field is a noble field to be in, but I didn't envision myself in the white gown. Then, I started studying IT, and after spending one year, I found out that IT is not my field either, and then I joined the BBA program of Kardan University. Studying BBA at Kardan University was one of the best decisions of my life.

To me, BBA is a field that gives you the knowledge to operate in any art field. The diverse courses of BBA equip you to be successful in almost any field. During my studies at Kardan University, I learned how to develop concept notes, project proposals, report writing, finance, accounting, etc., and these are the skills you need to run a successful NGO or a business. In addition, as mentioned before, working for democracy, elections, freedom of speech, women, and youth empowerment is my passion; therefore, I continued working in the NGO sector, and to live a decent life, you need financial resources, which I provided through investment in the business.

What do you enjoy most about your current responsibility?

As an Afghanistan Election Specialist, I feel happy and proud to work for my country and people. Once you are in the international job market, it is difficult to find an opportunity to contribute to your country's betterment. But in my case, even not living in Afghanistan, I work for my country, which is truly enjoyable and rewarding.

Who among the professors impressed you the most?

I have a good impression of all professors, but there are few professors that I can't forget forever; Professor Maseed, Shahid Shams, Murtaza Niazi, Rahul, and Tahir Jan.

What part of your job makes you the proudest of and why?

Conflict-affected states with weak institutions are prone to corrupt electoral practices, which is true in most young democracies, including Afghanistan. When you are working in the election with top-level experts, you witness how a small advice can prevent general chaos and election violence. During my 15 years in the election field, I have been a part of teams that came up with solutions to complex election stalemates that, if not resolved, could plunge the country into civil war and crises. Being part of the solution to such big issues gives me immense pride and happiness.

Outside of your current role, what have been some of the most memorable and rewarding moments of your career?

In 2018, I was nominated as a candidate for board membership of Independent Election Commission (IEC) or Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) by civil society organizations of Afghanistan. Though I didn't get enough votes from Presidential Candidates to be elected as a board member of the IEC or ECC board, the support I got from diverse people was phenomenal and rewarding. Before the election of board members, I said to myself that even if I don't get elected, the love and support of my people is enough for me.

What would have been an alternative career path if you had not decided to specialize in the elections field?

Getting into the election field was totally by chance. In 2005, I joined the Asia Foundation, which seconded me to the Joint Election Management Body (JEMB), that later became the Election Commission of Afghanistan. I learned the basics of the election there and then went to Melbourne, Australia, and studied election professionally with the Election Commission of Australia. If I was not in the election field, I would be a businessman but would definitely participate in charity and philanthropic work.

What would you say Kardan University means to you now, 10 years after your graduation? What did you learn at the University that you still find useful?

Kardan University is part of my identity; I follow Kardan University's news and become proud and happy when I see Kardan University's

achievements. I felt proud when Kardan University achieved the National Accreditation Award from the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) as the top University in Afghanistan; I felt happy and proud when I saw Kardan University's business school got affiliated with IACBE; I get happy and feel proud with any achievement of Kardan University. I learned so much during my four years at Kardan University from teaching material, professors, and most importantly, from my classmates that would lead me throughout my life.

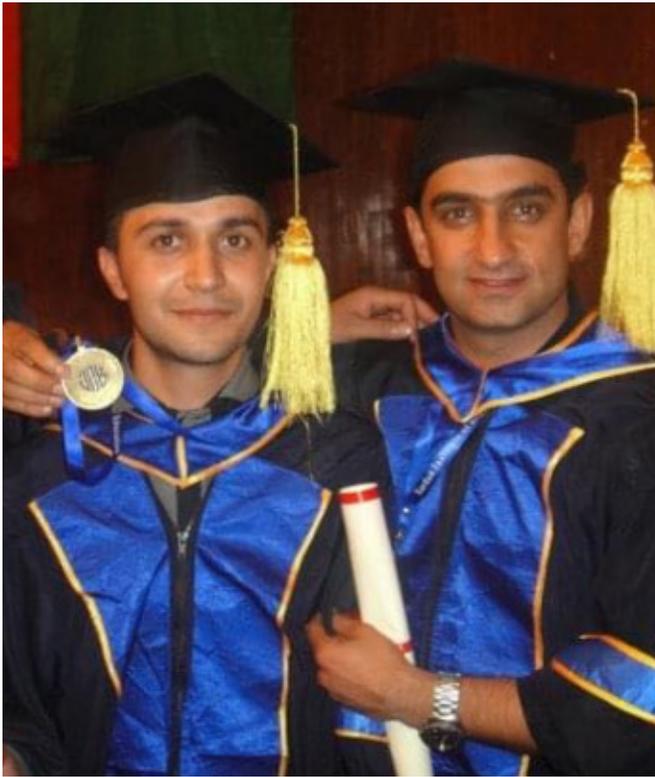


Do you stay in touch with your classmates?

Yes, I'm in contact with most of my class fellows and even students of the same term. We have a social media group where we communicate with each other and try to help each other when needed. Our class fellows are scattered around the world, with few still in Afghanistan in top government and private sector positions. We even had a few small reunion parties.

What is the most vivid memory you have from your time here at Kardan University?

I had a class fellow named Abdul Wasi Quraishi who was looking at Kardan University's signboard and was telling me, "Zabih, Kardan University in the future, will be a very big educational institution, but we will not be there." He was right, Kardan University has become one of the most prominent educational institutions of Afghanistan. However, we are not there anymore, but the good news is that we are still Kardanians.



What is the biggest challenge you have faced in your life so far?

During my studies at Kardan University, I was working at three organizations simultaneously. When I tell this, people would often consider it impossible, but during my studies at Kardan University, I was working with IFES, BBC and was running my own logistics company. That was the most challenging period of my life; I was waking up before the sunrise and returning home after finishing my classes at Kardan University around 8:00 PM. It was a challenging but reinvigorating period indeed.

You have visited many counties, where is the most beautiful place in the world you have been to?

I have visited four continents, and for me, the most beautiful place to be in is Istanbul, Turkey. It has the best climate, the best food, and the best location. It is geographically located so well that you can go to the US, Asia, Europe, and Africa with a single flight. Afghans share a lot of cultures with Turks, and as an Afghan, you feel at home when you are in Turkey, and that is why I choose Turkey to be my second home after living in the US, the middle east, and visiting many European countries.

What is your favorite travel experience?

My favorite travel memory is from my journey to Adam's Peak in Sri Lanka. It is one of the highest peaks in Ceylon, being 7353 ft. above sea level. I climbed it in 4 hours during the night. It is revered as a holy site by Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and Christians. I recommend this journey to anyone who visits Sri Lanka and who is fit to do it.

Who helped you the most to get you where you are now?

My entire family helped me a lot during my life, but if I choose one member, my oldest brother, Zekria Barakzai, is my role model in life.

What is perfect happiness to you? What would it look like?

To me, perfect happiness is when I help another human and when my work changes people's lives for good. I feel happy when my decisions came to be right in my business, but the true happiness is when I can help another human being irrelevant of their race, color, gender; I feel happy and accomplished.

What would you like to wish/tell whoever is reading this, mostly alumni?

Be good representatives and ambassadors of Kardan University; people don't visit Kardan University to judge how it is; they judge Kardan University based on our behavior. The more Kardan University grows, the more we, as alumni of Kardan University, will benefit from it by belonging to this big family. Finally, take life easy, do whatever you like; nothing is wrong until you hurt another human being, living thing, and yourself!



Pursuing the Bachelor of Business Administration degree at Kardan University was one of the best decisions of my life.

5 MINUTES WITH DR. KALIMULLAH KHAN

Recognized by many of his students as one of the most beloved professors at Kardan University, Dr. Kalimullah Khan holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior and Development from the University of Sains Malaysia.

He has a master's degree in business administration from the National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad. His field of study is Human Resources Management, and he has a keen interest in education and pedagogy. He joined Kardan University as a management lecturer in 2009 and is now an Assistant Professor at the Kardan School of Graduate Studies.



What is your favorite book of all time?

My all-time favorite book is Quran. A perfect holy book to embark on the inner journey of love and to realize the greater purpose of human existence.

What was the last country you visited?

Frankly speaking, I have not seen many countries; however, the last country I visited was Qatar for academic purposes.

What is the best and worst thing about travel?

The best thing about travel is, of course, to see different places and experience a different culture. The worst and boring thing for me is the travel time on the airplane. I am sure it would be the worst thing for many.

What is your favorite city, and why?

My favorite city is Penang because of its natural and lush green look with a peaceful environment.

What three things would you take with you on a desert island?

Hmmm, I think it depends on the time I will spend there. Generally speaking, I will prefer a book, food, and a mobile.

Name three guests, past or present, you would like to have dinner with and why?

Arshid, Amir and Samiullah, my school and college friends to recall and laugh at life's amazing experiences and adventures.

Name one thing you want to do in the next year?

Publication of academic articles.

Name something or someone that always makes you smile?

A slip of the tongue in one of my lectures at Kardan University.

What is your favorite restaurant?

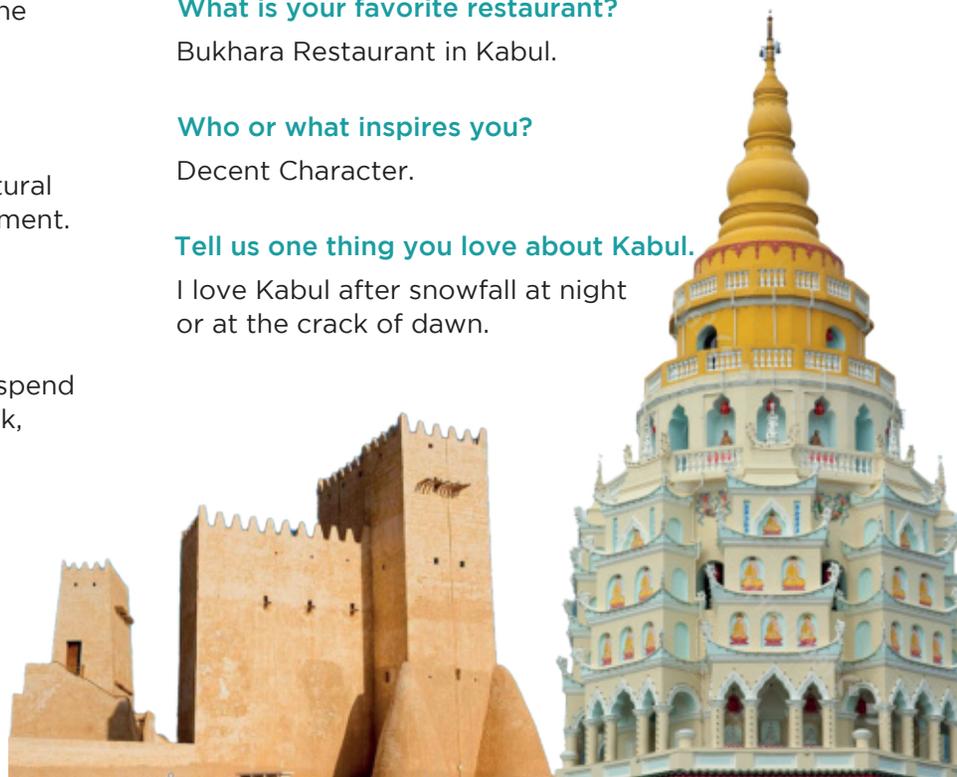
Bukhara Restaurant in Kabul.

Who or what inspires you?

Decent Character.

Tell us one thing you love about Kabul.

I love Kabul after snowfall at night or at the crack of dawn.



CAREER SERVICES

Are you looking for a decent job or career transition?
Kardan University's Office of Career Services is here to help you.

The Office of Career Services at Kardan University assists our students and alumni to achieve their career goals through a range of specialized programs and services. From training workshops to professional development programs and employment-specific support, we are here to help you achieve personal and professional success.



We bridge the gap between the academia and job market through creative initiatives like:

- Connecting students and alumni to employment and internship opportunities.
- Providing students and alumni opportunities to participate in job readiness and capacity building training.
- Organizing career-related counseling, seminars, and programs to equip students and alumni for lifelong career development.

CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATES



For me, graduation during the pandemic was a unique experience. It was nothing like I was expecting and hoping for, but I tried to be grateful for the four years that we spent on learning, growing, and making long-lasting friendships at the University.

Tamim Asoulmal

Class of 2020



I strongly believe that everything happens for a reason and works out in its own way. Class of 2020 is strong, and we will have so many amazing stories to tell for generations to come. I am so grateful to have been a student at a place like Kardan University. The memories and friendships I made there, will remain in my heart forever.

Zahra Yousofi

Class of 2020

JOIN OUR ALUMNI NETWORK

Being part of the Alumni Network provides a wide range of benefits and services. As a registered member of the Alumni Network, you will receive special invitations to the events such as networking and career opportunities, reunions, receptions, professional development programs, and guest lecturers.

You will also stay informed of important news, initiatives, events, and the dynamics at the university via Kardan University's newsletters and Alumni Magazine.

To access the full range of benefits and services and in order not to miss out on any of them, please register for Kardan University's Alumni Network. You'll also be able to update your contact details and stay connected with your alma mater.





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