

## IT IS POSSIBLE...

For Diaspora Armenians to come to AUA, receive a quality American education, and find meaningful work in Armenia. Sebouh Hatsakordzian and Mardit Matian did just that. Both are graduates of AUA's School of Engineering and work in the ever-expanding high-tech industry in Armenia.

"With one semester left to graduate from Haigazian University in Beirut, I visited Armenia for the first time in 1997 and went to AUA," said Sebouh Hatsakordzian (pictured right). "After learning more from an AUA recruiter visiting Beirut, I applied in 2001 and graduated in October 2003." In similar fashion, Mardit Matian (pictured left), who is from Tehran, learned about AUA when he was in Armenia for the first time with his parents.

As an AUA student, Matian completed an internship with H<sub>2</sub> ECoNomy, which researches, develops and manufactures fuel cell stacks. "Since I was a mechanical

engineer and interested in designing and manufacturing, I worked in AUA's CAD/CAM laboratory as a research assistant where I improved my skills," noted Matian. After graduation, he was hired at H<sub>2</sub> ECoNomy, a small American-Armenian company involved in the development of technology to transform hydrogen and oxygen into electricity. The successful company already employs several AUA alumni.



Sebouh Hatsakordzian works for HPLA LLC, an Armenia based subsidiary of HPL Technologies and a leading provider of yield optimization solutions for the semiconductor and flat panel display industries. "AUA brings foreign professors and experts that come and share with us their experience. AUA graduates are trained to think openly, diversely, and ready to absorb new suggestions and systems," says Hatsakordzian. He lives in Yerevan with his wife, Dzovinar Bedrossian, who is a student in AUA's Department of English Programs.

## I WANT TO HELP

The University relies on your generous donations to support its educational mission and thanks you for your assistance. *Because education is invaluable to individual growth and a nation's economic growth, I would like to make a contribution to support AUA.*

Contributions are tax deductible and can be sent to AUAC, 300 Lakeside Dr. 4th Fl., Oakland, CA 94612.

To learn more, call (510) 987-9452.

## CONTACT INFO

Send comments, stories, and new contacts to: [gohar@auac.net](mailto:gohar@auac.net)

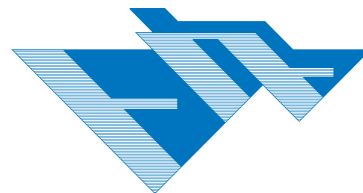
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## PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW

The AUA Law Department, an affiliate of the University of California's Boalt Hall School of Law at Berkeley, has graduated 73 students since its founding in 1996. These alumni contribute to strengthening Armenia's commitment to the rule of law, as well as Armenia's economy and its place in the international community. "Whether it's Albina Nazaryan (MCLS '01), who is Head of the Trademark and Industrial Design department of Armenia's Intellectual Property Agency, Judge Astghik Kharatyan (LLM '98) in the Court of Appeals, or Artashes Kakoyan (LLM '98), who started his own business, Investment Law Group LLC, our graduates are in positions which help steer Armenia to become a stronger democratic nation," stated Stephen Barnett, Dean of the AUA Law Department and Professor Emeritus at Boalt Hall.

The law program is focused on teaching the Rule of Law and the Western Legal Tradition, in addition to business law, international law, and clinical legal skills. The department awards two degrees, the Master of Laws (LLM) to students whose prior degree is in law, and the Master of Comparative Legal Studies (MCLS) to students whose prior degree is in another subject.

"This past year, our students have taken their interest in protecting human rights to

the next level," said Associate Dean Matthew Karanian. "With partial funding from the United States Embassy, our law students established the Shitak Human Rights Group, an official non-governmental organization, now registered in Armenia," he added. Shitak has created a law review which it publishes on the Internet at [www.armlawreview.org](http://www.armlawreview.org). The website contains articles on current developments in human rights. Dean Barnett describes the work of these students as "a significant accomplishment, establishing AUA's role as a vital force in promoting public understanding, debate, and resolution of the legal issues facing Armenia and its region today."

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~ Stephen Barnett,  
 Dean of AUA's Law Department

"Work on Shitak enables me not only to make my modest input in the process of establishing human rights values, by raising public awareness and running a website, but also has helped me to develop my organizational and team work skills, and creativity," noted Mariam Badalyan (MCLS '04). AUA's law students have produced public forums on issues important to Armenia's law, government, and society today. In 2004, they produced conferences on Environmental Law, Military Service, Trafficking in Humans, and Armenia's Anti-Corruption efforts, with speakers representing a variety of constituencies and points of view.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### AUA: An Exciting Institution

The summer season saw a number of visitors to the AUA in Yerevan. The one constant among them was the excitement they felt about the University. Whether it is our faculty who want to come back to teach following a very rewarding first experience, our alumni who want to help their alma mater in any way they can, or our students for whom it is such a great experience to study at the AUA, excitement is pervasive at all levels.

And there has been so much happening to be excited about. Initiated in September by the University, the Turpanjian Scholarship program, with its big-brother big-sister approach provides university education to over 140 orphans and socio-economically disadvantaged students from all universities of Armenia. For the first time, the Parliament of the Republic of Armenia established its own scholarships to outstanding AUA students.

We recently had a number of other firsts for Armenia. A generous donation made it possible to develop the first comfortable student-faculty lounge in the country at the ground floor of the Baghramian building, which was appropriately named the Mihran and Elizabeth Agbabian Hall. Within the AUA Center building, we developed the first non-smoking cafeteria & restaurant of Armenia, made possible through a generous donation of Mrs. Louise Simone. We are looking forward to the beginning of the construction of the new Paramaz Avedisian Building that will have so many innovations for Armenia and its region.

The small size of this newsletter forces us to be selective in reporting so many other innovations at the AUA. The present is just a note to share our excitement about this unique institution with you.

Haroutune K. Armenian

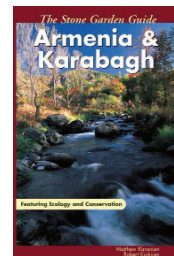
## FACULTY NEWS

In September 2004, **Dr. Lucig Danielian** was appointed Dean of the School of Political Science and International Affairs. Dr. Danielian has been teaching at AUA since 1995, has served as the Associate Dean of the School since 1999, and has developed the Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis into a beehive of activity and research over the last five years.



Senior Lecturer, **Armen Ayvazyan**, successfully defended his dissertation, "Essential Elements for Armenia's National Security Doctrine," and received a Doctor of Political Sciences degree from the Yerevan State University.

At the International Congress of Behavioural Medicine, Budapest, Hungary, August 29 - 31, 2004, AUA Assistant Professor of Public Health, **Dr. B. Grace Sullivan**, presented a poster, "The Role of Grandmothers as a Family and Community Health Resource in Contemporary Armenia." She was also named a manuscript reviewer for *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, an *International Journal for the Analysis of Health*.



**Prof. Matthew Karanian**, Associate Dean of the Dept. of Law, published *The Stone Garden Guide to Armenia and Karabagh*, with Robert Kurkjian, who directed AUA's Environmental Research and Management Center from 1995 to 1999. The

Guide includes maps produced by AUA's Birds of Armenia Project; information on ecology and environmental law, nature conservation and travel information.



In 2004, AUA published "AutoCAD 2000: Practical Guide" by author **Sarkis Zeytunyan**, an AUA graduate, lecturer in the Engineering Department, and

Facilities Manager in AUA's CAD/CAM Laboratory. The book is written in Armenian and based on 3 years teaching practice of the software at AUA. It is specifically designed for students and engineering practitioners who are new to AutoCAD.

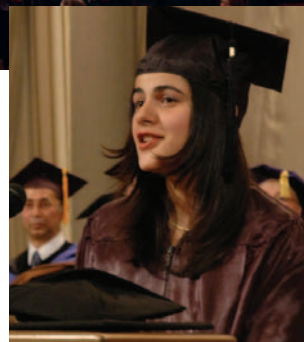
**Dr. Barry Levine** (pictured right), AUA's Director of Computer &



Informations Sciences (CIS) program, and Professor at San Francisco State University, and AUA faculty member **Hovhannes Avoyan** (pictured left), published a joint poster presentation at the 13th World Wide Web Conference in New York City, 17-22 May 2004.



2004 Valedictorians **Lusine Martirosyan** and **Arthur Grigoryan**



## A NEW BEGINNING FOR A NEW GENERATION

AUA celebrated its 11th graduation and commencement ceremonies in October 2004. One hundred and thirty three motivated and ambitious men and women walked down the aisle to receive their Master's Degrees. These new graduates join AUA's 1,136 alumni who now occupy important leadership positions. Approximately 75% of 1,136 graduates reside in Armenia, 19% are working abroad, and 6% are pursuing higher education abroad.

Alumni working in Armenia are employed by international non-profit organizations (27%), local private organizations (22%), joint-ventures (15%), local state and govern-

mental organizations (12%), foreign governmental organizations (12%), and foreign and international private organizations (12%).

Source: *AUA Alumni and Career Development Office, 2004*

## AUA'S FAMILY OF SUPPORTERS KEEPS GROWING



Left: Recipients of the **Turpanjian Family Foundation Scholarship Program**

Through the support of **Turpanjian Family Foundation Scholarship Program** established earlier this year, AUA granted over 140 scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students from all universities in Armenia. Administered by the AUA, the Program often complements support already provided by the students' university. In parallel, the Program will also fund an innovative Big Brother-Big Sister mentorship program.



Above: **Mr. and Mrs. Rhonda Kodjayan**

Zaven Kodjayan (1937-2002) lived and died with one great regret – he was never afforded the opportunity to complete his education. "Zaven would wish for a young person to be given the gift of an education that he so greatly desired for himself," stated his wife, Mrs. Rhonda Kodjayan. In his memory, the Kodjayan family established the **Zaven O. Kodjayan Scholarship Fund** at the American University of Armenia to assist qualified students in their pursuit of higher education.

AUA Public Health students thanked **Ms. Arpine** and **Ms. Arda Hovnanian** for their personal contributions to provide scholarships and to support their pursuit to become better-trained professionals who will improve Armenia's system of healthcare and quality of life.



Above: **Hovnanian Scholars**

Top Row Right to Left: **Narek Sargsyan**, **Inessa Asmangulyan**, **Professor Sullivan**, **Maria Sevoyan**; Front Row Right to Left: **Ruzanna Siimyan**, **Hripsime Martirosyan**

The San Francisco-Oakland AGBU chapter, in conjunction with the **St. John Armenian Church of San Francisco**, organized a public forum in San Francisco earlier this year. Generous gifts were made for the support of the AUA Law Department. "The partnership between the AGBU and AUA is very important and we are proud to support this University as it participates in the development of Armenia," noted AGBU San Francisco-Oakland Chair, **Mrs. Ashken Mouradian**.

AUA is now on a critical path to develop a successful regional and international student recruitment campaign. In 2004, the **United States Embassy** provided funding to AUA to develop administrative structures and services necessary to implement an international student recruitment effort, and **USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA)** provided grant funding to establish student housing.

AUA has relied upon the **United Armenia Fund (UAF)** for the last 13 years to ship free of charge several million dollars worth of educational resources, technological equipment, and other materials essential to the advancement of the University. Thank you UAF! Thus far, UAF has shipped \$391 million worth of supplies to Armenia on board 130 airlifts and 1,100 sea shipments over the last 15 years.

During graduation week, AUA dedicated the **Stepan Karamardian Conference Hall** in the AUA Business and Conference Center. During this occasion, **Mrs. Seta Karamardian** announced that the Karamardian family will establish an annual scholarship in AUA Founding Member **Dr. Stepan Karamardian's** name, to assist a deserving student in AUA's School of Business and Management



Left to Right: **AUA Founding Members Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian** and **Dr. Mihran Agbabian**, **Mrs. Seta Karamardian**, **AUA President Haroutune Armenian**

Donors 2003 Correction: **Dr. & Mrs. Noubar Ouzoumian** contributed \$2,000 in 2003.