ARMENIA

AUA hosts two international conferences for university administrators

YEREVAN – The American University of Armenia hosted two conferences for overseas American universities in May 2009, the annual meeting of the Association of American International Colleges and Universities (AAICU) and the 2009 meeting of the American International Consortium of Academic Libraries (AMICAL).

AAICU is an association of American universities established to promote American standards of education, cultural exchange, and research and development, as well as serving to bridge cultures and foster dialogue within the framework of the American liberal arts tradition. During the 2009 meeting, the association reaffirmed its commitment to the AAICU Cairo Declaration, which stated that the association serves as a "bridge for encouragement of quality American-style education outside the United States and for the translation of cultural and educational values in countries where AAICU institutions are located to constituencies in the United States."

"We were pleased to host both the AAICU and AMICAL meetings this year and to have the opportunity to showcase the American University of Armenia and Armenia for so many university presidents, provosts, and library directors from all over Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia," remarked AUA President **Haroutune Armenian**. The meetings were hosted in the new state-of-the-art Paramaz Avedisian Building facilities.

An AAICU delegation will visit Washington in the fall of 2009 to promote international dialogue on the core values of American higher education, encourage expansion of support from the U.S. Agency for International Development, and seek the extension

Participants in the American International Consortium of Academic Libraries (AMICAL) conference at the American University of Armenia, May 2009.

of Pell grants to U.S. students studying at AAICU member institutions and federal research grants eligibility and institutional support to AAICU member institutions.

AAICU member institutions strive for a global standard of excellence by providing privileged spaces of intellectual interchange, academic freedom and responsibility. They also promote the pursuit of learning and of democratic values so their graduates are prepared for the rapidly changing needs of

the 21st first century.

AAICU members include the American University of Armenia, American University of Cairo, American University of Beirut, The American College of Greece, St. Louis University, Madrid Campus, Haigazian University, American University in Kosovo, American University of Central Asia, American University in Bulgaria, Lebanese American University, American College of Thessaloniki, Institute for American Universities, Franklin College, The American University of Paris, John

Cabot University, Association of American Colleges and University Programs in Italy, American College Dublin, American University of Sharjah.

The AMICAL conference was the sixth in the series of annual conferences, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and brought together 60 participants including library, information and instructional technology staff members and faculty from 21 AMICAL member institutions

higher education.

This year's conference focused on "The Learner's Perspective – Adapting Information Services for Today's Students," and how students are using information resources in academic work and what technology needs. The four-day conference featured two keynote speakers, **Nancy Foster**, University of Rochester, and **James Simon** of Sun Microsystems, and a post-conference workshop led by **Matt Goldner**, OCLC executive director.