

**ALEXIS GOVCIYAN AND BERDJ TERZIAN AWARDED...**

(see page 3) Berdj Terzian's awarding ceremony took place on November 7th at the RA Diaspora Ministry. Hranoush Hakobian, RA Diaspora Minister, made a brief presentation of Terzian's activities as a writer and publicist emphasizing



AGBU Egypt District Committee Chairman Berdj Terzian awarded

his human qualities and highly assessing his role in the Armenian community of Egypt and his unwavering dedication to the solution of issues of national significance. Congratulatory speeches were delivered by Bishop Ashot Mnatsakanian, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church Diocese of Egypt, Ashot Melkonian, Director of the NAS Institute of History and Hovik Eordekian, Deputy Director of the AGBU Armenian Representation.

Expressing his gratitude to the RA President, RA Minister of Diaspora and those present for the honor and warm wishes, Terzian noted that he is indescribably happy to witness the independence of Armenia and celebrate its 20th anniversary, as well as feel the appreciation of the Diaspora by the state.

Also among this year's recipients of state orders on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence were Albert Boyajian (USA) and Vahe Karapetian

(USA), who were awarded Order of Honor - one of the highest titles awarded by the Republic of Armenia - for their substantial contribution in the protection of national interests, their unwavering dedication and service to the Republic of Armenia, as well as their lasting patriotic activities.

For the video material please visit: [Berdj Terzian awarded Mkhitar Gosh medal \(Shant TV\)](#)

**20 YEARS OF ADVANCEMENT**

*American University of Armenia launches a week-long celebration of education*

On September 27th, the American University of Armenia (AUA) officially launched its week-long Celebration of Education at a press conference held at *Tesaket* Press Club. In a brief statement, AUA Founding President Mihran Agbabian recalled the early events and discussions leading to the founding of AUA in 1991. He described how the idea grew from nascent to the founding of the university attracting supporters like Mrs. Louise Manoogian Simone and partners like the University of California and the Armenian Ministry of Education.

Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, AUA Founding Dean and current Provost, presented the major accomplishments of the University, explaining AUA's formal agreement with the University of California and the significance and benefits of AUA's accreditation. Today AUA boasts an alumni network of 2000 graduates. Another 400 students are currently enrolled in its 7 departments. 80% of AUA graduates find jobs in Armenia, the rest work in foreign countries as well.

AUA President, Dr. Bruce Boghosian highlighted the planned events of the week at AUA and the future plans of the university. He explained how the university is reaching out to expand its contacts with government, industry and other academic institutions in both Armenia and the US; doubling its international recruitment efforts, and planning for expansion of its summer offerings and abroad programs. A lively question-and-answer session followed.



Dr. Bruce Boghosian, Dr. Mihran Agbabian, Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian

**Art Exhibition & Concert at AUA's Akian Art Gallery**

On September 28th, the American University of Armenia opened an exhibition of artwork by Karen Alekyan and Hrach Vardanyan, both of Gyumri, followed by a quartet musical concert by renowned singer-composer Lilit Pipoyan and her group, which, turned the Akian Art Gallery into a 'petit' concert hall. "AUA is proud to be able to exhibit exemplary artwork by contemporary artists and private collections. The Akian Gallery allows us to host world-class exhibitions that are open and accessible to all Yerevan residents. We are particularly happy to be able to promote the works of young, talented Armenian artists", said Dr. Boghosian.

"We want to expand the University's financial aid programs, so that we never lose a student because of inability to pay tuition", said Dr. Bruce Boghosian.

**An Excursion to Shirak**

On September 29th, as part of the week-long celebrations, a group of 50 distinguished guests and development leaders traveled to Shirak, witnessed AUA's Turpanjian Rural Development Program's (TRDP) successful outcomes, and visited select sites of the Ecotourism Project of AUA's Acopian Center for the Environment (ACE). (Continued on page 5)

## 20 YEARS OF ADVANCEMENT...

(see page 4) The seminal event of AUA's jubilee celebrations was the academic conference held at AUA on September 30th. Chaired by Dr. Der Kiureghian, the conference brought together over 80 researchers, scholars and educators from Armenia and the U.S. Speakers at the conference included AUAC Board of Trustees Chairman, Provost and Senior Vice President of the University of California Dr. C. Judson King, Dean and Professor of School of Information at University of California, Berkeley Dr. AnaLee Saxenian, Associate Dean for Academic Programs of School of Public Health at University of California, Los Angeles AUA President Emeritus Dr. Haroutune Armenian, Former Rector of the

### Academic Conference on Frontiers of Higher Education



Dr. Boghosian delivers a speech at AUA's 20th anniversary celebration



Carol Aslanian was among the speakers at the education conference

Yerevan State Engineering University Dr. Yuri Sargsyan, Senior Vice President of Aslanian Market Research at Education Dynamics, AGBU Central Board member Ms. Carol Aslanian, AUA President, Dr. Bruce Boghosian.

### AUA hosts Trustees, Founders, Partners & Dignitaries in a Public Celebration of 20 Years of Advancement

On the same day, with pomp and pageantry, the American University of Armenia celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of the University in grand style and fanfare. The flags of the Republic of Armenia, the United States of America and the AUA were marched to the Main Auditorium to the national anthems of the two countries. Welcoming the guests was AUA President Bruce Boghosian, along with founders Mihran Agbabian and Armen Der Kiureghian, and President Emeritus Haroutune Armenian. The celebration was attended by RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, RA Education Minister Armen Ashotyan, AUA trustees and partners, government officials, dignitaries, and representatives of several universities of the Republic of Armenia, as well as AUA alumni, faculty, staff and friends.

AUA President's welcoming remarks were followed by the word of blessing of His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, delivered by His Grace Bishop Nathan Hovhannisian, and speeches by Tigran Sargsyan, Armen Ashotyan, Dr. Judson King, Dr. Haroutune Armenian, Dr. Mihran Agbabian, Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, AUA alumni.

"The AUA must expand its functions and become diverse, and services must be available for our young people. Knowledge is the demand of the modern world and competitive are the nations, which realize that and are armed with knowledge," said Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan in his speech.

Congratulatory greetings were delivered by Ms. Carol Aslanian on behalf of AGBU President Berge Setrakian, and by Mr. Bruce Donahue for the U.S. Mission in Armenia.

Medals of recognition of service to education were presented by the Prime Minister to Prof. Yuri Sargsyan and by Minister of Education and Science Armen Ashotyan to Dr. C. Judson King for their individual contributions to education related to the founding of the AUA.

In a recollection of historic events leading to the establishment of the AUA, Dr. Agbabian portrayed how the "idea" matured to the founding of the University on September 21, 1991 paying homage to so many named and unnamed heroes who were instrumental in making AUA a reality. Speeches and celebration continued after a musical interlude by the Komitas String Quartet.

**Photo Exhibition** Photo Exhibit and reception in the Mihran and Elizabeth Agbabian Hall followed. The 20 displayed posters showcased the most important events of the 20-year history of the AUA in a chronological sequence.



Jubilee banquet concludes the week-long celebration

The culmination of the week-long Celebration of Education was the Jubilee Banquet held on October 1st, at the Dzoraberd Restaurant Complex in Yerevan.

### Jubilee Banquet Concludes the Week-Long Celebration

For the video materials please visit: [AUA: 20 years of advancement \(H2 TV\)](#) and [AUA: 20 years of advancement \(H1 Public TV\)](#)