

AGBU PRESIDENT BERGE SETRAKIAN'S VISIT TO ARMENIA

(see page 1,2) On June 3, Setrakian was hosted by His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Both discussed the process of joint educational and faith-based projects of AGBU and the Mother See. His Holiness expressed his gratitude to the AGBU president for the continuous devoted and cordial support to Holy Etchmiadzin by the members of the organization.



AGBU President participated in the 90th anniversary of the Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Foundation



At the celebration of Jirayr Danielian's 70th birthday anniversary

On his behalf, Setrakian emphasized the importance of the established cooperation between AGBU and the Mother See, stating that AGBU is ready and willing to continue assisting the mission of the Armenian Church.

For the video material please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUtlMz8pOjs>

20 YEARS OF ADVANCEMENT

Graduation ceremony at the American University of Armenia

"Twenty Years of Advancement" was the slogan as the American University of Armenia (AUA) celebrated its 20th anniversary year, and held its 19th Graduation and Commencement Ceremonies during the last week of June.

Festivities began on Friday, June 24, with a graduation party at Ashtaraki Dzor, where AUA faculty and staff congratulated the Class of 2011, and celebrated the occasion of their graduation with dinner, music and dance. The party brought together about 300 graduates, alumni, past and present faculty, and staff.

On Sunday, June 26, 2011, AUA held its Commencement Ceremony in the large auditorium of AUA's main building on 40 Baghramyan Avenue in Yerevan. The gathering of well over 1000 included parents and spouses of the graduates and many distinguished guests, all assembled to honor the graduating class of 2011.



AUA President Dr. Bruce Boghosian congratulating this year's graduates

The Commencement Exercises began with the ceremonial procession of the class of 2011, the President of AUA, the Deans of the Colleges and the faculty. This was followed by the anthems of the Republic of Armenia and the United States of America. An invocation was then given by His Grace Bishop Nathan Hovhannisian, Director of the Publishing Center of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, and Representative of his Holiness Garegin II, Catholicos of All Armenians.

AUA President, Dr. Bruce Boghosian, then welcomed the graduates, their families, faculty and many distinguished guests. In the course of his address, President Bruce Boghosian stated, "Remember that the highest expression of your patriotism is your willingness to help your fellow citizens. This means that, even as you begin your careers, you should find ways to volunteer your time and energy to help this country's public institutions grow and thrive. This is what we mean by 'active citizenship.' Civic engagement is the glue that binds a country and its people together, and that makes the whole greater than simply the sum of its parts. AUA has always and will always endeavor to create 'active citizens' who will make a difference in the future of Armenia."

(Continued on page 4)

20 YEARS OF ADVANCEMENT

Graduation ceremony at the American University of Armenia

(see page 3) In his speech the AUA President also expressed gratitude to the Armenian General Benevolent Union saying in particular, "AUA Alumni, students, faculty, and staff owe a great deal to the support of the AGBU. The President of the AGBU in 1991, Mrs. Louise Simone, was instrumental in the founding of AUA, and she has continued to play a vital role as a member of the Board of Trustees, as has her successor, Mr. Berge Setrakian. The AGBU is represented here this evening by its board member, Carol Aslanian, and by the Director of its Programs in Armenia, Mr. Ashot Ghazarian."

Dr. Boghosian also thanked all the founders of the AUA, honored by the presence of the two of them, professors Armen Der Kiureghian and Yuri Sarkissian, as well as the first and second presidents of the AUA, Dr. Mihran Agbabian and Dr. Haroutune Armenian for their lasting service and devotion.

Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, Taisei Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, Founding Dean of AUA's College of Engineering, and member of AUA's Board of Trustees, then conveyed greetings to AUA on behalf of the University of California. AUA has been an affiliate of the University of California since its inception in 1991. Indeed, the University of California is one of the organizations that

founded AUA, along with the Armenian Ministry of Education and Science and the AGBU.

During his address, AUA graduate and currently Deputy Justice Minister Emil Babayan stated, "We no longer have the right to again abuse God's favor and treat our independent Republic with the same lack of attention. Dear graduates, the responsibility to maintain our independence, bought at the price of our people's sacrifices, is now also yours."

During his address, Chargé d'Affaires Donahue stated, "My message is simple. I challenge you today to become active citizens, to make your communities and workplaces better, to make a difference. You will face decisions at every step of your professional and personal journey – hiring choices you make at your business, the values you teach your children, how you treat the disadvantaged, whether you put integrity above gain – and they all conspire to create the world you live in."

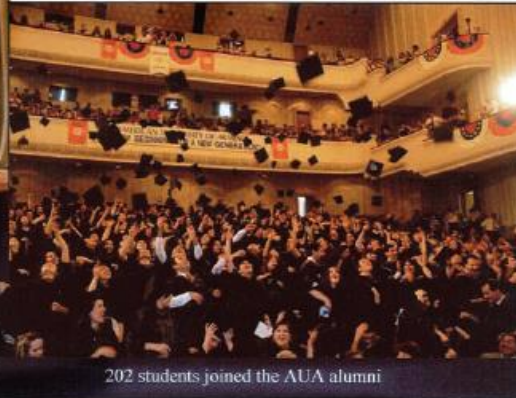
Valedictorians Ms. Nonna Kamalyan (Armenian address) and Mr. Addeh S. Hovassapian (English address) then spoke on behalf of the students of the Class of 2011.



2011 graduates received their diplomas from their deans



AUA President, Trustees, Deans, Professors and invited guests



202 students joined the AUA alumni

After this, 202 motivated men and women were presented by their respective Deans and called to the stage to receive Master's Degrees in Business Administration, Political Science and International Affairs, Public Health, English Programs, Law, Industrial Engineering and Systems Management and Computer and Information Sciences. These new graduates join AUA's 1,928 alumni for a total of 2,130. Seventy-four of them now have two master degrees from AUA.

The graduates concluded the exercises by throwing their caps in the air. Warm words of congratulations were exchanged during an open reception that followed.

AUA graduates now occupy important leadership positions, such as Deputy Minister of Justice, Deputy Minister of Defense, Ambassador to India, as well as many high-level directors and leaders of private corporations and international organizations.