

INSIDE AUA

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SPRING 2006

American University of Armenia celebrates its 15th anniversary

This year is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Armenian General Benevolent Union as well as a milestone for the American University of Armenia as we celebrate the 15th anniversary of its establishment under AGBU's sponsorship. Ms. Louise Manoogian Simone, then President and now Chair of AGBU, declared at AUA's founding, "Without doubt AUA will play an outstanding role in the advancement of education and training of a new cadre of professionals in Armenia. The AUA alumni are the most desirable recruits in Armenia." Thus AGBU, which supported education in the Diaspora throughout the past century, came to the Homeland with the founding of AUA.

AUA is an affiliate of the University of California, and I remember the time in 1990 when eleven leaders of the University System, headed by the then Provost William Frazer, visited Armenia to investigate the feasibility of giving academic leadership to the yet-to-be-conceived American University of Armenia. Judson King, UC Provost who succeeded Dr. Frazer as Chair of the AUA Board of Trustees, declared later, "The University of California's affiliation with AUA is unique. AUA's greatest contribution will be its graduates." More than 1,000 graduates now serving academia and industry testify that Judson King's prediction is being fulfilled.

I look back to the year 1991 when 101 graduate students entered the halls of AUA unsure of AUA's future and unaware that it would flourish to become the bridge between Armenia and the world. Their faith in AUA was shared by the emerging government of

Armenia after independence under the leadership of the late Dr. Vilik Haroutunyan as the Minister of Education and Science and Dr. Tsovak Avakian as its deputy director. Co-founders with me were the late Dr. Stepan Karamardian and Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian. We believed in AUA's mission, and together with the Ministry of Education and Science, we started a University that was built on the rubble of the major earthquake of 1988 that paralyzed the country.

"AUA continues to broaden its horizon by providing new opportunities to our young people who are preparing themselves to become the future leaders of our nation."

Dr. Haroutune Armenian introduced the Public Health program serving as its Dean and later assumed the Presidency. He is providing the leadership that has made the University a mature institution. I cannot forget the faculty, staff, and students of the past 15 years, and the Alumni Association whose dedication to AUA and strong commitment to higher education have been essential for AUA's growth to maturity.

Let me conclude with the poetic words of the first US Ambassador to Armenia, Mr. Harry Gilmore. "As I write these words, I can see AUA in my mind's eye high on a hill in Yerevan looking out on a clear day on the two peaks of Mount Ararat, the venerable emblem of the Armenian nation. Some of my fondest memories of those hard days in the early years of the Republic are associated with AUA. I recall vividly the enthusiasm and commitment of the students, faculty and staff, and the determination of everyone associated with AUA to make it an institution of excellence and distinction."

By **Mihran Agabian**
President Emeritus

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we celebrate the accomplishments made in the remarkably short time since its founding, the American University of Armenia is already in the final stages of its accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The University now stands at the threshold of an exceptionally hopeful future, as it rapidly becomes a fully-fledged American university model for Armenia and the region.

AUA continues to expand its outreach in various and inspiring ways. For example, the Turpanjian Adult Education and Rural Development Program, which is made possible by a generous donation from the Turpanjian Family Foundation, enables AUA to have an adult education presence in the earthquake zone in Gyumri, as well as in Stepanakert and the Nagorno Karabagh region. Cutting-edge research and development is another exciting area of advancement at the University. As we continue to grow and international student recruitment expands, we can easily envision a future when AUA is a meeting place and pre-eminent academic center for both international and Armenian youth from the Diaspora and Armenia.

Haroutune Armenian

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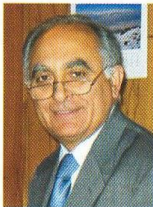
NEW APPOINTMENTS

In September 2005, **Mr. Bruce Janigian** was appointed Vice President for Development and Government Relations of AUA. His international appointments include the vice presidency and directorship of the Salzburg Seminar, Fulbright and visiting professorships in international law, attorney adviser for the US Agency for International Development, and legal counsel for the US Navy.



In January 2006, **Dr. Varduhi Petrosyan** was appointed Interim Director of the Center for Health Services Research and Development and Acting Associate Dean of the College of Health Sciences at AUA. She authored the AUA portion of a recent successful bid for a major USAID-funded health sector development project led by Emerging Markets Group. Dr. Petrosyan earned her PhD from Johns Hopkins University.

In January 2006, **Dr. Thomas Samuelian** was appointed Dean of the AUA Law Department. Dr. Samuelian earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School and holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of numerous studies in law and public policy, including proposed measures for Armenia's Anti-Corruption Strategy and Protection of Armenian Cultural Heritage. Dr. Samuelian is the author of Armenian historical and linguistic publications, including the first complete English translation of St. Gregory of Narek's Prayer Book.



In February 2006, **Mr. Varoozhan Harikian** was appointed as Dean of the Extension Program. Mr. Harikian earned his MS degree in Digital Electronics from the University of Manchester in England, as well as an MS in Electronics from Tehran University in Iran. Mr. Harikian currently acts as the Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Worldwide Education and Consulting Services for a European IBM Business Partner.

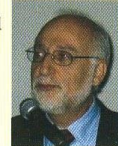
In February 2006, **Mr. Edward Bunker** was appointed Associate Director of the MPH Program and Instructor of Public Health in the College of Health Sciences at AUA. His work in public health education includes a five year tenure at Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Bunker holds masters degrees from Hopkins in public health and health sciences informatics.



FACULTY NEWS

Armen Der Kiureghian receives Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Illinois

Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, Dean of the College of Engineering at AUA and Professor of Civil Engineering and holder of the Taisei Chair at the University of California, Berkeley, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in February 2006.



AUA graduate selected as 2005 Yale World Fellow

Lusine Abovyan, a graduate of the AUA's Law Department, was selected from hundreds of qualified candidates as one of 18 Yale World Fellows in 2005.



ACHIEVEMENTS BEYOND AUA

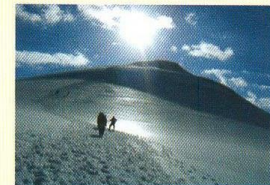
Olympic Day race from Republic Square to Hrazdan stadium

In June 2005, an AUA group participated in the Olympic Day race from the Republic Square to the Hrazdan stadium. Sona Armenian took first prize in the veterans' category.



Expedition to Mt. Ararat

Dr. Renee Richer, Director of the AUA Environmental Conservation and Research Center, paraglided from the summit of Mt. Ararat in August 2005. Dr. Richer is believed to be the first female to fly solo from the summit of Mt. Ararat.



Videoconferencing room available for AUA student use

A new videoconferencing classroom at the AUA has been operational since February 2006. The equipment was acquired with the support of a generous grant from USAID. The room's renovation and furnishings were made possible by a donation of the alumni of the School of Political Science and International Affairs. The facility is available for use by educational institutions, international organizations, as well as businesses.



The Papazian Library takes its place among 17 American International Academic Libraries

In June 2005, a consortium of 17 American-style academic libraries was created among European, North African, and Middle Eastern colleges and universities. The aim of the consortium, including the AUA Papazian Library, is to implement collaborative projects in information resources and technology that support teaching and learning.

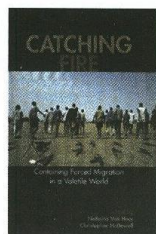


AUA Library acts as a national focal point in advocating access to information and examining copyright and related issues

Electronic Information for Libraries (eIFL.net) launched its new eIFL-IP service in 2005. The program is designed to build capacity in library-related intellectual property issues. Hasmik Galstyan, Head of AUA's Papazian Library Reference / Circulation Department, will be trained as a national expert in this area.

AUA Professor Co-Authors a new book on refugee law

In March 2006, Lexington Books announced the publication of a book co-authored by Matthew Karanian, who served as Associate Dean of the Law Department. Entitled "Catching Fire: Containing Forced Migration in a Volatile World," the book includes Karanian's chapter on the complex refugee situation throughout the Republic of Georgia, as well as in the Armenian-populated region of Javakh.



CNN Traveller Magazine features AUA Birds Project

In its April 2005 edition, CNN Traveller Magazine featured an article by Matthew Karanian and Robert Kurkjian about the AUA "Birds of Armenia" Project. The story tracks the authors' journey to bird habitats to examine how environmental change has affected Armenia's rich bird population in the areas surrounding Lake Sevan and Lake Gilli.

US Department of Energy Awards Armenian scientists Proliferation Prevention Grant of \$800,000

In July 2005, Dr. Kenell Touryan, Vice President of Research and Development at AUA, and Dr. Artak Hambarian, Associate Director of AUA's Engineering Research Center, announced a special grant for proliferation prevention that the US Department of Energy has awarded to a team of scientists at AUA, the Yerevan Physics Institute, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, and an opto-physics Institute in Moscow. The proposal calls for the development of a high-speed laser scanning system for the detection of defects in solid-state wafers, including solar cells.

Supporting AUA **Fundraising events** **in Saratoga and SF organized** **by AUAC development office**

Mr. and Mrs. Papken and Claire Der Torossian of Saratoga, California, opened their home to AUA in **September 2005**, which enabled the University to host a unique evening dedicated to promoting cooperation and communication between Silicon Valley executives and the AUA School of Business and Management. Dr. Yervant Zorian, Vice President and Chief Scientist at Virage Logic Corporation and a member of the AUA Corporation Board of Trustees, highlighted the evening's main purpose of establishing a permanent bridge between the Silicon Valley Armenian Community and AUA, which will be beneficial to both groups over the years to come.

On January 24, 2006, Attorney and Mrs. David Balabanian generously hosted a special event for Bay Area AUA supporters at Bingham McCutchen LLP. Distinguished guests included California Supreme Court Justice and Mrs. Marvin Baxter and Dr. and Mrs. Judson King, Chair of the Board of the American University of Armenia Corporation and former Provost and Senior Vice President of the University of California. Dr. King joined AUA President Haroutune Armenian and Vice President for Development and Government Relations Bruce Janigian in detailing the growing achievements and plans of AUA. Mr. Rich Goldman, Vice President of Synopsys Corporation and CEO of Synopsys Armenia, and Dr. Yervant Zorian, Vice President and Chief Scientist at Virage Logic, expressed appreciation for the knowledge and Western style management skills of their employees in Armenia and the educational leadership role demonstrated by AUA.

**XXVII Annual ASPHER Conference
hosted by the College of Health
Sciences at the American University of
Armenia**



In September 2005, the College of Health Sciences at AUA hosted the XXVII Annual ASPHER (Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region) Conference. The conference addressed development perspectives

of Public Health schools in the European and Mediterranean regions of the World Health Organization, revealing possible barriers and catalysts to the process of development. For the first time, this exclusive conference hosted about 130 participants from public health schools of the European, Mediterranean, and African regions. Delegates came from five continents and over 50 countries, ranging from South Africa to Finland and from the United States to Mongolia.

Open house at AUA

AUA held its annual Open House in March 2006 introducing its programs, mission, and admission requirements to potential students and the community at large. Over 300 potential applicants came through AUA's doors into the Mihran and Elizabeth Agbabian Hall. Visitors had the opportunity to meet with faculty members and alumni of the various academic programs and to listen to general and individual presentations of AUA's mission.



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Inside AUA Issue 8

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