



NHTI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Wings of Knowledge presents the
“Culture in Many Societies” Series:
Dastan Ramankulov of Kazakhstan**

On April 1st, at 7:00 pm in the Library Living Room, NHTI’s Wings of Knowledge lecture series presents “Culture in Many Societies” -- an annual event in which NHTI students from foreign countries discuss their homelands and their experiences in the United States. This year’s presentation features Dastan Ramankulov, native of Kazakhstan and freshman business major.

Dastan arrived in the States in mid-August on a scholarship/exchange program funded by his government. He did not have the luxury of selecting a school. His government chose NHTI for him, but the choice has worked out well. Even in this harsh winter, New Hampshire’s climate does not faze him. (“It’s about the same as Kazakhstan.”) And he likes the people of the state, especially in Concord, and most especially his friends in the dorm. “That’s my favorite thing about New Hampshire,” he says.

One thing Dastan didn’t know about before he got here was the New Hampshire primary, but he now feels fortunate to have experienced this key event in American politics. It has given him a chance to learn firsthand about U.S. policies and electoral practices, and to witness what he calls “this outstanding battle of gender and race.”

Dastan is looking forward to talking about his own country during his Wings presentation because, as he puts it, “not many Americans have a deep understanding of Kazakhstan.” For example, most of us do not realize that Kazakhstan is a multi-ethnic society whose population includes significant numbers of Germans, Koreans, Ukrainians, Kurds, and Dungans (a people whose culture is a blend of Chinese and Arabic). Most Kazaks are multi-lingual. Dastan himself speaks four languages: Kazak, Russian, Turkish and English.

Those who attend his presentation will come away, Dastan hopes, with a better appreciation of his home country, its culture, and its place in world society.

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