

DIASPORA-ARMENIAN TEACHERS INTRODUCED TO AGBU ARMENIAN VIRTUAL COLLEGE

70 Diaspora-Armenian teachers from 16 countries of the world, who were visiting Armenia within the framework of the Diaspora-Armenian Teachers Training Program organized by the RA Education and Science Ministry and the Yerevan State Pedagogical University visited the Armenian Virtual College on July 19, got acquainted with its activities and courses, with the results and achievements of the first year of the university's operation and the possibilities of putting it into practice in the Armenian schools of their respective Diasporan communities.



Diaspora-Armenian teachers at the AGBU Armenian Virtual College

AGBU Armenian Representation Director Ashot Ghazarian briefly introduced the history and the idea behind the virtual college, while Dr. Hasmik Khalapyan, Academic Director of the AVC, spoke about the AVC courses, educational methods, privileges of distance learning and the possibilities of applying the AVC at the Armenian schools of the Diaspora. To make the AVC activities more comprehensive and descriptive for the guests the AVC online instructors organized a brief demonstration of AVC courses.

As representatives of different Armenian schools of different Armenian communities the teachers present at the meeting were particularly interested in the hybrid method of education introduced by the AVC, during which the online instructor joins a traditional class and conducts the

lesson together with their teacher. Varduhi Piliposian-Garakizian, a teacher from the Ohannesian School of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates), who was also present at the meeting thanked the AVC and the AGBU and personally testified to the effectiveness of the hybrid education method used in her school.

In the end of the meeting Ashot Ghazarian and Hasmik Khalapyan answered the questions raised by the teachers. AVC is the first Armenian online university. It aims to make Armenian education available to everyone and everywhere through modern technologies.

ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER AND COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

2010 graduates, alumni, faculty, staff, Board of Trustee members, invited guests and friends of the American University of Armenia joined together in an evening of festivities on June 25 to celebrate the 2010 graduates of AUA and 14 years of leadership by President Haroutune Armenian.

Dr. Armenian is stepping down as AUA President after nearly two decades of service to AUA and Armenia. Board of Trustee members Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian and Dr. Yuri Sargsyan made moving toasts along with AGBU Armenian Representation Director Mr. Ashot Ghazarian, and Mr. Ashot Hovhannisian, President of Synergy International.

Mr. Armen Ashotyan, RA Minister of Education and Science, surprised both President Armenian and guests with his presentation to President Armenian of a Gold Medal of the RA Ministry of Education and Science.

Commencement Ceremonies were held on Sunday, June 27, during which Master's Degrees were awarded to students who have successfully completed requirements. The keynote speakers this year were Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian and Dr. Dzovag Avakian. AUA 2010 Valedictorians, Ms. Lilia Petrosyan in Armenian and Mr. Stepan Khzrtian in English, gave inspiring speeches.

The Dinner Dance was sponsored by Byblos Bank. Raffle prizes included donations by British Midland International of a ticket to London, by Austrian Airlines of a ticket to Vienna, and Kecharis hotel and resort for a two-night stay in Tsakhkadzor. The AUA Turpanjian Rural Development Program donated a two night stay at a Bed and Breakfast in Karabagh.



AUA president, faculty and graduates after the commencement ceremony in front of the AUA building