

# American University of Armenia

## CELEBRATES FIRST GRADUATION



ALEXANDRA AVAKIAN/CONTACT PRESS

**O**n October 3, 1993, fifty-five graduates received their Masters Degrees in Business Management and Engineering. The ceremonies were attended by one thousand students, their families, friends, public officials and the faculty of the University. Honored guests were President and Mrs. Levon Ter-Petrosian, Vice President Gagik Haroutunian and Minister of Higher Education and Science Vartkess Gnouni.

The students, in caps and gowns, were awarded their degrees by the Deans of Business Management and Engineering, Dr. Stepan Karamardian and Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian. It was a first for Armenia since there are no such ceremonies for students graduating from local universities. Asking just what the local tradition is on such an occasion, we were told "You look on a list posted on the board to see if you graduated!"

AUA's graduate students are eagerly being courted by government ministries, joint ventures, humanitarian organizations and embassies. Some have plans to start their own

enterprises. University officials will be working closely with the graduates in the months and years ahead to see how they progress.

1994 degree and extension courses have been expanded to include political science, environmental sciences, public policy and management, international and business law and intensive English for medical and media personnel and the staff of the Parliament.

AGBU takes this special occasion to thank all the "Friends of AUA" who have donated so generously to make this academic endeavor a success. The university plays a major role in training and educating a new cadre of professionals who will be a positive force in the future of the country. □ **LMS**

