

INSIDE AUA

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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA Receives U.S. Accreditation

The American University of Armenia is now accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). AUA's degree will gain the international respect and recognition appropriate to major US universities. Students also benefit by having their course work transferable to other accredited colleges and universities in the US and worldwide. This opens the door for growth and expansion by making AUA an attractive option for students from the region and around the world, including US based graduate students. Reaction in Armenia has been extremely positive with the Armenian Minister of Education and Science Levon Mkrtchyan stating that, "The accreditation of the American University of Armenia by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges will exert considerable influence on Armenia's educational system. AUA is a University that underwent the very complex procedure of Western accreditation and it provides the assurance of quality at international standards. This success is the result of AUA's consistent work and self-analysis of many years."

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Provost and Vice President Lucig Danielian explained that, "As a young institution that carries the traditions of Western higher education to Armenia and its region, AUA has the important responsibility of attaining the highest possible standards in education and academic management. The process of accreditation provides us with the opportunity to achieve the high standards that we seek." Three teams of distinguished American university academics and administrators visited Armenia to evaluate AUA during the different stages of the accreditation process. WASC is one of six regional associations recognized by the United States Department of Education that accredit public and private universities and colleges. Accreditation signifies that AUA has completed a period of comprehensive self-study followed by on-site evaluations of institutional performance and educational processes. It indicates that AUA operates at a high level of quality and that it has sufficient resources to sustain existing and planned programs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At its inception, the idea of an American University in Armenia had its share of skeptics and critics. Now, in our 16th year of operation, we can proudly state that AUA was and continues to be one of the best investments for the future of Armenia. Here are some facts and figures. AUA has:

1. Educated over 1500 American trained young entrepreneurs with masters' degrees: the direct expenses for such training in the US would have been at a minimum US \$75,000,000;
2. Initiated and developed six academic and professional schools in various fields and introduced a unique American educational model that was just accredited by WASC;
3. Developed and operated seven research and development centers with projects spanning Armenia and Karabagh;
4. Built a solid physical plant including the new upcoming Paramaz Avedisian building that will be the most advanced higher educational facility in the entire region;
5. Managed efficient operations with an annual operating budget averaging US \$2,500,000 over the past 16 years;
6. Digitized a massive amount of Armenian classical literature in all fields of study and is in the process of digitizing the great wealth of Western Armenian literature up to the end of the 20th century.

I hope you enjoy our news and continue to support the University.

— Dr. Haroutune Armenian

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Dr. Robert Bagramian has joined AUA as the Dean of the College of Health Sciences. Dr. Bagramian holds a Master of Public Health Degree from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health, a Ph.D degree in Public Health from the University of Michigan, School of Public Health, and a DDS Degree

from the Temple University School of Dentistry in Philadelphia. In addition to teaching at the undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate levels at major universities such as the University of Michigan and University of California, he has served as Visiting Professor at the University of Berne, Switzerland, and the National University of Singapore.

Dr. Jennifer Lyman has joined AUA as the new Director of the Environmental Conservation and Research Center. Dr. Lyman earned her Ph.D in Botany and Plant Science at the University of California, Riverside. She has been a Professor of Botany and Environmental Sciences at Rocky Mountain College since 1994 where she has served as Chair of the Sciences and Mathematics Division and most recently as Director of the Herbarium. Dr. Lyman has served as senior botanist for several consulting organizations and as President of Ecological Services Natural Resource Consulting in Billings, Montana.



Dr. Aram Hajian has joined AUA as the Assistant Dean of the College of Engineering. He will also be serving as Assistant Professor teaching courses in both the Computer Information Sciences and Industrial Engineering and Systems Management programs of the College of Engineering. Dr. Hajian holds a Mechanical Engineering degree from Stanford University and M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Engineering Sciences from Harvard University.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED

Dr. Margaret Pierce, a visiting professor at AUA, has established the *Health as a Human Right Scholarship* which will provide two year's full tuition for one student in the Masters of Public Health Program at AUA. This scholarship will enable yet another Armenian student to receive his/her degree and go on to improve health services in Armenia.

FACULTY NEWS

AUA President Haroutune Armenian receives the St. Sahak-Mesrop Medal

On August 18, His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, bestowed the Order of Saint Sahak-Mesrop upon the President of the American University of Armenia, Dr.



Haroutune Armenian, in recognition of his numerous pedagogical and societal contributions. The Order of Saints Sahak and Mesrop is one of the church's highest honors, reserved for individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the fields of scholarship, education, culture and service.

Professor Alex Simonian appointed National Expert



Dr. Alex Simonyan, professor in the School of Business Management, has been appointed as a National Expert for the design and implementation of sampling methodology for the Caucasus Research Resource Center's (CRRC) Armenia Data Initiative 2007. His work there will include

implementing household surveys for data archiving, weighing and performing statistical analyses, and creating joint regional methodologies and attitudes with others in the region.

Dr. Karen Aghababyan receives UK's Highest Conservation Award

Dr. Karen Aghababyan's research on Armenian wetlands has been recognized by the United Kingdom with its top conservation award. Dr. Aghababyan is coordinator of the Environmental



Conservation and Research Center at AUA and leads research projects for the University's Birds of Armenia program. Dr. Aghababyan received the Whitley Award, donated by the Friends of the Whitley Fund for Nature, from HRH The Princess Royal Anne and Sir David Attenborough at London's Royal Geographical Society on May 10. Dr. Aghababyan is the first Armenian to win this prestigious £30,000 research award.

AUA SUITES AT HYBUSINESS

The newly remodeled AUA Suites at HyBusiness has opened its doors to visitors to Armenia. This unique boutique hotel will ensure that visits are enjoyable and memorable, and at the same time visitors will be making a contribution to the development of Armenia because funds from the AUA Suites directly support the American University of Armenia.



The facility features 23 spacious rooms designed to serve individual needs and tastes with Junior Suites (studio), Senior Suites (one-bed room apartment), and Executive Suites (two-bedroom apartment). It is located only a few steps from Republic Square and is within walking distance from most of the attractions and entertainment in Yerevan. Guests have access to the University's online library holdings through computers in the lobby which are equipped with high-speed internet access as well as computers in the rooms to meet the needs of both business travelers and families.

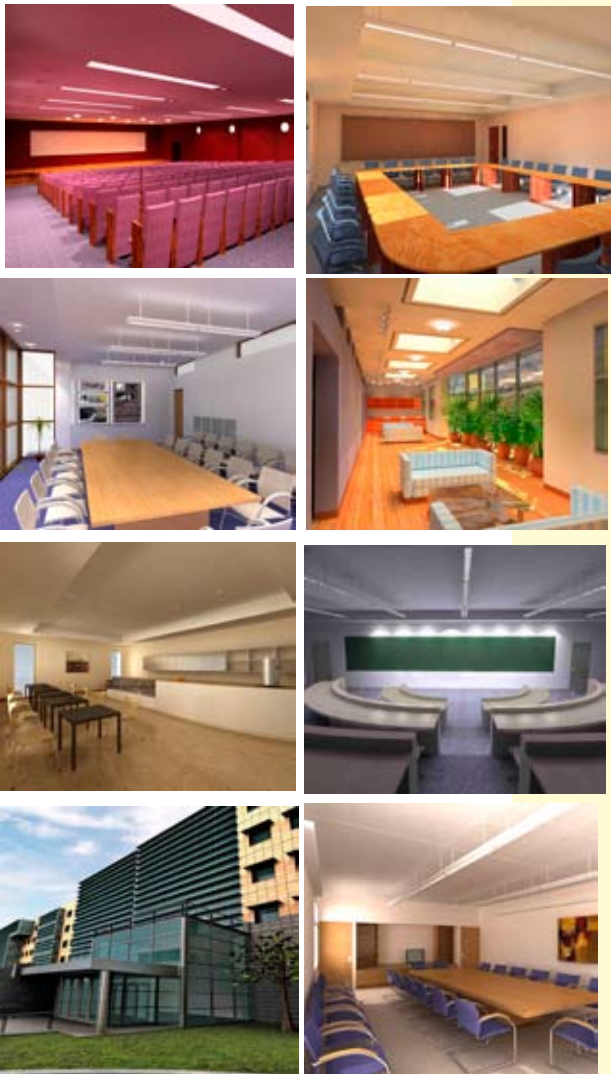
Contact www.hybusiness.com for reservation information.

THE NEW PARAMAZ AVEDISIAN BUILDING

Construction on the new Paramaz Avedisian Building is underway and is scheduled for completion in Summer 2008. This new state of the art building will add 100,000 square feet to the existing facilities at AUA including classrooms, seminar rooms, laboratories, and research areas. Room naming opportunities are now providing donors a unique and lasting way to secure recognition for their support of AUA, honor family members and loved ones, and help ensure timely completion of the building.

This new building will allow the University to expand its academic programs, research activities and enrollment capacity as well as ease space and size limitations in the main Bagramian building. It will accommodate a growing student body and further assist in promoting AUA's mission to provide and maintain educational excellence. This modern building will also help recruit more students from throughout the Caucasus region and the greater Middle East, accommodate student exchanges and study abroad opportunities, and improve AUA's standing as an educational institution. The images displayed to the left are artist renderings.

Inquiries about naming opportunities may be directed to the Development Office at donations@auac.net.



INSIDE AUA

THE TURPANJIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

TRDP's mission is to promote sustained economic growth in rural Armenia through investments in both capacity building and education.

Established in 2006 with a generous \$5 million grant from Gerald Turpanjian, the Turpanjian Rural Development Program (TRDP) seeks to improve the lives of rural families in Armenia. The program focuses on job creation and business development through adult education. With operations centers in Gyumri and Stepanakert, residents in rural areas develop

business ideas and meet with trained staff to help shape and select workable business models. Assistance includes developing business plans, training in needed business and entrepreneurship skills and financing assistance. Training sessions include best business practices, entrepreneurship, computer skills, and English language training and are run by the AUA Extension Program. New ventures supported by TRDP include the production of cheese, honey, and animal feed, the development of picnic grounds at a historic site in the Shirak Marz, and the selection of

operation of the TRDP mission. After visiting the region, AUA President Haroutune Armenian noted that “the business plans and enthusiasm of the rural participants are remarkable. The project adds an immediate sense of dignity and accomplishment through opportunities for real achievement. We are spreading the knowledge base and practical know-how of AUA across Armenia and Karabagh.”

Within the Gyumri area, a team of researchers from AUA's Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis collected and reviewed data on rural economies in the Shirak Marz, including Amasia and Ashotsk. Armenia is comprised of 10 provinces, or Marzes, and Amasia is located in the most northernly western region of Armenia, in the province of Shirak. A local survey of needs and opportunities in the region was prepared. Overall, some 50 non-agricultural businesses which could produce the best results for the communities were considered for assistance. The Amasia cheese factory was the first business in the region considered for support. Operative factors included the company's managerial capacity, organizational strengths and weaknesses, financial viability and sustainability, competitiveness, potential for growth, and job creation. The cheese factory received a grant of \$17,500 to acquire milk processing equipment. A number of grants have already been allocated in Shirak Marz in addition to the cheese factory. An integral part of the Program is the provision of management



*Armenia is divided into ten provinces called marzes in Armenian. Each marz is a different geographical region with its own administrative structure and contains numerous sub-districts or regions (called gavars in Armenian) analogous to counties in the United States. Shirak marz is the most northernly western province of Armenia and is where the region and village of Amasia is located.

potential bed and breakfast businesses in Stepanakert. These in turn are intended to have larger ripple effects in the development of the surrounding rural communities. AUA uses the expertise and resources of its academic departments to facilitate the



Classroom for adult education in Gyumri

and business consulting throughout the grant period.

All training activity under the Program is organized by AUA's Extension Program and business plans are reviewed by AUA's Center for Business Research and Development (CBRD). The entrepreneurship component provides participants with the opportunity to develop basic language and information technology skills. Workshops provide an effective way of keeping the businesses updated with contemporary management concepts and are frequently the only local source for such information.

In addition to the Gyumri Center, activity conducted from Stepanakert focuses on the development of a network of Bed and Breakfasts throughout Nagorno-Karabagh. A Bed and Breakfast is a personal residence that operates as a lodging establishment where the owner is the

nerships with tourism agencies and funding entities, this project will bring sustainable economic value not only to the individual Bed and Breakfast owners, but also to the surrounding communities. As one of TRDP's first steps, AUA Extension partnered with Humber College of Toronto, Canada, to produce formal training material for Bed & Breakfast owners. The course was customized from Humber College's extensive Hospitality and Tour-

rural development in Armenia in March, with the participation of more than 150



Village of Dadivank in the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh



A grant recipient from the Shirak region being presented with the award by AUA President Haroutune Armenian

host. The expectation is that providing such services in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh will attract tourism to the areas.

The current lack of sustainable Bed and Breakfasts in Armenia is due in part to inadequate training and support, both problems that the Program addresses. Through collaborative efforts and part-

ism curriculum and training was held at AUA Suites at HyBusiness in Yerevan in July.

As part of its core mission, TRDP partnered with the United Nations Development Program in Armenia to sponsor the first-ever conference on

experts. Sixty Armenian organizations and international agencies which are directly engaged in rural development projects in Armenia participated in the conference sessions and discussions along with representatives of the Republic of Armenia's Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Territorial Administration, and Education and Science. Several excellent papers were presented.

The efforts of AUA faculty and experts, along with the compassion and generosity of our donors, are helping to transform the rural countryside of Armenia.



Rural road in Nagorno-Karabagh

AUA EVENTS

Video Conference with Silicon Valley's Synopsys

On February 15, 2007, AUA and Synopsys held a first-ever interactive evening with participants from the AUA in Yerevan and California's Silicon Valley via a large screen two-way videoconference. The event was hosted by Synopsys of Mountain View, which is making proprietary software available to AUA for academic programs, as well as employing AUA professors to train its managers and executives located in Armenia. The evening's format included a global town-hall forum with UC Provost and Senior Vice President, Dr. Wyatt R. Hume, who also serves as the Chairman of the AUA Board of Trustees, and Synopsys Chairman Art de Geus, as well as Synopsys Armenia CEO Rich Goldman. The open dialogue among all participants included visions of the future of AUA and its role in stimulating high technology development and investment in Armenia, in addition to furthering AUA's valuable relationship with Synopsys.



50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY BENEFITS AUA

Roxie and Hratch Kradjian of La Palma, California enjoyed their 50th Anniversary celebration with relatives and close friends at Golden Nights Restaurant in Buena Park, California on January 21, 2007. As longtime participants in the Armenian community, Roxie and Hratch Kradjian selected AUA to receive donations in honor of their special milestone, in lieu of gifts resulting in more than 50 donations the University. The Kradjians have been long time supporters of AUA and were especially excited to support AUA at such an important time in the University's development.



Giving to AUA

Are you interested in contributing to AUA? We hope so! Many opportunities exist to donate including establishing a scholarship, transferring stocks or other negotiable assets, making a donation which is matched by your employer, and by donation through check or credit card. The American University of Armenia Corporation is a registered IRC Section 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please contact AUA's development office at (510) 987-9125 or donations@auac.net for more information.

New Development Website

We are happy to announce that the Development Office at AUA has just launched its new website. Visit us today at www.auac.net.

Please send any comments or suggestions for improving the website to development@auac.net.

E-mail version of Inside AUA

Prefer to receive an electronic version of *Inside AUA* instead of a hardcopy? Click on "Sign Up for Mailing List" on the Development website at www.auac.net to update us with your current e-mail and post address. (AUA does not share its mailing list with outside organizations and all online transactions are secure.)

ALUMNI NEWS

AUA ALUM REPRESENTS ARMENIA

A UA double graduate Tatul Hakobyan, MBA, MPH, has been the Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia since 2002. Dr. Hakobyan has been selected to serve on the Board for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI Alliance) representing the Developing Country Constituency. The GAVI Alliance is a unique partnership that combines public and private sector resources to bring the benefits of immunization to children in need.

The Secretariat of the Board received a number of highly qualified nominations, but stated that Dr. Hakobyan “stood out for his reputation as an outstanding Deputy Minister of Health.” This is the first time the Alliance Board has included a voice from the Eastern European region. The letter of appointment states that Dr. Hakobyan’s “unique perspective and first-hand knowledge of the unique challenges to health service delivery in the Eastern European region will be an invaluable addition to meeting discussions.”



PROFILE

The Board of Trustees of the American University of Armenia Corporation appointed Dr. Lucig Danielian as the University’s first Provost in November 2006. Dr. Danielian serves as chief academic and operations officer for the University in the position of Provost and Vice President. Dr. Danielian has been on faculty at AUA since 1995, has served as the Associate Dean and then Dean of the School of Political Science and International Affairs, and has developed the Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis into a successful research institution as its director. She is an active member of several academic and professional organizations and serves on the boards of several Armenian organizations and publications, including the Open Society Institute Armenia Foundation which she chairs.



In commenting on her background, AUA President Dr. Haroutune Armenian stated, “Dr. Danielian’s strong academic and leadership credentials, her research and administrative abilities, and last, but not least, her genuine interest and unconditional dedication to AUA has always been appreciated by the University’s community. She has dedicated much of her professional life to AUA and serving the institution as Provost and Vice President is a natural continuation of her commitment to the achievement of the University’s mission.”

Dr. Danielian earned her PhD from the University of Texas at Austin and was a faculty member at the University at Albany, State University of New York, from 1988-1994 where she received a University Faculty Fellowship for research on mass communication and democratic movements in Armenia, USSR. She has been the recipient of the Harvard University Goldsmith Research Award, a Fulbright Fellowship, an IREX Advanced Research Fellowship, and a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies Joint Committee on Soviet Studies. Dr. Danielian has published in journals such as the American Journal of Political Science and the Journal of Communication, is the author of several book chapters and has many publications directly related to Armenia and public policy.

AUA Donor Naming Opportunities in the new Paramaz Avedisian Building

Large Lecture Hall with Furnishings (1).....	\$1,000,000
Guest Suite with Furnishings (1).....	\$500,000
Gallery with Furnishings (1).....	\$250,000
Tiered Classroom with Furnishings (2).....	\$200,000
Student Café with Furnishings (1).....	\$150,000
Classroom with Furnishings (14).....	\$130,000
Conference Room with Furnishings (2).....	\$115,000
Wet Laboratory with Furnishings (1).....	\$75,000
Laboratory with Furnishings (2).....	\$50,000
Seminar Room with Furnishings (8).....	\$45,000
Library Room with Furnishings (7).....	\$40,000
Dean's Office with Furnishings (7).....	\$35,000
Research Room with Furnishings (5).....	\$35,000
Faculty Office with Furnishings (33).....	\$20,000

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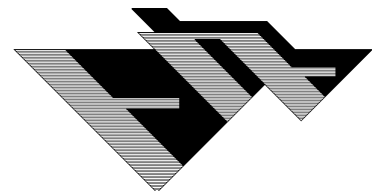
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