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AGBU CONTINUES ITS SUPPORT OF THE FRENCH UNIVERSITY IN ARMENIA

The 22 best students of UFAR received scholarship certificates

On March 9th, AGBU presented 30,000 USD in scholarships to 22 students of the French University in Armenia (UFAR). The ceremony took place at the Yerevan-based institution of higher learning. AGBU and UFAR have been cooperating on a



22 best students of the French University in Armenia received scholarship certificates from AGBU

number of projects since 2004. Starting in 2007, within the framework of this cooperation, AGBU has supported the University in covering the tuition expenses for a select number of students. For the last five years, over 100 UFAR students have received this financial support of AGBU.

In her opening remarks Rector of the French University in Armenia,

Joëlle le Morzelec, expressed her gratitude to AGBU for its continuous support to the university. *"We've been cooperating in this field for seven years now, and both UFAR and AGBU are guided by the policy of simplifying the professional development of our students. Over the years, AGBU has provided scholarships to the best and brightest students of UFAR, for which we are very thankful. We have very close ties with the AGBU and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the organization. They are always by our side and support us in every possible way"*, she said.

They are always by our side and support us in every possible way", she said.

AGBU Central Board member Vasken Yacoubian and AGBU Education Director Artoun Hamalian presented the mission and projects of AGBU, emphasizing the fields of education and culture, to attendees. *"The criteria, based on which the students receive scholarships, have been decided jointly by AGBU and UFAR. The brightest students who have gained the required credits receive it, and this year we recognized 22 individuals,"* said Yacoubian. Artoun Hamalian added, *"It has always been AGBU's policy to support the development and compatibility of our new generation, so that they can reach their goals and find their place in today's society."*

UFAR students also thanked AGBU for this assistance mentioning that it gives them additional incentive to study better and they are further encouraged by the importance and value placed on education in Armenia.

"This initiative gives us the opportunity to concentrate solely on our education and not be distracted by financial responsibilities", said UFAR student Anna Mardoumian.



(From left) AGBU Central Board member Vasken Yacoubian, AGBU Education Director Artoun Hamalian, UFAR rector Joëlle le Morzelec

For the video materials please visit:
[AGBU donation to UFAR \(H1 TV\)](#)
[AGBU donation to UFAR \(Shant TV\)](#)
[AGBU donation to UFAR \(Yerkir Media TV\)](#)
[AGBU donation to UFAR \(Kentron TV\)](#)

THIRD ROUND OF THE 5TH REPUBLICAN INTERSCHOOL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP KICKS OFF

The 5th Republican Interschool Chess Olympiad is currently underway and for the fourth consecutive year AGBU is sponsoring the Championship. This project is the initiative of the Armenian Chess Federation under the auspices of the Republic of Armenia's Ministry of Education and Science. AGBU enjoys the status of Vice President of the Championship's organizing committee. Schoolchildren from all the regions of Armenia and Artsakh compete to reach the finals.

The I and II rounds of the Olympiad took place in October-December 2010. The third round kicked off on March 15th and will continue until April 15th. 12 Yerevan schools that had won in the first two rounds of the Olympiad competed with each other at the Yerevan Municipality on March 24-25. All 12 teams received presents from AGBU. Most successful at the Yerevan tournament were school #55 (3rd prize), school #190 (2nd prize) and school #170 (1st prize). These three Yerevan schools will continue the struggle in the finals that will take place in Dilijan in May. Currently, other matches of the 3rd round are underway in all the regions of Armenia and Artsakh.



12 Armenian schools compete with each other at the Yerevan City Hall



#170 school team - winner of the Yerevan tournament

The aim of the national championship is to promote a love of chess among schoolchildren and identify talented young people who can grow to be future champions in the sport, helping to continue Armenia's role as a major player in world chess competitions.

AGBU has already donated more than 4000 chess sets and 150 chess clocks to the schools of Armenia and Artsakh, thereby creating a solid base for the development of chess in the Republic. Thanks to AGBU's financial assistance this year the participants of the tournament will receive additional chess sets, chess clocks and magnetic chess boards. The winners of the final will receive laptops.

Present at the Yerevan match were Vice President of the RA Chess federation Smbat Lputyan, AGBU Armenian Representation Director Ashot Ghazarian, Deputy Mayor of Yerevan Vano Vardanian, other officials and guests.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA HOSTED TWO-TIME OLIMPIAD CHAMPION GM VLADIMIR HAKOBIAN

On February 18th, one of Armenia's star chess players and two-time Olympiad champion, GM Vladimir Hakobian held a question/answer discussion for the AUA community. He reflected on over two decades of successful career both as an individual player and as a member of the Armenian team, including his experiences playing against fellow top competitors worldwide. The discussion was followed by a simultaneous match against members of AUA's faculty/staff/students/alumni who qualified from a qualification tournament held the previous week. Both the discussion and the simultaneous match were open to the public. The lecture, qualification match and the simultaneous match were organized by the College of Engineering in conjunction with the Student Council of AUA.



GM Vladimir Hagopian and Dean of the AUA College of Engineering Aram Hajian play chess during the simultaneous match

The American University of Armenia Corporation (AUAC) is registered as a non-profit organization in the United States and as the American University of Armenia Fund (AUA) in Armenia. The American University of Armenia (AUA) is affiliated through AUAC with the Regents of the University of California. Receiving major support from the AGBU, USAID and private donors, AUA offers instruction leading to the Master's degree in eight graduate programs. AUA is accredited in the US. By the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, one of seven regional accrediting organizations recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about AUA visit www.aua.am.

ARMENIAN STATE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA TRYING TO INVOLVE YOUTH IN CLASSICAL ARTS

The Armenian State Philharmonic Orchestra's billboard for the February 18th concert was a surprise for everyone: it invited music lovers to the Armenian-Russian (Slavonic) University hall at 15:00pm - an unusual time and place for a concert of classical music. Young and talented violinist Anush Nikoghosian was an invited soloist at the concert conducted by Maestro Eduard Topchjan. The program included Dvorak's violin symphony and passages from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" ballet.

To raise interest toward classical music among the youth and develop taste for the classic arts the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra has come forth with an interesting and encouraging initiative of holding a series of concerts at higher educational institutions around Armenia.

The concert at the Armenian-Russian University raised great interest among the youth, who constantly asked about the time and place of the next concert in the series.

The next concert took place at the Yerevan State Medical University on March 8th - International Women's Day. Present at the concert was Maestro Eduard Mirzoyan, who was warmly greeted by YSMU vice rector M. Narianian, and APO Principal Conductor Eduard Topchjan. The concert program included Mozart's 40th symphony and Eduard Mirzoyan's "Shushanik". Lasting applause were rewarded with an additional performance of Mozart's "Hallelujah" performed by soloist Hasmik Torosian.



APO performed at the Armenian-Russian University

APO Director Rusanna Sirunian said that the orchestra's initiative of holding concerts at higher educational institutions received RA Culture Ministry's support. *"We have so far met and agreed with the rectors of three universities: Armenian-Russian, Yerevan State Medical and Pedagogical universities. As well as the Friday evening concerts at "Aram Khachatrian" concert hall, APO will perform at the mentioned universities. We have selected popular classical pieces, which we are sure will appeal to the youth. Let's not forget that today's youth is the generation of the beginning of the 90's, who, among other things, were also deprived of any interaction with classic art"*, said Mrs. Sirunian. She also mentioned that entrance to these concerts would be free of charge.

"We are bringing classical music to our youth - the future of our country", Maestro Eduard Topchjan



The second concert in the series took place at the Yerevan State Medical University

During these concerts the students will also have the opportunity to listen to famous guest musicians from different countries, who, apart from the regular concerts at "Aram Khachatrian" concert hall, will also perform with APO at the universities.

"We are also planning to hold meetings and master classes with Maestro Eduard Topchjan, guest conductors and musicians, APO musicians", said Mrs. Sirunian.

The mentioned universities have been selected because of correspondence of their halls to the required standards.

As a result of the negotiations with university rectors it has been decided to establish groups of classical music lovers.

The next concert in the series will take place on April 7 at the Yerevan State Pedagogical University.

Thank you Armenian State Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Eduard Topchjan for this wonderful and encouraging initiative.

AGBU ARMENIAN REPRESENTATION'S NKR PROJECTS COORDINATOR SASSOUN BAGHDASSARIAN IN AUSTRALIA

Sassoun Baghdassarian, Karabakh projects coordinator of the AGBU Armenian Representation, paid a visit to Australia from February 9 to March 3. Among other meetings and visits, Sassoun Baghdassarian also met with AGBU Sydney Chairman Toros Boghosian, AGBU members and youth circles and presented AGBU's projects and activities in Armenia and Artsakh.



AGBU NKR project coordinator S. Baghdassarian met with AGBU Sydney members

During the February 12th meeting with AGBU Sydney Chairman Toros Boghosian they discussed the current projects of the Union in Australia, Armenia and Artsakh and possible prospects for future cooperation.

On February 22nd, Sassoun Baghdassarian was hosted at SBS, one of the top radio stations in Sydney, to speak about AGBU's patriotic activities and answer the questions of the Armenian community of Australia. The projects implemented in Artsakh, particularly the repopulation project and its role from the perspective of conflict resolution were the most touched upon issues.

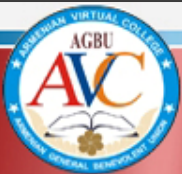
On February 25th, AGBU Sydney members and youth structures hosted Sassoun Baghdassarian at AGBU Alex Manougian Cultural Center. Once again the guest presented AGBU's activities in Armenia and Artsakh particularly emphasizing its education and youth programs including the summer internship programs, "Discover Armenia", "Antranik" scout camp, Yong Professionals' activities and the Armenian Virtual College. At the end of the meeting he also answered the questions raised by the local Armenian community about the Union's programs, the situation in Artsakh and the region, and the peaceful resolution of the conflict.



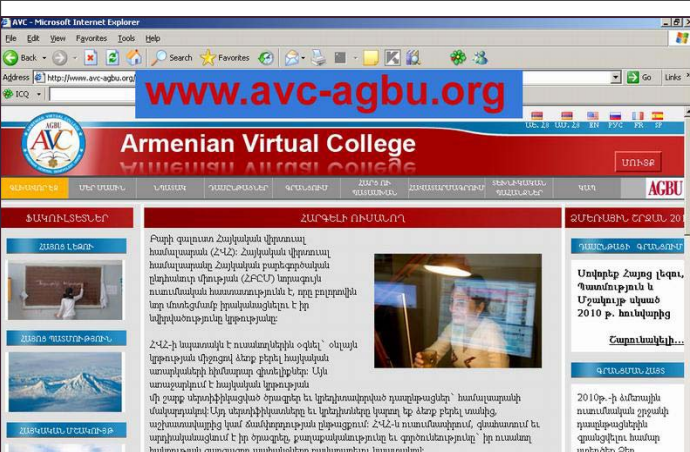
(From left to right) S. Manoukian, T. Boghossian, S. Baghdassarian, H. Abolakian, G. Setian and A. Karagelinian (back row)

For the radio interview please visit the [SBS website](http://www.sbs.com.au)

AGBU AVC ANNOUNCES ENROLLMENT FOR SPRING TERM - 2011



Armenian Virtual College



The AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC) is pleased to announce the enrollment for Spring Term 2011. The following courses are offered in multiple languages (including Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, English, French, Russian and Spanish) and on multiple levels:

- Eastern Armenian;
- Western Armenian;
- History of Armenia;
- Introduction to Armenian Architecture;
- Introduction to Armenian Music.

The classes start on April 11, and end on June 14. To enroll, please visit AVC portal at www.avc-agbu.org, create a [log-in](#) and submit your [enrollment application](#). For questions, please contact: enrollment@avc-agbu.org AVC enables Armenian education anytime anywhere!

AGBU YOUNG PROFESSIONALS' WORLDWIDE GROUPS SUPPORT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

Since 2001, the AGBU Young Professionals (YP) have lent their financial support to the American University of Armenia giving nearly \$29,000 in total to subsidize the university's annual membership fee to the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Digital Library, as well as for student scholarships.

As AUA prepares its graduate students to play a constructive role in the social and economic development of Armenia, the AGBU Young Professionals believe that education is one of the best ways to give back to Armenia by helping AUA students of today help the Armenia of tomorrow.

The AGBU YP Groups and YP Partner organizations who have donated over the years include: YP Boston, YP Greater New York, YP Los Angeles, YP Montreal, YP Northern California, and HAIK from Frankfurt, Ger-



AUA student T. Sargsyan using the ACM Digital Library sponsored on an annual basis by AGBU YP groups around the world



A view of ACM Digital Library at the American University of Armenia

many.

Continuing its annual tradition a decade later, YP Groups from North America to Europe most recently teamed up to donate \$2,200 to the ACM Digital Library which advances education in computing and information technologies.

For more information about the AGBU Young Professional, please visit www.agbu.org/yp.

AGBU YP YEREVAN HOSTED BIRTHRIGHT ARMENIA DELEGATION AT AGBU ARMENIAN REPRESENTATION

AGBU YP Yerevan met with Birthright Armenia volunteers and staff on March 16th at the AGBU offices. The meeting was initiated by Birthright and AGBU staff who felt that although very different in background, the mission of YP Yerevan and Birthright were similar and they would benefit greatly from getting to know one another.



AGBU YP Yerevan and Birthright Armenia met to discuss future cooperation

The meeting was attended by Sevan Kabakian Executive Director of Birthright, Gohar Khachatryan Program Coordinator at Birthright, Anna Aghajanian AGBU YP Yerevan Liaison as well as Birthright volunteers and YPs.

Both groups had presentations on their projects and activities and following lengthy discussions regarding potential future cooperation decided that the first project to work on would be with the Foundation for Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) at the end of April.

Birthright Armenia was founded in 2003 and its mission is to strengthen ties between the homeland and Diasporan youth by affording them an opportunity to be a part of Armenia's daily life and to contribute to Armenia's development through work, study and volunteer experiences, while developing life-long personal ties and a renewed sense of Armenian identity.

AGBU AND HOLY SEE CHILDREN'S CENTERS ANTICIPATED GUESTS AT VARIOUS CULTURAL EVENTS

AGBU and Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin Children's Centers have been operating in Yerevan for about 20 years now. They have an established role in the education and upbringing of our new generation. These centers provide art, computer, crafts, dance, gymnastics, language, music and sport programs to local children after regular school hours and during the summer. The performing arts troupes of the Children's Centers have always displayed great skill and true professionalism and are always anticipated guests at different cultural events, jubilee evenings and award ceremonies. Here's a brief history of their activities of the past several months.

The holiday of St. Sarkis is celebrated by more and more people in Armenia every year. February was rich with various events on this occasion. A festive concert program with the participation of the Nork Children's Center's "Haykazunk" folk song and dance ensemble and "Armenner" dhol group, took place at the St. Sarkis churchyard on February 19th. Another concert program and an exhibition and sale of works were organized in Vanadzor on the same day upon the initiative of the Gugark Diocese. A roundtable discussion dedicated to the holiday of St. Sarkis was organized in Etchmiadzin on February 14th with the participation of students from different higher educational institutions and Gevorkian Seminary. Recently, the children of the Centers also participated in the celebrations dedicated to the holidays of "Tiarnendaraj" and "Barekendan", and the "St. Vartanants" event at the Yerevan State University .



"Nairi" dance ensemble of the AGBU Children's Centers performed at H. Paronian Theater of Musical Comedy

On March 13th, a piano concert dedicated to the day of beauty and motherhood took place at Nork Children's Center. The performing arts troupes of the Children's Center recently participated in a series of theatrical events and literary evenings including the "Artavazd" award ceremony dedicated to the International Day of Theater, which took place at H. Paronian Theater of Musical Comedy, and the jubilee evening dedicated to the 125th birthday anniversary of the famous poet D. Varujan at the G. Sundukian Academic Theater. "Narek" dance group and "Nork" circus troupe were invited guest performers at both these events. At the end of 2010, the theater class of the Malatia Children's Center participated in the "Nran Hatik" ("Pomegranate Seed") annual theater festival with the performance of "A. Santrosian's "Liar" fairy-tale. Malatia Children's Center dhol group and Arabkir Children's Center dance ensemble were recently hosted at the retirement home of Haghtanak district. They spent hours talking to the residents, telling them interesting stories and entertaining them with an hour-long concert program.

Besides being guest performers at different cultural events, the performing arts groups of the Children's Centers also give solo concerts in packed halls, like the recent concerts of "Haykazunk" ensemble at A. Babajanian hall and "Narek" dance troupe in H. Ghaplarian drama theater.

Nork Children's Center students were invited to perform at the Annual National Award Ceremony at AI. Spendiarian opera and ballet theater hall on March 27th.

As well as the cultural groups, the Children's Centers' sports groups have had great success. Recently their judo and sambo groups took part in the international junior tournament at the "Dinamo" sport complex and won first and third places.



AGBU Children's Centers were hosted at a Yerevan retirement home

Children's Centers were invited guest performers at last year's celebration of the 65th anniversary of UN at the G. Sundukian Academic Theater. High-ranking officials and diplomats present at this event highly praised the performance of "Narek" dance ensemble and "Armenner" dhol group and expressed their admiration of their skills and professionalism. An exhibition of the children's works was also organized as part of the UN jubilee events.

A painting competition was organized near the Swan Lake in the center of Yerevan on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of Catholicos Karekin II's enthronement. Children of the painting class of the Nork Children's Center participated in this competition.

The doors of the Children's Centers are always open to foreign guests and our diasporan compatriots, who very often express a wish to visit the centers, get acquainted with the beautiful works created by the children and watch their performances. Every year the Nork Children's Center

hosts the AGBU YSIP interns for their Armenian dance classes.

Over the years AGBU Children's Centers' performing arts troupes have traveled to the US, Canada, Russia, Georgia, Uruguay, Brazil and Poland to present their talents at various cultural events attracting tens of thousands of attendees. Next is Beirut, which will host the children from April 1-9.

**AGBU DIASPORA YOUTH PROGRAMS
IN ARMENIA AND MOSCOW FOR SUMMER 2011**

“ANTRANIK” SCOUT CAMP

Age: 13-18
 Dates: July - August, 2011
 Price: 100 USD (air travel not included)

For more information please contact:
 New York Kevork Santourian
 Tel: +212 319 6383 +374 10 512251
 Fax: +212 319 6507 +961 3 375 224
 E-mail: youth@agbu.org E-mail:
 Website: www.agbu.org antranik.agbulb@yahoo.com



“DISCOVER ARMENIA” YOUTH TRIP

Age: 15-18
 Dates: August 6 - 25, 2011
 Price: 895 euro (air travel not included)

For more information please contact:
 New York Hermine Duzian
 Tel: +212 319 6383 +374 10 512251
 Fax: +212 319 6507 +374 93 683173
 E-mail: youth@agbu.org +33 6 76 485873
 Website: www.agbu.org E-mail:
 hduzian@agbueurope.org

YEREVAN SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Age: 19-25
 Dates: June 25 - August 5, 2011
 Price: 1800 USD (air travel not included)
 Scholarships available

For more information please contact:
 New York Yerevan
 Tel: +212 319 6383 Anna Aghajanian
 Fax: +212 319 6507 +374 10 512251
 E-mail: ysip@agbu.org ysip@agbu.am
 Website: www.agbu.org/ysip



MOSCOW SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Age: 19-25
 Dates: June 25 - August 5, 2011
 Price: 2200 USD (air travel not included)
 Scholarships available

For more information please contact:
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AGBU YEREVAN SCOUT GROUPS HOLD AN “OPEN DAY” AND CELEBRATE “BAREKENDAN”

On March 6th, AGBU Yerevan Scout group organized an “open day” at the AGBU and Holy Etchmiadzin Arabkir Youth Center. Divided into several groups the scouts had prepared interesting programs full of humor, dancing, scout games and skills. Many of the songs performed during the evening were written by the scouts themselves. The jury voted for the best team. The event was followed by a reception.

On the same day, the scouts also celebrated one of our church holidays - “Barekendan” - with the staging of Hovanes Tumanian’s famous fairy-tale of the same name. Each had chosen a character from the fairy-tale with corresponding poems. The best character was selected through the voting of the jury. The celebration passed in a very warm and happy atmosphere.



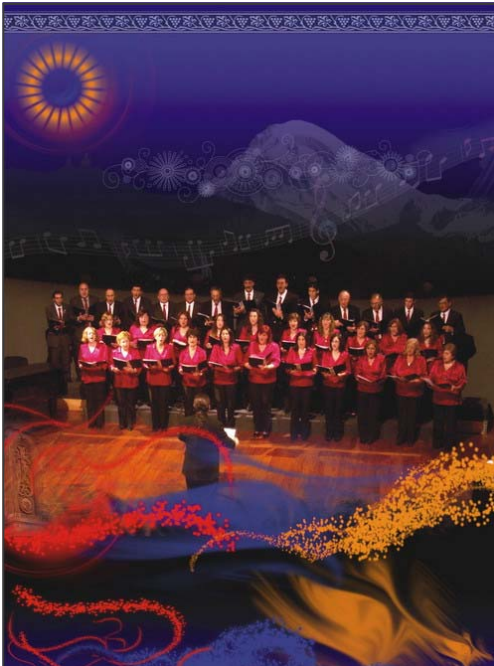
AGBU Yerevan Scouts after the performance of Hovanes Toumanian’s “Barekendan”

AGBU MONTEVIDEO “GROONG” CHOIR TO PERFORM IN ARMENIA

AGBU Montevideo (Uruguay) “Groong” choir will give two concerts in Armenia in April. The first concert will take place on April 26th at “Arno Babajanian” concert hall of Yerevan, while the Gyumri Art Academy will host the choir on April 28th.

The tour is organized with the support of the RA Diaspora Ministry as part of the celebrations dedicated to the 20th anniversary of independence of the Republic of Armenia.

The 32-member “Groong” choir is headed by Alvaro Hakobian, who is also the conductor of the Montevideo Philharmonic Orchestra. The concert program includes Armenian national, folk and “ashough” songs.



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Established in 1906, AGBU (www.agbu.org) is the world's largest non-profit Armenian organization. Headquartered in New York City with an annual budget of \$36 million, AGBU preserves and promotes the Armenian identity and heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programs, annually touching the lives of some 400,000 Armenians on six continents.

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