

## AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

In the 1994/95 academic years, the American University of Armenia doubled its enrollment to 450 graduate students and expanded its Master Degree programs to include Political Science and International Affairs, in addition to the original Business Management and Engineering programs. Extension and Certificate programs, drawing another 500 to 1,000 participants, included Economics, English, Computer Science, Law, Environmental Science, Public Health and a number of other subjects. The AUA Papazian Library was expanded and a new computerized cataloging system added, providing easy access to all reading material. With some 225 alumni as of 1995, AUA graduates are now serving in Armenian government ministries and agencies, foreign embassies, organizations and institutions, private businesses or pursuing further study in Armenia and abroad. Major donors, including the U.S. government, have funded a new economic analysis institute in cooperation with the Armenia Ministry of Economics, an Environmental Research Center, a Public Health Program, awards to scientists at the Academy of Sciences, Yerevan State University and the State Engineering University, a capital improvement program and the publication of several business books.

## PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY CENTER (PRSC)

With initial grants from the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation totaling \$2,000,000, AGBU established the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Center in July, 1992. Specializing in severe burn cases, deformities, earthquake/war/work injuries, PRSC has treated some 4000 cases since its inception. In 1994, the unit expanded its facilities, moving to Erebuni Hospital. The AGBU funded Center continues to offer free of charge surgery to its patients, along with all medication and supplies shipped in from the United States. In 1995, PRSC operated on a number of war victims from Abkhazia, Georgia and assisted the Yerevan Military Hospital in treating veterans with war-related injuries.

**ULTRASOUND CENTER** In association with the Jefferson Ultrasound Research and Education Institute, the AGBU selected four physicians from Armenia to participate in the Diagnostic Ultrasound Fellowship Program at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. The Ultrasound Institute is directed by world-renowned researcher and educator Dr. Barry Goldberg. The three month intensive fellowship, sponsored with a grant from Nazar and Artemis Nazarian, was directed by Dr. Levon Nazarian, Asst. Professor of Radiology at Jefferson University. Ultrasound, a safe and relatively inexpensive method for imaging the body, is used as a diagnostic clinical tool for a wide variety of conditions. The Armenian physicians received instruction and hands-on training at the Institute in all applications of ultrasound, including interventional, abdominal, obstetrics and gynecology. Plans are underway to establish an ultrasound department at Erebuni Hospital in 1996.

## NORK, ARAPKIR AND MALATYA CHILDREN'S CENTERS

The AGBU and Araratian Diocese in Yerevan joined forces in February 1993 to renovate and administer three Children's Centers. Formerly communist youth centers, the government of Armenia authorized the transfer of these properties to the church with funding provided by AGBU. With overcrowded schools and shortened class hours, the Centers provided history, language, art, music and sports programs each day from two in the afternoon to seven in the evening. The combined Centers have an enrollment of 8000 students, ages five to eighteen, and employ an administrative staff of four hundred.

**COLD FOOD STORAGE** Completed in 1992, the AGBU cold food storage facility in Gyumri, Armenia, now stores over 60,000 tons of food shipped in by international humanitarian agencies. Distributed weekly throughout the northern region of Armenia, particularly to the still earthquake-damaged areas, the food has become a lifesaver for tens of thousands families who continue to live under dire conditions.

**ARMENIA PHILHARMONIC** Recognizing the importance of the performing arts in Armenia, AGBU subsidized the 1994/1995 seasons of the one hundred member Armenia Philharmonic, the ninety member Yerevan Orchestra and the eighty member chorus under the direction of Maestro Loris Tjeknavorian. The yearly grants were allocated for weekly concerts of the orchestra, in-country tours, concert hall renovations, new instruments, transportation, salary supplements, international guest artists and special festivals. The Philharmonic has in the past two years successfully toured France, Greece, England and Iran and produced eight CD recordings.

**HUMANITARIAN AID** AGBU expanded its original Yerevan "Soup Kitchen" to three additional locations in Sevan, Etchmiadzin and Hrazdan. These four Soup Kitchens now feed 1000 pensioners and orphans a 1200 calorie daily meal. For those who are ill or handicapped, special volunteers deliver the meals to their homes. This AGBU funded program is supervised weekly by the Ladies Committee of the Araratian Diocese.

**ADDITIONAL GRANTS TO ARMENIA** Holy Etchmiadzin, The Mate-nadaran, Sevan Seminary, Araratian Diocese, the Genocide Museum, Academy of Sciences and Yerevan State University were given allocations for special programs, construction, renovations, salaries, publications and curriculum enhancement. Medical personnel from the United States and Armenia were granted travel expenses for study and professional work visits. In 1994, selected educators from the Los Angeles public school system traveled to Armenia on an AGBU sponsored tour to visit cultural and educational institutions. Educ-aid, a new AGBU young professionals group raised funds to purchase art supplies for the Nork Children's Center. The Montevideo, Paris, Marseilles, Nicosia, Buenos Aires, Greater Boston Ladies and San Francisco AGBU Chapters made special grants to AGBU Soup Kitchens while the AGBU Swiss Chapter held benefit events for both the Soup Kitchens and the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Center. The Arlington, Massachusetts Chapter raised funds for supplies shipped to the PRSC, and the Chicago Chapter held an event to fund scholarships for students at AUA.

