



WE ARE STRONG TOGETHER!

aluma NEWS

BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

No. 11: December 25, 2006

ALUMNI AS TRAINERS: YOUR FEEDBACK NEEDED!

The AUA Alumni Association is seeking ways to involve *alumni as trainers* in various training/education activities, including, possibly, in rural areas. We are confident that certain AUA alumni have serious potential for and even experience in such activities, given the quality of their education and expertise.

The Association envisions the training process in the following three dimensions.

- a. **Alumni to alumni:** More experienced alumni will train less experienced ones. This will help the latter to be better prepared for the job market.
- b. **Alumni to students:** Alumni will train students in addition to what they learn at the University. This not only will help the latter find a better job in the future, but will also help them make important connections coming in touch with their fellow alumni.
- c. **Alumni to public:** Alumni will train general public, since we believe that our alumni are experienced and possess knowledge in a variety of areas and can contribute to local/regional development projects and other initiatives.

In order to utilize alumni's expertise most effectively and ensure the success of this initiative, we need to know more about the potential of our members. So, please update us on your professional specialization and training experience if you are interested in the role of a mentor and/or trainer.

We have developed a [simple form](#): if you have already filled it in, we thank you a lot. If not yet, please kindly access the [form online](#) and after filling in your details, forward it back to us **by January 15** (e-mail: aassociation@aua.am). We'll contact you afterwards to set up a meeting with you to discuss your vision and suggestions for your further involvement.

The AUA Alumni Association is also working on finding funds to reward alumni for their training activities.

* * *

AUA ALUMNA PARTICIPATES IN AN INTERCULTURAL FESTIVAL

Lusine Khachatryan, PS'1999, AUA AA Board member, recently was involved in the organization of the **Intercultural Festival for Youth** in Tsakhkadzor, Armenia, from December 8 to 12, 2006. Lusine works as a project manager at the "Pan-Armenian Youth International Center" Foundation.

The Festival has become the first event in Armenia to gather young representatives of local and international youth and cultural NGOs, national minorities and foreign students in Armenian universities to present and share their native cultural heritage.

The Festival program included team building exercises, seminars, discussions and group presentations of ethnic music, dances, literature, poetry, and food. About 12 countries and communities were represented at the Festival this year, with most of the participants working in mixed groups to share and learn from each other.

"In our mostly mono-ethnic society and fragmented region it is just necessary to involve youth in intercultural learning processes, so that they are able to see and use the constructive power of difference to build and maintain long-lasting peace and partnership. The Festival was a unique experience in this respect," says *Lusine Khachatryan*.



* * *

VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ALUMNI

The Alumni Association is continuing its activities aimed at identifying *vocational training opportunities* for the alumni and second-year students (future alumni). Our partners – training organizations and companies – usually offer the topics of courses, though customized training sessions also can be developed and offered.



Having successful experience of partnership with one of the leading training and consultancy companies in Armenia – [Business Support Center](#) (BSC), the AA Board decided to prolong the existing partnership agreement up to September 2007. Instead of the previous year's free-of-charge opportunities, BSC has agreed to provide 50% discount rates for AUA alumni and second-year students (with no discounts for the courses conducted in cooperation with Aharon Paradigma). The interested participants are encouraged to contact AA (aassociation@aua.am) and obtain the discount for a particular training course (*NB: not more than 2 participants per training!*).

Besides, to have a greater variety of training opportunities aimed at the increase in the competitiveness of our alumni in the job market, AA keeps looking for alternative opportunities through identifying potential trainers from alumni fellows themselves, as well as developing partnerships with other training institutions in Armenia and elsewhere.

* * *

AGBU YEREVAN YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (YP) GROUP ESTABLISHED

On December 7, the Armenian representation of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) held a meeting of Armenian youngsters, the goal of which was to establish an **AGBU Yerevan Young Professionals (YP)** group. AGBU Yerevan YP group will become the 16th AGBU YP group in the world.

The AA Board is glad to inform you that *Shushanik Ghaltakhchyan, PS'2003* (who also served as an AUA AA Board member in 2005-2006) coordinates this initiative.

AGBU's mission is to preserve and promote Armenian identity and heritage. AGBU Young Professionals is a global network of dedicated and ambitious AGBU volunteers who design educational, professional, cultural and social activities contributing to the active lifestyle of today's Armenian YPs.



Armenian youngsters aged 25-40 who have higher education and different professions were present at the Yerevan meeting. Some of them were Armenians from Diaspora who currently live in Armenia.

Yerevan YP group will assist the AGBU projects in Armenia and Artsakh by organizing fundraising and social activities. Support activities for the American University of Armenia, Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra, Children Centers, and Ultrasound Training Center are among the AGBU projects in Armenia and Artsakh.

The young professionals will also help carry out an AGBU summer intern program, which envisages arrival to Armenia and professional training of Armenian students from all over the world in summer 2007. The team will also bring its contribution to the organization of the AGBU 100th anniversary events scheduled for April, 2007 in Yerevan.

Those interested in becoming members of the AGBU Yerevan YP group, can contact *Shushanik Ghaltakhchyan* via e-mail at ypyerevan@agbu.am or phone: 51 22 50, 51 22 51.

* * *



American University of Armenia Alumni Association (AUA AA)

The AUA AA NGO was founded in 2003. Through various projects and activities, it promotes professional development of the graduates, advancement of the AUA, and wide cooperation.

[Click to BECOME A MEMBER OF AUA AA](#)

Contact information: #40, Marshal Baghramyan Ave., 6th floor, room 60e; Tel: +37410 512 553.

E-mail: aassociation@aua.am; URL: www.aua.am/alumni.

Editor: *Aramazd Ghalamkaryan, PS'2000 (aramazdg@gmail.com)*

Stories provided by: *Lusine Martirosyan, MCLS'2004; Lusine Khachatryan, PS'1999; Shushanik Ghaltakhchyan, PS'2003.*