

**Ivane
Javakhishvili
Tbilisi
State
University
Newspaper has
been published
since 1927**



Tbilisi State University
announces mobilization
of intellectual forces against
Russia's aggression



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Major Message of Jubilar University: Intellectual Activity Initiates Battle for Freedom

As usual, studies should have started on the 1st September –the Minister of Education and Science, Gia Nodia made this decision public before Russia waged the wide-scale military aggression against Georgia. The notorious August events have changed the plans and the mood naturally characteristic for the beginning of each academic year. On the 1st September with an overall motto "Stop Russia" all Georgia stood up to form a "Live Chain" willing to draw the world's attention to the major message of Georgian people: "We claim the return of our invaded native lands". On the 1st September students of our university organized an action with a note of protest – "Georgia Is Ours". The students need a stable environment to acquire education, so they stand today in defense of Georgia against the Russian aggression instead of sitting peacefully at their desks in the auditoriums.



After going through the calamities of war the University started studies on 29th September and the acceptance ceremony of students was quite a modest one. However, all are charged with a strong feeling of protest and a desire to communicate: "We want a free country" – the whole university society has signed this common wish; the society that has repeatedly highlighted during this year, the year when we celebrate the 90th anniversary of our first university, the invaluable services of the first Georgian University, so faithfully defending the national cause from the very day of its foundation. Nobody has expected, that in the twenty first century we would have to start our fight for freedom with the Russian

tanks aiming at us and that we would be search for our reservists among the survived.

"It is very important that today all educational institutions prove by their functioning that this war failed to undermine their activity", - says the Minister for Education and Sciences. This is the pathos overwhelming the University as it starts anew its activities, though it does not imply only the beginning of studies; the university intends to propose anti-crisis plans and concepts, thus expressing its strong support to the country under a conflict. And eventually, it will develop into a speech the University is going to make before the Georgian public on the 90th anniversary of its foundation.

Congratulation of the President of Georgia

To the students, professors, administration and all the graduates of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Congratulations on the 90th anniversary of the first Georgian University. I was always proud that this cradle of education had a say in each important stage of development of the country.

I am happy that the primary values of the university are academic freedom, professional and civil honesty, consolidation of research and education, responsibility to the public. We should support the university to fulfill its obligations.

This day has a historical meaning for us. Nowadays, great, revolutionary changes are taking place in the consciousness of the public and the main strategist of third change is the University. The country's priority is to prepare

qualified teachers, experts and specialist in all spheres, develop science, bring researchers working abroad and learn from their experience. The university was founded by Georgians, who came back from abroad. Our nation is so small, that we cannot afford to lose intellectuals. Therefore, we should think about bringing back to the native land those scientists who work abroad. We should assist the distinguished youth to continue their education in the leading universities throughout the world.

We all should participate in creation of the united Georgia's future. We should protect independence of the country together. In this regard the intellectual part of the university can play a decisive role. The strength of Georgia is in its solidarity.

I would like to see the univer-



sity in the role of a guide of the nation in the future too. We need the society with free thinkers and high sense of responsibility. We need prudent opposition. And we need to preserve these values for our children. Tbilisi State Univer-

sity has been leading this work for years.

Once again congratulations on the 90th anniversary of the university and I wish you great success.

Mikheil Saakashvili
The President of Georgia

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We should always bear in mind the burden of responsibility which Georgian society associates with the university

An interview with the rector of Tbilisi State University, professor Giorgi Khubua

The academic year in Georgia should have started on 1st September but on that day entire Georgia stood in a 'live chain' given the situation in our country - the consequences of military actions in war against Russia. What is the role of Tbilisi State University in given situation and what are the duties it has to perform? How possible is it to get involved into the implementation of an anti-crisis program which would utilize our intellectual potential, i.e. offering our ideas or scientifically elaborated strategic plans?

Nino Kakulia

Through its entire history the University has always cherished the idea of Georgian statehood and independence. The University couldn't have been indifferent to the consequences of the Russian aggression in our country. Like the entire Georgian society, it stood up for our country. Many staff members and students actively participated in combat. Social activity of our students is also worth noting: a number of activities have been arranged and among them the ones to support the internally displaced people.

The University is facing a new challenge in connection with the defense of the Georgian statehood. In this process the first Georgian University has exclusive mission. Our intellectual potential must be used to neutralize all possible threats the Georgian nation and the Georgian statehood are facing today.

The basic social function of TSU is to elaborate anti-crisis programs and long-term projects on state development. In this respect I am sure we can positively contribute to the Georgian politics. Politics cannot be viewed as a reaction to something already happened. Politics is in need of strategic, long-term calculations based on scientific research. Science shouldn't be identified with an abstract idea, cut away from practice. A true theory is always the most practical one. A scientific idea should be first of all systemic (and not fragmentary) and it should foresee all the possible risks and outcomes.

We would like to offer the President and the government of Georgia more active participation in elaborating such long-term programs. In this regard TSU has prospect of close cooperation with friendly universities in the West. Recently I have met the rector of Tallinn University and we discussed the aforementioned issue, as well. They have great experience in working out such long-term programs in Estonia. From the Georgian government point of view (I am sure such interest will be taken in) the University is capable of functioning as a serious partner. This is a good chance for our professorate's self-realization. By the way, conflagration in the Borjomi forest reserve have shown how important is the participation of science in overcoming the aftermaths of natural disasters. Our professors actively participated in stating the degree of the damage caused by the fire and planning the measures to be taken for the rehabilitation of the forest reserves. Such cooperation is mutually beneficial: the state will have a ready-made working program and the professorate of our university will be able to foresee the development of our country in the long-term relying on the latest scientific achievements. The implementation of our plans greatly depends on the political decision which our government has to make with respect to the collaboration with the University.

- Have you got any plans to hold an international conference on the urgent issues you have mentioned?

We are planning to hold an international conference together with the leading western experts and intellectual centers on the issues of economic stability. The main topic will be the maintenance of safe conditions for future investments. The aim of this conference is to discuss the proposals of the experts on neutralizing the existing risks after the Russian aggression in Georgia so that the detrimental effect to the interest of investors is minimalised. Preparatory works for organizing such a conference on this topic are being carried out. We actively collaborate with the US embassy and I hope by the end of this year a scientific conference will be held on this regarding this issue.

- Given the fact that Russia recognized the independence of Abkhazia and Ossetia, how do you see the activity of



the Georgian-Abkhazian Center and the Institute of Institute of Ossetian Studies?

The events in August have shown that our major enemy is neither the Ossetians nor the Abkhazians. Our common enemy, i.e. common enemy for the Abkhaz, the Ossets and the Georgians is Russian imperialism. I am sure that ethnic Abkhaz and Ossetian population is clearly aware of the fact that the development of their ethnicity, culture and language is/in danger due to Russia's aggressive, expansionistic policy.

Hence, we have to convince Ossetian and Abkhazian population that only their reintegration in the united Georgia will ensure the prospects for the future development of these regions. Otherwise, complete assimilation of the Ossetians and the Abkhazians is inevitable. This is what I believe the Abkhaz and the Ossets are well aware of. We can clearly tell them that the right to self-determination doesn't equal to the right to secession. Each of these groups should think of Georgia as a state ensuring their national self-determination which means the development of their culture and language and wider autonomy within the borders of the Georgia.

- 'Why autonomy?' You delivered a lecture dedicated to this problem at the Tbilisi State University. What is your point of view in connection with the restoration of the territorial integrity and national consolidation to that end?

Perhaps now it is not appropriate time to discuss the question of autonomy but in long-term we should see autonomy as the very means for the resolution of all the conflicts existing in Georgia. Everything should be done to maintain it as an urgent issue. What we mean is how Georgian government approaches the problem - How to resolve these conflicts by peaceful means? In my opinion, when discussing the forms of peaceful coexistence with the Abkhazians and the Ossetians, political autonomy would be one of the best ways out of the situation that would enable us to defend our territorial integrity. It is the autonomy which creates the prerequisites to the Abkhazian and the Ossetian development and at the same time maintains Georgia's territorial integrity. However, not all ethnic groups can be the subject to self-determination. International community would have turned into something like a 'suicide club' if approximately 5000 ethnic groups claimed the establishment of independent states and invoked the right to self-determination. Therefore the autonomy is a perfect model designed to encourage the self-determination of ethnic groups on the one hand, and to ensure it is being carried out within the borders of Georgia on the other.

- During the visit of NATO Secretary General Mr. Scheffer to Tbilisi State University, the students put the guest rather acute questions. It was probably conditioned by their expectations towards NATO - hoping NATO to render efficient assistance in resolving world conflicts. But Mr. Scheffer did not promise anything except for Georgia's inevitable affiliation NATO.

NATO is a defensive organization, not designed to resolve conflicts. That's why Mr. Scheffer made it clear that NATO's participation in the conflict resolution would be limited. International organizations such as European Union, OSCE and etc. may play a far more important role in the resolution of these conflicts... That's why we mustn't cher-

ish hopes on NATO and believe that it will resolve our conflicts by military means. In resolving these conflicts at present Georgia has more partners than before the August events. It became clear for the international community how destructive the role of Russia is in the region. Now they are aware of the fact that Russia can't be a mediator between the contesting states. Prior to events in August we were reminded of the crucial role of Russia in the conflict resolution. Today many western states and Germany among them admit that they are unwilling to make these conflicts "freeze" another 15 years. It became clear worldwide that Russia is interested in the instability of the Caucasian region as far as it enables Russia to maintain its influence. In stable environment Russia would soon lose the influence it has. So the changing attitude of IC towards Russia will create a prospect in the sense that we will no longer be alone in regulating Abkhazian or Ossetian conflicts.

Now I am more hopeful in this respect. After the events in August Russia undermined all the hopes that the Western Europe had. It became clear that Russia does not recognize a contemporary system of world order; it does not comply with the fundamental rules of the system. I am certain that international community won't let unilateral revision of international order take place under Russia's dictate.

- Some public figures think, that university hasn't got that level of independence as it used to. In the past all the waves of protest came from it. Some of them think, that autonomy is merely formal. What is your opinion about that?

University is not the place of destructive actions. It enables us to protest and contradict the ideas opposing Georgian statehood, the idea of independence and so forth. Fortunately, the University has never failed in this respect.

When Georgia was not an independent country, university defended the idea of Georgian statehood. Today, when we build our state, nothing could be of greater national interest than the creation of highly qualified specialists. We are an academic scientific institution and we have our mission. At the same time, I am glad, that we have very active students with liberal positions. Criticism and new ideas are welcome. But the criticism must be constructive and directed to the process of creation. University is not a place of political activity.

As for the autonomy, university does not lack it. It means, that activities within the University should not be influenced or approved by strangers. Everything begins and ends at the university.

- When the university hotline began functioning a lot of people called and asked the questions. They asked about the tuition fees for refugees and their privileges.

According to the decision of our state the tuition fees for refugees will be paid from the budget. At the same time, we decided to give grants which would cover 10% of the master's level tuition fees to the students from the regions of conflict.

- The primary function of our university is the provision of high-quality education. What was done for the improvement of teaching programmes?

We have partially modernized teaching programmes (Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral), but the process of improvement is ongoing and a special group is working on it. I hope, that we will be able to modernize teaching programmes of two

faculties (The Faculty of Humanities and The Faculty of Social and Political Sciences) together with the leading universities of Western Europe. Our programmes will be focused on the professional qualifications of our students in order to ensure their competitiveness in a free labour-market. At the same time, we will create a special structure, which will promote the development of academic personnel.

- Do you have any Master's programmes that meet the needs of the labour-market? Will these programmes enable us to attract more students?

It's a growing trend. The number of candidates for master's level increased this year. Of course, we want to have more masters at our university, but quality is our primary concern. We have to offer new and modernized master's programmes. At the same time, we want to improve our marketing activities with regards to these programmes at the faculties. This would entail explaining to each student the qualities of the qualifications offered and the beneficial effect on their further professional career. A lot must be done in this direction. We need to use more aggressive advertising. The current management of these programmes has its deficiencies but we intend improve them through cooperation with our professorship.

- According to this year's data a lot of secondary school graduates wanted to enter the faculties of Economics or Law. What has to be done to attract secondary school graduates to the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences?

In my opinion, the division of the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences into the Faculty of Natural Sciences and the Faculty of Mathematics and Information Technologies will increase students' interest. At the same time, our University has started working with secondary schools. We can see the first results in schools of young chemists and physicists formed at the University. It means, there is a growing interest among schoolchildren in sciences we are guiding them.

- Our university had great achievements in scientific research in the past. What is happening now? What has to be done for the development of science?

We want to be a university which encourages scientific research and uses its research potential to a full extent. We are going to define our priorities with regards to science. It's impossible to develop all the fields of scientific study equally. Therefore, we have to define the spheres, which will meet current demands.

We began a serious project of commercialization science. That is to say, to create and improve connections between business and different fields of science. The sphere of business has been developing in Georgia but there is no tradition of a dialogue between businessmen and scientists. Generally, science is a big industry and university has to develop industrial abilities and encourage initiative.

- What can you tell us about announced vacancies? Did they attract valuable academic staff?

We were never short of prominent faces at our university. The latest announcement of vacancies brought a lot of new professors who enriched our staff. We are modifying the infrastructure of our university and making it more attractive for them. At the same time, we plan to change the system of salaries. For instance, a professor at the faculty of Law has the same amount as a lawyer at the Supreme Court. We started this process at the faculty of Law because a lot of prominent specialists from the university moved into legal practice. Now we plan to go on with this process at other faculties in order to return the lost prestige associated with science.

- How valuable is the celebration of the 90th jubilee of university? How are you going to celebrate it?

This date obliges us to do a lot. Our university is the first Georgian University. That's why we have to be traditional as well as modern... The 90th jubilee is not an ordinary occasion and we celebrate it with the greatest pride and respect for all the generations of graduates of our university. At the same time, we have to be focused on the future and always remember our responsibilities to Georgian society.

Current Conflicts Aught To Be Settled Through The Aspect Of Intellectual Rivalry

An interview given by Mr. Gia Nodia, the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia



Nino Kakulia

- Different experts in Russia give different reasoning to the plan of Georgia's occupation. Though facts cannot be averted. The course of events in August in Georgia let the world see, that our struggle for independence and freedom towards integration in the European structures – Russia responds with aggression, being ready to employ any ways, however mean, to undermine Georgia's statehood. It is interesting to hear of your position as that of a Government representative, about the ways, sought by every Georgian, potent to bring along the conflict resolve. What does University have to do to this end?

- To sensibly evaluate this conflict finding out about the stake, betted on this war by Russia – one will see, that the latter went for it not for South Ossetia, Abkhazia or Didi Liakhvi Gorge, but for Georgia itself, whose fate was to be tipped on the scale. However, international diplomacy played a decisive role in this line. It is of great importance to determine the working strategy for different institutions in Georgia to adhere to, including Institute of State Government, any institute of an economic incline or others. The strategies of educational institutions are of the same essence, through functioning ascertaining the fact that this war was unable to even emasculate their activities.

Our system of education was submit-

ted to some kind of particular pressure by having to give shelter to a number of replaced people from the regions of conflict. However, studies were resumed on September at all the institutions unflinching. Consequently, the Tbilisi State University sees its objective in the enhancement of the activities, underscoring the fact, that Georgia, as a state and a country, exists to withstand military provocation of any kind.

- Having experienced the war, to date Georgia is in need of its own intellectual employment to build the state. It is of our interest whether you see the necessity to incorporate in working out of anticrisis concepts and plans the scientific experts in order to provide the due competence. How do you envisage the University in this respect?

- Intellectual circles possess a special, so to say, two types of mission and function. Besides educational activities, what is most remarkable, they also undertake to fulfill certain moral and leadership functions.

This sort of mission has been imposed upon them by society itself. It is of utmost importance for a nation to be aware of the position of universities, scientists and errudites... It must be noted, that the function mentioned above, has to certain extent be realized by universities – the committees of resistance established, have played a great part as regards public opinion. As well as this, the expertise function carried out by universities is of great significance, as universities assemble the nation's greatest intellectual potential, that must work out concepts and strategies. Naturally, the strategies of economic, political and military character are formulated by experts of social sciences, their best part concentrated mostly in different research centers, but still sufficiently remained at the universities. Proceeding from our past experience, one has to admit, that social sciences were less developed, due to the reason of being under the influence persisting ideology. Consequently, the schools we have in this line are less sophisticated. This is the reality we have, however scornful. It is therefore regarded, that universities should advance these branches of knowledge, set up groups of experts, trying to enable conflict resolve exclusively by virtue of intellectual rivalry. The more modern the mind set is of the country, the more chances

there are for its people and the state to be succeeding.

- As a university graduate, do you think that the Tbilisi State University has been carrying on the function it had?

- That is very true. More than that, it has been doing by far better than it used to - under the Soviets - at that time being unable to play a part of any social actor. It can't have had function in the state of totalitarianism. It could have been risked only by individuals but never by institutions, which would not have been pardoned their social enthusiasm. However, to date the universities are in fact chanced to realize the mission. In other words, under the circumstances of academic and civil freedoms of the nation, it rests on the universities to pursue this function, being not solely educational, but also provides activities from the view point of the formation of the public view, being a think-tank for the public.

- Do you think it is possible at all to think of renewing the relationships with Russia through bringing into action the intellectual resources?

- Relationships between individuals have always existed and will be existing ever. The university can possibly be transformed into a place, where individuals might meet. It is of no doubt, that sensible people exist in Russia as well, including scientists, the contacts with whom we see simply to be vital. It is my personal thought, that it must happen on the individual level rather than institutional, as it refers to the issue of civil responsibility, being in the first place the responsibility of an individual. With the situation in Russia today, it would be naive to think that any of their universities would be anyway inclined to develop an independent position or adequately assess the actions, taken by their government. However, these individuals do exist and it is essentially important to contact them.

- What about seriousness of the tendency obstacles brought by the Russian aggression to the educational reforms?

- This aggression was aimed at the collapse of the Georgian State. Our country was expected to be obliterated as a real sovereign unit, Georgians turning into Russians' satellites – was the intent and the main motive force of Russia's aggression, – Georgia, nevertheless is on the same rails

of action as before. In order to be a state and possess enough strength to develop economically and politically – one ought to select the best of the best models and that is our target goal.

The latter being served by the strides we make towards the North Atlantic Alliance and the European structures.

It is obvious, that the Russian aggression has impeded us in certain aspects, but it failed to derail us from the track on which we were. The same refers to the educational system. It is a fact, that we have suffered losses, that measures in Lari and figures, (losses sometimes measure in the tempo of reforms as well, for novelty implementation encounters expenses); yes, we become hampered in certain directions, but what was to be done, let's say, in September might be shifted onto November; what was intended to do by 2008 may possibly start in 2009. Otherwise, the impediment we were given is of no material change for the educational system.

- Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University has become 90 years old. To mark the date against the background of the events unfolded in the Republic, makes us more intent to single out its role in the life of the Georgian Nation. What would be your regards for the jubilee of our Alma Mater?

- Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University is a special institution for the history of Georgia of XXth XXIst centuries. Its anniversary must be celebrated jointly. Every jubilee is a solemnity of achievements and the path, paved in the past; on the other hand, it means to be looking ahead in order to provide for even more ambitious plans for future.

It is actual for the university and every other educational institution to embetter professional skills. Consequently, the latter must be a vocation for the university, meaning to adherently attract to its bosom the best of the staff and the students, employing but best methods for lecturing; at the same time, trying to be marked as number one amongst universities, listed by school leavers. Besides, the university ought to find its niche internationally. It is the demand of the time that the university works in a concrete environment – which envisages competition within Georgia and its regions and abroad... The Tbilisi State University is an owner of sufficient resources together with the initial capital for being successful in this concrete setting.

STOP RUSSIA!



Only those nations distinguished by their high intellectual potential will be successful in the 21st century

We are celebrating the 90th anniversary of our National University. 90 years is not a long period in the life of a higher seat of learning if we compare it to the famous Western universities which have existed for hundreds of years.

However, we should begin the history of our University not from 1918, the year of its establishment, but from the existence of higher educational centres in Georgia from the XII century and even earlier. These centres were the most advanced institutions of that time, based on the Hellenic traditions, in which Eastern and Western philosophy, covering all the important spheres of education and science of the period were taught.

The ancient Georgian culture is an embodiment of the Hellenic culture - the symbiosis of Eastern and Western cultures. This is a culture of the country situated on the crossroads of the East and West unifying in itself both, Hellenic-Western cultural influences.

However the development of this ancient Georgian classical culture and education, as well as the advancement of science and culture was hampered by the invasion of barbarian forces of our country simultaneously annihilating the traditions of classical education.

These traditions, now in the form of European education and science, were revived together with the foundation of a Georgian University. This is of great historical significance of our National University. Ivane Javakhishvili's contribution to the Georgian culture and Georgian people should be evaluated from this viewpoint. With the establishment of a new centre of higher education the link between the traditions of classical Georgian Hellenistic education and contemporary Georgian national education and science was restored. Today the latter meets international standards in many fields, and in some cases, even exceeds them and determines the level of development of world science in some spheres of thought. As Ivane Javakhishvili said: „...The science and culture, which had been dead since the end of the 13th century, rose from the dead... On January 26 a lot of people came to attend the first session. The

powerful circles (the Mensheviks) met this fact with reserve... ”

The establishment of the Georgian National University in 1918 was an extremely important event in respect of the statehood of the country; state organisation is generally unimaginable without national higher education and science.

It is significant that the restoration of the independence of the Georgian state in 1918 coincides with the restoration of the higher educational institution in Georgia. At the same time, the establishment of the Georgian National University gave cultural and scientific support and was the main guarantor of an independent Georgian state. That is exactly why the founder of the national higher education and new Georgian science, the great Ivane Javakhishvili after whom Tbilisi State University is named today, should be considered as one of the main standard-bearers of Georgian state independence. From this viewpoint it is significant to mention the high degree of resistance to our proposal to name the University after Ivane Javakhishvili at the 70th jubilee anniversary in 1988. Only as a result of great efforts, after the tragic events of April 9, 1989, was it possible to realise this proposal, and to give Tbilisi State University the name of its founder. This was accepted by the whole Georgian society with great enthusiasm.

For Georgian people the establishment of Tbilisi State University did not just mean setting up an ordinary higher educational institution. It was the formation of the national



cultural centre which was to revive and further develop the ancient Georgian science and culture and lead the Georgian people - an original, independent nation with its rich cultural past, present and future - towards international recognition.

In the 21st century only the nations and countries distinguished by their high intellectual potential will be successful. In future the place of a nation and country in the world will be determined not only by its numbers and military strength, but by the criteria of its intellectual and cultural standards and its historical contribution to the civilization of mankind.

Georgian people have all the characteristics to maintain an advanced position among the civilized peoples. The guarantee of this is its high spiritual values and intellectual potential.

Our powerful spiritual factors - our science and culture - should unify the people

and restore the general consensus, which are essential for our further existence and development. This is the only way forward, and the only means for our spiritual, intellectual, cultural and, in general, national advance to succeed and, at the same time, it is the guarantee for our future success.

I trust that Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, the traditional centre of advanced Georgian science and culture, as well as the Academy of Sciences which was created on the basis of the University professors and which is the symbol of our national science and the successor of the Gelati academy, will succeed as a powerful means for national consensus and unity, leading the Georgian people, a people of advanced culture, towards wide international recognition in XXI century

Tamaz Gamkrelidze,
President of the Academy of Sciences of Georgia

At the Time Being Apriori Only Fundamental Sciences Are Being Funded

Interview with the Chairman of the Committee for Education and Culture, Mr. Giorgi Gabashvili

Tbilisi State University is moving toward a new stage of reforms. The infrastructure is being updated, curricula refined, new technologies are being introduced. The reform enables the University to provide an actual opportunity to meet the European standards.

What is the Georgian authorities' vision of the perspectives for its development? What specific activities do they plan in order to promote the development of the first Georgian University in different scientific fields? We addressed the Chairman of the Committee for Education and Culture, Giorgi Gabashvili, with these questions, being Tbilisi State University alumnus himself and always recalling the days with pleasure spent at our university.

Maia Toradze

- Tbilisi State University is your home university too. This institution has played a huge role in the revival of Georgian national self-consciousness for over a century. In your view, what role should the university have to play in the process of the democratic development today?

- The primary function of the University is to educate students, but Tbilisi State University, based on its past experience, has also a different function - to be a centre of intellectual and liberal thinking. Even when the Soviet dictatorship dominated in Georgia, free-thinking was always to be encountered at the university. We may recall, for instance,

the events of the April of 1978, when the Communist bureaucracy decided to change the status of the Georgian language. It was Tbilisi State University where the resistance arose, bringing about drastic changes and the maintenance of the Georgian language and its national status even under the imperialistic pressure.

And besides, prior to that, the University carried out scientific researches on the one hand, and on the other hand, provided the studies of political significance. Suffice it to mention the names of our outstanding scientists such as Arnold Chikobava, who founded an intellectual centre of the Caucasian nations

unigmatically to establish strong links with them. This was another political function of the university, as well.

The University also played a considerable role in the collapse of the Soviet Union. I remember the events around Davit Gareji Monastery Complex. It was at this university, where students stimulated actions later transforming into all national movement. At every stage of the modern Georgian history the University was a centre for intellectual activity, always defending our national interests.

- As you mentioned, the university was the intellectual centre. Don't you think that the intellectual forces, accumulated here, could serve as a certain expert force for the estimation of current events and the development of action plans and that to this end they should be more actively employed by the government?

- I can tell you that a lot of people engaged in expert and non-governmental organisations are professors of different universities of Georgia. They are actively involved in the formation of the conceptual approaches. Their views and scholarly conclusions are reflected in the formation of the ideology in all the spheres. I confirm, that the university is a kind of an intellectual centre, influencing politics today.

- The role of the university in the

scientific research work is increasing. The issue of realisation of scientific works becomes actual. What concrete activities do you intend to carry out in order to provide support to the process of 'commercializing science'?

- Naturally, science has a leading role at the university and this role is increasing daily. The process of convergence of the university and scientific research institutes in line of joint researches is under way. The indicator for the distribution of the outcomes of those researches is rising, though the skills for presentation is a different issue.

The level of scientific research works in Georgia, apart from the branches tabooed by the soviet ideology, has not been hampered. It can concern fundamental investigations in humanitarian and Kartvelological studies. Today's demand is to acquire advanced presentation skills for the distribution of the scientific knowledge to enter the competitive market. We have to share the experience of western universities and obtain respective skills. The main problem today is to bring the intellectual product closer to the wider public so that the society acknowledges its highly fundamental value which can have a huge effect on the people's lives in future.

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At the Time Being Apriori Only Fundamental Sciences Are Being Funded

Interview with the Chairman of the Committee for Education and Culture, Mr. Giorgi Gabashvili

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There are scientific projects financed by a grant system. At this stage fundamental sciences are financed a priori, while other branches, such as political sciences and economic scientific projects have to be concerned about raising money themselves.

So, the research work management is highly actual today; it means that it is important not to simply carry out a research, but to seek for the target groups and present the research results in an adequate ways.

- After the reforms an attitude established that the university is not what it used to be, that it has lost its function and turned into a low-ranking educational establishment. Do you think our university is the first educational school in the region and in Georgia?

- I believe it is an absolutely wrong statement that the university has degraded or that it has lost its importance; certainly, not. The thing is, that the university has switched onto new demands to be engaged in the process of the global competition. The university doesn't have to be like what it used to be; today there are more demands and it has to develop according to the European educational principles.

The reform embraces the whole educational system and as far as its process has also become global, the young generation has a wider choice - whether to get education in Georgia or abroad. Consequently, the area for the competition has expanded. Accordingly, the university has to strengthen, as well. More technologies, more new teaching methodologies ought to be introduced and if these processes are conducted properly, the university will develop.

I know, that some projects aiming to update the infrastructure and the content have already been launched and others are just starting.

Modernisation does not imply that the positive university traditions should be forgotten; however, the synthesis of innovation and traditions is the starting point for all

large universities. That is the way universities work – from Harvard to Tokyo, all trying to introduce novelty and take care of their traditions.

- The last data show that the demand for natural sciences has decreased among youngsters, while economic or legal education is highly popular. What should state do in order to interest the young generation in fundamental sciences?

- The development of exact and natural

will show more clearly the need for these sciences – no industry can survive without scientific analysis of its production, though we have to make a breakthrough towards the global market, as well. There are a lot of global projects, where Georgian scientists can participate and succeed. While one of the state functions must be the encouragement and support of scientific community. People should know that when choosing this profession they have a chance to become employed. They must have an in-

these branches must be basically financed by the state, as the ways found by single individuals cannot be conducive to the development of these fields.

- You mentioned the labour market. Are its demands explored in Georgia so that the young generation is not condemned to unemployment long before the studenthood?

- We have to admit that Tbilisi State University has yet to win a competition with some private universities in certain fields. So, it is very important for the university to build more employment-oriented curricula. As I know, they are thinking and working in this direction at the university.

- How would you recall the years spent at the university?

- The years spent at this university are the most exciting for me. In 1991 with support of this university I was sent to Germany as a participant of one of its programs. I continued my studies there for a few years, in my fourth year, I came back to graduate the university.

I like to remember those years, all my lecturers, out of whom some are no longer alive. I would like to mention from amongst my favourite Nodar Kakabadze, a fine man and most enlightened person in Georgia. I love to recall my fellow students, the group-mates, the wonderful feeling of freedom and support prevailing there. I remember how the university administration tried to aware of my advancement in Germany, being glad to hear even about any slightest successes...

- What would you wish the University for its 90th anniversary?

- I wish our university to become (naturally, it will take years) one of the most competitive and high-ranking higher educational establishment, a strong intellectual centre and powerfully potent to contribute to the development and well-being of this country.

I congratulate every employee, student and professor on the 90th jubilee of the university!

It is our country's greatest asset to have had a university known in many countries of the world for 90 years!



sciences is extremely important and this is where scientific circles have to make the greatest effort to update methodology, meaning to be opening a new door. To this end schools have to do a lot to get youngsters interested in these sciences: it is impossible to arouse an interest unless these subjects are presented on a higher level from an earlier age. The question of employment after acquiring the profession is another problem.

The need for up-to-date knowledge – whether in physics, mathematics or any other fundamental sciences is actual in Georgia like in any other country. The labour market

come, to sustain a family and lead a dignified way of life. Certainly there are fanatics and the science stands on them, but as a rule, working places of this kind should be created on the market, as well.

The more the technologies and communications advance, the easier it is to enter a competitive market. We have market analysts, mathematicians, physicists, economists, biochemists, biologists, who deliver their scientific product to various scientific centres in the world through the internet. This is the approach that should become the major strategy for science. Certainly, I mean that

LIVE HISTORY

An Everlasting Idea of Freedom at the University

Since the first day of its existence, Tbilisi State University has always fought for the restoration of the impaired national dignity. Chroniclers have always stressed its mission regarding the formation of the way of thinking of the Georgian nation in terms of its state organization. The university has always been in the centre of events of the social life. Thus it has never been merely an educational and scientific institution. The Georgians, inspired by the idea of freedom and defence of their homeland, honoured their duty to the "White Temple" and left traces of the University in the History of Georgia. The University has never been apolitical and even today it continues to be a sensible and thoughtful observer and participant of the current processes in Georgia.

Vakhtang Guruli



The crisis of the Georgian state system and disintegration of the united Georgian monarchy into separate kingdoms (the second half of XV century) was followed by derogating the role of educational, scientific and cultural centres. The Academies of Gelati and Ikalto ceased to function. The attempts of Vakhtang VI (1744-1724) and Erekle II (1744-1798) were not followed by wide-scale improvements – educational, scientific and cultural centres were not able to regain their old fame.

By the time of the conquering of Georgia by Russia (the beginning of XIX century) there were no educational, scientific and cultural centres in Georgia; there was no organised educational system which could be protected by the state. Practically, there were only two functioning educational cen-

tres at that time – the Seminaries of Tbilisi and Telavi. The weakness of the educational system and absence of educational, scientific and cultural centres made it easier for the Russian Emperor's Court to Russificate primary and secondary schools in Georgia. As for higher education, Georgians could only obtain it in Russia.

The Georgian nation could evade the difficult situation only by establishing a university. Obviously, at that time the language of instruction at the university could only be Russian, but at the first stage this still would be considered to be a great victory. The language of instruction was Russian at Kiev, Yuryev, Warsaw and Odessa universities. However, many famous national scientists and public figures, Georgians among them, were brought up there.

The role of the University in the life of Georgian people, its current and future results, were clearly understood at the Russian Emperor's Court. That was why establishing a university in Georgia remained an unrealized dream during 117 years of forced inclusion of Georgia into the Russian Empire. The dream came true in 1918. This great task of national and state importance was successfully accomplished by Ivane Javakhishvili and his like-minded colleagues.

The demise of the Russian Empire (1917) and the liberation of Georgian people from Russian rule was promptly followed by three

successive momentous events: first the restoration of the autonomy of the Georgian Apostolic Orthodox Church (March 12, 1917); second the establishment of the Georgian (Tbilisi) University (January 26, 1918); third the restoration of a State of Independence in Georgia (May 26, 1918).

These three great events determined the history of the Georgian nation in the twentieth century. The enemy was well aware of this. That was the reason for the beginning of a ruthless struggle. The temporal and religious authorities of Russia did not recognize the restoration of autonomy of the Georgian Church and stubbornly continued the policy of its non-recognition for a quarter of the century. They tried to impede the foundation of Tbilisi University by opening a Russian university, but without success. Russia met the restoration of the state independence of Georgia with unconcealed aggression.

The revenge was taken in 1921. Russia conquered the Democratic Republic of Georgia and established communist rule in the conquered country. On the outskirts of Tbilisi, near Kojori and Tabakhmela, besides others, Tbilisi university students' blood was also shed.

The enemy brutally raided the Georgian Church and Tbilisi University. The eleventh Red Army of Soviet Russia occupied Tbilisi on February 25, 1921.

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An Everlasting Idea of Freedom at the University

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On February 26 representatives of the National Council of Transcaucasian Russians demanded the eleventh Army commanders to close down Tbilisi University.

Under these conditions of annihilating the state system it was possible to save national awareness only due to the existence of the Georgian Church (though it was persecuted) and Tbilisi University (though it was raided). The Georgian Church and Tbilisi University were most dangerous for the Soviet regime. The first strived to save the Georgian spirituality whilst the other served the cause of the resurgence of Georgian Science and Education.

The Georgian Church could not interfere in the politics. However, Tbilisi University in-

terfered in the politics and it did not cease to be an oppositional power for 70 years.

In the 20s and 30s of XX century, under conditions of the Soviet totalitarian regime, professors and students of Tbilisi University were viewed by the Soviet special services as the ideologically opposed power. Periodical raids on the University did not produce any results. In 1928 Lavrenti Beria reported to the Georgian government that half of the University professors and students were against the Soviet regime.

During World War II (1939-1945) the Soviet rule became much more irreconcilable and ruthless against opposition thinking. Even in those hard years the University professors and students did not stop thinking about the freedom of their homeland. It was within the University walls where the idea

about liberating Georgia with the help of the Germans was born. In 1942 after sentencing by the military tribunal, some of conspirator-students were shot whilst others were exiled for a long time.

It seemed that the oppositional thinking after World War II came to a standstill. The triumphant authority suppressed everything that was anti-soviet. But Tbilisi University never ceased thinking about freedom. In 1948 11 students were arrested and 9 of them were sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. Several years passed, and in March 1956 the students of Tbilisi University did not forgive Moscow's humiliation of the Georgian nation. Again there were victims, again the blood of the young was shed...

The great crisis of the Soviet empire began in the 70s of XX century. Empires are built and ruined, but from the conquered nations only those will gain freedom which, in the process of destruction of the empire, will prove that they are worth it.

This epoch of destruction of the Soviet Union was different from the previous epochs. This time Tbilisi University was not alone. All higher educational institutions and the Institutes of the Academy of Science had become strong and powerful centres of the national movement. Some wise man said at that time: "Everyone in Georgia is now one of the University students and lecturers!" It was not only a catch phrase, it was the truth!

And still, the University was the first among the first, it was the initiator of every new movement. People of different age and professions came to our Mother University to find out what the viewpoint of the University people was. Emergence of leaders of the National Movement – Zviad Gamsakhurdia

and Merab Kostava – added a powerful charge to the already charged society.

I am unable to enumerate everybody and everything. I will dwell on the main events with the participation of representatives of all generations of the University. The role and self-sacrifice of the students of that epoch was particularly important.

- A grandiose rally to preserve the status of the Georgian language in the Constitution of Georgia;

- The beginning of the movement in order to derange the 200th anniversary of Georgievsk Treaty;

- Derangement of the introduction of teaching some of the subjects in Russian at Georgian higher educational institutions;

- Protest movement against the beginning of constructing the Transcaucasian railway;

- Beginning a protest movement demanding the stopping of artillery firing at the Gareji polygon;

- This unequal fight with the punitive expedition and tanks of the Russian Army on April 9, 1989 meant once again there was bloodshed... The cost of freedom is very dear!

You cannot expect freedom to come whilst lying in a bed or sitting near a warm fire – this was what the University students and lecturers thought. Many of them had to stay in jails or exile for quite a long time. Their endurance and struggle for success was an example to our society.

From a dream, the eternal idea of freedom became a reality in 1990-1991. For the second time in the XX century the Georgian people managed to restore the lost statehood. This epoch became a fact of history which, without any exaggeration, can be called heroic.



UNIVERSITY TODAY

The Best Part of Youth Still Puts Trust In University

A lot can be said about the role and contribution of the first Georgian university. Any citizen of Georgia can tell you a lot of what they have read or heard about the history of the university. Nowadays the university is writing a new chapter which is as important and interesting as the chapters filled during its long history of ninety years. Perhaps the story is less heroic when we recall the first years of establishment of the university, however today's routine requires mobilization of the same inner-energy and drive. Ivane Javakhishvili Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University has achieved its ambition to be the elite educational institution, not only in the Georgian educational area but across the whole region.

Shurtkhia Beroshvili

The implementation of these objectives began in 2005 with a set of new reforms. In May, 2005, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University joined the Bologna process, which determined the scope of the university development for 2010. In 2008 the approval of the university charter completed the essential part of the reform. The university gained full autonomy.

Being autonomous is one of the essential values of the university for it to function, as is required by the Bologna process. Joining the process was a very important event, with autonomy an important issue as highlighted by opponents in the process of reforms. It can be said that this stage has been completed. The charter is the most important legal document which regulates teaching and research activities, university management and financing policies.

During the reforms, 6 faculties were established in May of 2005 on the basis of the 22 pre-existing faculties. These new faculties are: Exact and Natural Sciences; Humanities; Social and Political Sciences; Economics and Business; Law; and Medicine. There are three educational stages – the bachelor programme, the master programme and the doctoral programme.

Nowadays the number of students at the university is 15 127, among whom there are 13 200 in the bachelor programme, 1 526 in the masters programme and 401 persons working on

their doctoral degree. 1 743 professors, including 893 invited professors, take responsibility to educate the students.

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University implements exchange programs with several partner universities. These universities are: Ca' Foscari (Venice, Itali); Jena, Giessen, Saarland (Germany); Tartu (Estonia); Vilnius (Lithuania); and universities in Latvia. In addition, the faculties independently exchange students with other universities.

Since 2007 Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University has been involved in Erasmus Mundus Open Program, within the framework of which the students, professors and teachers are involved in exchange programs.

Internationalization is a primary objective of the university. Special attention is paid to the implementation of joint programmes for masters and doctoral programmes. These kinds of programmes are already implemented with the leading western universities of Berlin, Frankfurt, Odessa, Central European University of Budapest, Technical University of Munich, and State College of Massachusetts.

Last year the Law Faculty started joint masters programme together with Köln University. The graduates of the faculty will be awarded the diploma of Köln University alongside with the diploma of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. Medicine Faculty students get practical experience at the medical colleges of Chemnitz and Munich.

Alongside the educational process it is im-

portant to carry out scientific research. It is impossible for the university to function to its full potential unless these two are not synchronised. Due to the reform the traditional scientific researches of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University were renewed. The scientific researches are financed through grants provided by the government. This year, for the first time, the National Scientific Funds held a competition through which it selected 37 young scientists, among them 10 representing Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, who were awarded presidential grants.

Even in present times the best part of the youth puts trust in Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University because of its experience, gained over 90 years, and its prestige. This is driven by their expectation that they will gain the right knowledge and skills and will become familiar with the values that are necessary for future prosperity. The aim of the university is to make the graduates competitive in the labour market. The educational programs and the teaching process as a whole are oriented on implementation of this objective.

The University Should Continue To Be Such An Open Forum

NODAR BELKANIA, dean of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, says:

The Faculty of Social and Political Sciences combines the departments of psychology, sociology, journalism, international relations, political sciences and public geography. The faculty has been functioning with this form already for 3 years. Numerous innovations have been introduced in the faculty during the reforms. Our primary objective is to develop a teaching system that complies with the international standards. The priority of the faculty is to renew the teaching programmes and to introduce the new programmes.

In the course of this period the masters programmes have been modified and the bachelor programmes are in the process of modification. The process is accompanied with certain



challenges; however these are problems that can be solved. We consider that one of the main achievements is that the faculty can now invite famous experts from the leading western universities and the faculty cooperates intensively with European and American specialists.

The results of the work implemented by the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences were vividly demonstrated at the 90th anniversary of the university in June. Within the framework of the faculty's week, several scientific and students' conferences were organised, highlighting the capacity of the faculty. It should also be noted that having the participants from various countries at the international conference has resulted in a lot of new initiatives being planned to be implemented in the future.

In summer 2008 the faculty signed an agreement with the Burgas Free University (Bulgaria) and Wrocław University (Poland) on exchanging students and scientists and on organising joint international conferences and summer school courses. The summer schools shall ensure friendship among the students from different countries.

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One of the achievements of the faculty that can also be considered is the fact that international experts assist in the process of development programmes for some of the departments to ensure that these programmes meet the modern requirements. In November a popular German journalist is expected to deliver lectures to the students at the journalism department, whose expertise will also be used to assist us in the evaluation of the teaching programmes. An American specialist has been invited again by the department of psychology. The specialist gives consultations to our psychologists and regularly conducts lectures for the students. Famous scientists from the UK and Canada shall be arriving to work in the department of political sciences. They will participate in modernization of the programmes. It should also be mentioned that other western experts actively cooperate with our faculty.

I would like to mention that the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences has highly qualified scientists who actively participate in the public and political life of the country. They are able to contribute more to solve those issues which are so significant for Georgia nowadays. The same can be said for the graduates who work successfully in various areas for public good. The professors as well as the students of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences due to the nature of their profession are required to be actively involved in the public life of the country. I do not want to sound subjective, but I have to mention that the faculty has specialists of equal rank with the western experts via their expertise. But in regard to facilities, and to the teaching and researching environment, a lot needs to be done.

In addition, we try to help students having a desire to continue their studies abroad and assist them financially in accordance with the resources that we have. We support our scientists too. The budget of the faculty allows us to do so, and whilst it is presently only a drop in the sea we hope that these funds shall be increased in the future.

In regard to the 90th anniversary of the university it should be mentioned that the first Georgian university was not only an educational and scientific institution, the hope of the Georgian people was directed towards the university. The sharp and objective debates about science in general, as well as certain burning questions, used to be conducted here among the scientists. The students were active to oppose the events that have recently happened in Georgia. In order to assist the internally displaced people a sum of money was collected and psychological service provided. Our students organised and participated in number of protest actions. Debates about the existing situation in Georgia were conducted. I think that university should continue to be such an open forum.

It Is The First Time We Have Students Taking The Doctoral Programme

DAREJAN TVALTVAZDE, dean of the Faculty of Humanities, says:

The 90th anniversary of the university, which was held in June of this year, demonstrated the resources and the potential of the Faculty of Humanities, and also showed what the innovations are that we plan to introduce in the future.

During a week of celebration all the departments of the faculty were able to demonstrate their maximal capacity through the scientific and students' conferences held. It summarized the work carried out by the professors, teachers and students of the faculty.

It should be mentioned that the Faculty of Humanities has conducted already this year the second internal conference for professors, teachers and students of the faculty. There a decision was made to organise a similar conference each year and dedicate it

to a certain important event and date.

Another important tradition that was established during this week of celebration was that the Alumni Club was created. Famous people such as journalists, writers, and scientists joined the club. The members of the club came to a common decision to gather at the end of the academic year and provide the report on the work implemented during the year.

Alongside promotion of the university's ideas, the aim of the club is to support the new graduates and share with them an experience that will enable them to be successful in the competitive labour market.

The educational programmes of the Faculty of Humanities are in the process of approximation with the international standards. Special attention is paid to the development of interdisciplinary subjects. The programmes for bachelors, masters and doctoral students are renewed and developed each year. This year was the first time for the doctoral students to start the new doctoral programme. The new programmes in the New and Newest History, the Ukrainian Studies, and the Theory and Practise of Translation were of an immense interest among the students.



Nowadays our primary objective is to meet with dignity those students who were lucky to become the students of the first Georgian university celebrating the anniversary. The whole academic personnel work hard for it. The first year students are regularly consulted three times a week, presented the programmes and informed what the university offers them.

When the refurbishment works are finished the students will be able to use the modern technology. It is planned to establish a new, ultramodern library complete with book funds, to be located on the territory previously used for a gymnasium. This will be a splendid gift to all the students.

Our faculty is actively involved in those activities which are implemented by the university with the purpose of assisting internally displaced people.

Unfortunately Shalva Gabunia, who was a student of our faculty, tragically died during the war in August. His friends and teachers describe him as one of the distinguished students of the faculty. Some activities are already planned to be carried out on behalf of his name.

The establishment of the first Georgian university was one of the most important events in the history of Georgia. The role which was imposed to it from the very beginning is still valid. I believe this assignment will be executed by the university in the future too.

Co-operation With The Partner Universities Supports The Faculty of Medicine To Reform The Curriculum

ALEKSANDRE TSISKARIDZE, dean of the Faculty of Medicine, says:

The current reform in the health field and the process of privatization creates certain complications. The main problem concerns the clinics. Our students are provided studies in clinical disciplines in a number of hospitals with different profiles. These hospitals are: Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University Medical Diagnostic Centre, P.



Sarajishvili Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery Institute, Scientific Research Institute of Clinical Medicine, Scientific-Practical Centres of Infectious Pathology, AIDS and Immunology, Aleksandre Tsulukidze Urology National Center, I.Zhordania Human Reproduction Scientific Research Institute, Gudushauri National Medical Centre, National Centre of Disease Control and Medical Statistics, M. Asatiani Psychiatry Scientific Research Institute, amongst others. It is clear that a lot of technical and logistical problems can be caused due to the complexity of the cooperation. It must be emphasised that it is not just a problem of our university. So far there is no multitype hospital which could function in line with the modern concept of clinic. Together with the Ministry of Health we work very actively in this direction and we hope that this problem will be solved very soon. In its turn this will support the creation of the integrated model of basic and clinical education as well as bringing the teaching environment in line with the international standards.

Recently the Multi-Field Hospital of Sachkhere, which is equipped with the newest technology to diagnose and provide treatment against various diseases, offered us the opportunity to cooperate. Also, we began our cooperation on the post-diploma level, which means that it will be possible to prepare residentura students. The students shall also be given an opportunity to get clinical experience in some of the fields of medicine in Sachkhere Hospital.

In respect of some of the issues of the learning process and the programmes for the specialists who will be awarded the diploma, it can be said that step by step we introduce a so called integrated curriculum. The process of implementation of the integrated curriculum is a long and complex one and demands a conceptual transformation. The new curriculum will be based on integrated teaching of modules (basic, social and clinical) based on the systems of human organism. We shall also use the innovative method of problem-based learning. This is the learning method oriented on a case (medical problem) study, an interactive work within a small group which is directed by a qualified moderator.

A diversification of the curriculum of the faculty of Medicine is supported by the partner universities. The Faculty of Medicine of Lund University and Munich Technical University should be emphasised as the most important partners.

The list of necessary disciplines has been created in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Medical State University. The list has been harmonised with the World Federation of Medical Education and the European Curriculum of Medical Education. Therefore, we start to educate our students in accordance with the European curriculum which is in compliance with the international standards. This is very important for us.

In regard with our bachelor programme in Occupational Therapy it became possible to introduce this programme within the framework of the project of the European Commission. The teaching programme is compiled entirely in line with the Tuning Methodology.

We have some interesting doctoral programmes; among them is an interdisci-

plinary one, which is being implemented at our faculty.

World famous scientists conduct lectures for our students every year. In 2007 we invited Professor Aleksandre Razumovski, from Johns Hopkins University, and Professor Anna Maria Gereti, the head of Virology Department at London Royal Free Hospital. This year several Lund University professors have been invited: the head of the Neurology department of the hospital, Professor Yule Lindval, and Professor Zaal Kokai who is the head of the Stem Cell Laboratory.

This year within the action programme for the 90th anniversary of the university the personnel of the following departments of the faculty have been provided with some consultations free of charge. These departments are: Neurology, Therapy, Ophthalmology, Urology, Paediatrics, Surgery, and Dermatology. The departments organised the international conference with the participation of world famous experts. (The Ophthalmology Department – the International Conference on the topic of "The Surgery of Retina and Vitreous Humor", the Urology Department – International Conference on the topic of "The Relevant Issues of Urology"; the Departments of Human Anatomy, Topographical Anatomy and Operational Surgery, Gynaecology and Urology – Scientific Conference on "Problems and Perspectives of Reproductive Health", the Dermatology-Venereology Department- Scientific –Practical Conference).

Within the framework of the Tempus Joint European Project, which is called "Application of the Tuning in the High Education System of Georgia", our faculty joined the development process for the Curriculum for the nurses.

The Faculty of Medicine, jointly with the partner universities, implements exchange programmes for gifted and advanced students as well as young doctors. The number of this type of programme increases annually. For example, the exchange programmes are implemented in cooperation with the Clinic of Munich Ludwig Maximilian University, which is where our students will go this summer. Additionally, Mr. Giorgi Khubua, the rector of the university, initiated a very close collaboration with one of the best German Clinics - Chemnitz University Clinics. Mr. Nichterlein, the director of this clinic, visited Tbilisi. During his visit we planned together some specific activities for the further cooperation. It was planned that the students, residentura students and academic personnel will participate in the exchange programmes and will share an experience with the clinic. We believe our cooperation will be very productive.

Relations With Georgian Business Develops Intensively

JAMLET JANJGAVA, dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business, says:

The Faculty of Economics and Business starts the new academic year and meets the anniversary of the university with some success. All the bachelors and masters programmes have been diversified. Optimisation of the specialties has taken place. Presently there are only 2 specialties out of the 35 specialties which existed before. These are Economics and Business Administration. There are 7 areas of specialisation which thoroughly meet Georgian market demand.

Approximately 7-8 programmes for the masters are carried out by the faculty. These are the programmes which were subject to the expertise in the foreign leading centres. On the basis of their conclusions it can be said that the faculty has refined the programmes for the bachelor and masters students. Research activities have become wider. In the course of last years academic semester three scientific conferences were organized with the participation of the professors and teachers of the faculty. Scientific conferences on the topic of "Christianity and Economics" were organized in Bolnisi and Mestia.

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Two tours of the Students' Conference were successfully organized which was financed by the faculty alumnus – Professor Nikoloz Bakashvili. The students who won, together with their scientific advisers, were awarded the prizes totalling 10 000 GEL.

Our students won first place in the contests organized by the International School of Economics, "Elit-Electronics" and the Association of Education and Development in Economics. Our students were awarded the second place at the conferences organized by the Black Sea University and the National Bank of Georgia.

Our students undertake their internships in the universities of Germany, Tartu, Warsaw, and Czechia. We implement joint programmes for the master students together with the Technical University of Berlin. The head of department will arrive in Georgia soon to conduct the lectures and seminars for the masters studying the Economical Politics.

We cooperate successfully with the University of Bremen. The dean of the Faculty of Economics supports us very actively to carry out the reforms at our faculty. He initiated and enabled our professors to have internship in the Bremen University. The students will be offered scholarships and be able to have internship opportunities in the university too.

Relations with Georgian Business develop intensively. Namely, the faculty actively cooperates with "People's Bank", TBC Bank, Joint Stock Company "Madneuli", the Federation of Accountants and Auditors. We cooperate with the structural unit of our faculty. Five graduates of the School have been invited and offered a job of a teacher.



The personnel of the faculty have been changed. Twenty highly qualified professors have been invited from various educational and scientific centres. 60% of associate professors have been replaced.

Impoverished students have been awarded with scholarships from the Fund Encouraging Gifted Students Financially. This year the fund has approximately 100 000 GEL to spend. Fifteen students were provided with finances to travel to scientific centres abroad.

The bachelors elite programme is functioning effectively. The 77 students who are proficient in the English language and have the highest rate in the faculty take this course. We pay special consideration to the internally displaced people from Samachablo and Abkhazia and to the students who come from this region. We shall do everything to make them feel comfortable and facilitate them to show their strength and capacity.

During the faculty's days we have planned to organise scientific conferences, presentations, exhibitions, excursions, sport competitions and other activities. Our purpose is for Ivane Javakishvili Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University to continue its existence as the mother-university and be the first university not only in the Georgian Educational Area.

Our Faculty Implements 65 Research Projects the Total Cost of Which is about 10 millions of GEL

RAMAZ BOCHORISHVILI, dean of the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences says:

- A lot has changed after the reforms imple-

mented at the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences. I would like to bring your attention to the facilities and infrastructure of the faculty. Due to the specificity of the faculty you can not teach the students anything, and the students will not be able to conduct any scientific research, unless the proper facilities and infrastructure are



in place. The Faculty experienced very hard times due to bad conditions. This year, with the purpose to improve and modernise the infrastructure of the faculty, 1200 000 GEL has been allocated from the budget of the university. This is an unprecedented case from the history of the university. The total amount will be used for improvement and development of the infrastructure of Natural Sciences. Namely, the laboratories will be equipped with modern equipment, and some quite expensive equipment will be purchased to carry out scientific researches. This will lay a foundation for the establishment of the Centre of Interdisciplinary Experimental Researches. Another important purchase was made by the Georgian National Scientific Fund which paid 420 000 GEL for the analysing centre.

Only two years ago computer classes were equipped with old computers having Pentium II and Pentium III processors which were not sufficient to conduct the classes properly for the students. Step by step the faculty has managed to buy new computers. As a result, we now have 7 rooms for computer classes which, together with the newly opened Resource Centres, create capacity to fulfil the academic process efficiently. This October another new computer class-room will be equipped which further develops our infrastructure.

I believe that one of the greatest achievements due to these reforms is a student's right to make a free choice. A student at the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences is not restricted in her/his choice of future profession. The students and entrants always ask "Shall I have a right to attend those lectures that I am interested in?" We always reply that they have this right. However, we add that they will not face any artificial barriers if they satisfy the preconditions to take the course they are interested in.

A student's right to be free in his/her choice of the profession is a matter of vital importance. The majority of the professors have realised that it is necessary to make students interested and motivated, therefore many factors should be taken into account. We take into consideration whether the university provides the students with a proper knowledge and with the general and disciplinary competence gained throughout the process of learning, regardless of whether the university provides the students with the opportunities to continue their studies, change their profession, or, in general, achieve a success. Therefore it is essential for the departments to analyse the teaching programmes in a critical way and afterwards modify them. With regard to this topic, it should be highlighted that the Faculty prepared new programmes for the bachelors and masters students in all the departments.

It is important to consult international experts and discuss with the western universities the experience they have in regard to modification and diversification of the educational programmes and the introduction of the modern teaching methods. The faculty is in quite good condition in this regard. The sciences studying Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Earth are involved in the project of Tuning Educational Structure in Europe. Within the framework of this project professors, students,

graduates and potential employers have already been interviewed. The results of the survey are to be presented in October and will be used in the process of further modernization of the educational programmes. The diversification of the educational programmes in the department of Mathematics is supported by the project which is implemented by the Technical University of Zurich and is financed by National Scientific Fund of Switzerland. Tempus financed development of the new curriculum for the Applied Biology. Three universities – the Western England University, the Technical University of Dublin and the University of Thessalonica - participated in the process of elaboration of the new curriculum.

In order to receive finances within the framework of Tempus for the purpose of elaborating the educational programmes for the department of Informational Technology together with the German, Austrian and Greek partners, an application was prepared.

This year for the first time the new programme for the bachelor students studying Informatics will be launched. The course will be conducted in French. French and Georgian professors will be involved in this programme. The students will be awarded the joint diplomas of Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University and the University of Versailles. We think that the start up of this programme is a very important event. Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University gives Georgian students the new opportunities to receive an education and the respective diploma which is absolutely in line with European standards.

The faculty is open for international cooperation and is in search of new partners. There is an agreement between Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University and the University of Nantes to provide their masters and the doctoral students with mutual supervising of their dissertations. The Masters' Programme – Dual Degree – is under development through the assistance of the Westminster University. We are also trying to find ways to cooperate with the universities of Idaho, Gissen, Jena and the Research Centre of Julich.

Some of the graduates of the faculty continue their education and gain their Master's or Doctoral Degree abroad. This shows that we have good students and professors who are sufficiently capable and experienced to prepare the students in a professional way.

The faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences is a leader in terms of the number of scientific publications, participation in the international conferences, and getting research grants. Approximately 65 research projects for a total cost of around 10 million GEL are carried out by the faculty.

There remain some problems at the faculty. I would like to talk about one – the decreased interest in the Natural Sciences among the students. We think that the school established under the university for young Chemists, Physicists, Geographers in order to better motivate school students will positively change the situation.

It is very important that the Academic Council came to the decision to create two new faculties on the basis of Exact and Natural Sciences. By 2009 two new faculties – the faculty of Mathematics and Computer Sciences – will have been created.

Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University has always been associated with good research and a quality education. I think that through consolidation of these two requirements Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University remains the leader in the Georgian Educational Sphere with regards to the Exact and Natural Sciences.

The Strongest and Well-Prepared Core of Youngsters Prefer to Study at the Faculty of Law of Tbilisi State University

IRTAKLI BURDULI, dean of the Faculty of Law, says:

- From the very first day of establishment Tbilisi State University is considered to be a fundamental, leading educational institution. The grounds for this consideration are high level teaching and well-qualified professors. Traditionally the Faculty of Law has always been contributing, on a large scale, to a success of the university. The university still preserves a leadership due to the

number of students wishing to study here. Despite of the fact that there is a great number of Faculties and Schools of Law the strongest and well-prepared core of youngsters prefer to study at the Faculty of Law of Tbilisi State University

Nowadays, as far as there appeared the new objectives the Faculty of Law uses the new educational programmes which enable students not only to gain a theoretical knowledge but to develop analytical and critical thinking, to work out capacity to understand and solve a problem. Alongside with the practical experience the faculty gives the students an opportunity to use their knowledge successfully in their professional career in the future.

One of the important factors of a success is an educational environment at the Faculty of Law which meets all the modern requirements. There are nicely arranged lecture-rooms, well equipped computer class-rooms. A library has been established in line with the European Standards where one can find one of the richest collection of both Georgian and foreign literature on legal issues. A huge and solid legal data base is also available for the students in there.

Therefore, the Faculty of Law of Tbilisi State University is the member of world widely known organizations such are "The International Association of the Faculties of Law" and "The Association of the European Faculties of Law".

Currently, the Faculty cooperates with the Faculties and Schools of Law of Higher Educational Institutions. Additionally, it has active relations with the International Non-governmental Organisations which implement their activities in the filed of legal education.

The main objectives of the faculty are as follows: perfection of educational programmes, improvement of learning environment, provision of the faculty with the well-qualified academic personnel, assistance of the academic personnel and the students in their scientific work.

Our faculty plans various activities for the current academic year. Specifically, the Masters' Programmes will be diversified; the magazine will be published, which will be a serious statement in the Science of Law; the legal clinic, which is an essential component of legal education, will be developed, within the framework of the Masters' Programmes the summer schools will be established in cooperation with the German Universities. It must be emphasized that since 2007 our faculty has implemented the joint programmes. for the masters with the University of Köln, the similar work will be applied to the Universities of Jena and Humboldt. "Round Table" will be organised in order to discuss the new teaching methods. Also, the international conferences will be conducted. (In December Students' International Confer-



ence in Criminal Code will be organised in Jena. The conference has been initiated by Merab Turava and Ketevan Mchedlishvili-Hedrich with the purpose to select 10 students who can execute a scientific work into the German language). A seminar on Criminal Code will be organized within the framework of German-Georgian scientific project. We also plan to publish German – Georgian magazine within the framework of the Students' Scientific Conference which will be jointly organised by Humboldt University of Berlin and our faculty. In addition, we plan to cooperate closely with the parliament, the non-governmental organizations and the courts.

Students Today Keep to Main Principles - Being Free and Unbiased



Student's protest at Igoeti



Preparations for a "Live Chain". TSU rector Giorgi Khubua, Chancellor Gulnaz Galdava and President of student's self-governance organization Giorgi Shamatava



Student's protest in front of Embassy of Russia

Nino Kakulia

In struggle for freedom most successful is a nation possessing the young generation with healthy values and ambitions. Nobody can accept university being silenced, as Georgians cannot imagine their university declined. All generations remember our university always anxious and concerned as the leader force in supporting and encouraging national interests. The history of the university was written by the students who side by side with studying considered it their obligation to openly protest against any antinational designs and activities of the authorities of the Soviet Union and then occupied Georgia. It is the university that was a shelter for Georgians who fully believed it would keep their values and hopes for the future. That is why people still cling to our University as always, as they expect that the University will always stand up to anything wrong, improper, unjust or worthless, and will thus defend each of us. Whatever hard you try to ease this role for our university, you will be unsuccessful, as Georgian people and the present university community will not forgive it. We have to face this reality if we want to maintain the name and authority the university has gained for almost a century. Our students had to bear this honorary burden and before laying claim on our students we have to remember that first of all, in the Soviet period our young generation had to direct all its energy against Soviet Russia. However, today it has become rather difficult to manifest protest against our own independent government escaping influence of some political force. No one bans healthy critics and debates, but claims, that students are obliged to initiate a protest against every step of our government seems irrational. We also have to remember that even today, when the imperialistic instincts of Russia involved us in the patriotic war, our students were as active as usual. When Russia violated its agreement to withdraw its troops out of Georgia, University students organized a peaceful meeting in Igoeti. The participants of the meeting went up to the checkpoint where Russian militaries were accumulated and demanded withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgia. Several dozens of Georgian students were holding flags and posters bearing inscriptions – "Stop Russia". As soon as the participants of the protesting march approached the checkpoint, the Russian soldiers mobilized at once. They positioned with arms aimed at the peaceful protesters all along the perimeter and with armoured vehicles backing them up from behind. While our students, standing just a few meters away were shouting and calling at them that Georgia is an independent democratic country and it will maintain its independence at any cost.

What is the degree of freedom in our students today and how deep is their understanding that besides acquiring knowledge another, equally important role is imposed on them? These were the issues on which the president

of the university self-governance, Giorgi Shamatava commented with us. He believes that our contemporary generation will never give up the principle to be free and impartial.

- **The University students have always had their say at every decisive stage of our country. How important it is for the students to be active, to engage in the processes going on in Georgia, and is the university self-government ready to direct the movement of the younger generation?**

- In the first place I'd like to mention that in general, the students of the University represent a healthy part of our society, you may even call it the gold fund.

If we look back at our history, we can talk about the role of the students endlessly. If only the year of 1978, when the issue of the survival of our native language was on the agenda and on the 14th April all the students of the University stood up to the Communist regime and the authorities and rolled up a surge of protests that eventually brought about the survival of our native language and its status was maintained. The evil intention of the aggressors – to banish Georgian language at schools – failed, owing to those protests.

Then came the 9th April, when Georgian students stood up against Russian tanks. It was a real heroism. At the same time, I want to say that when we are talking about students' activities and the role of our University in all these affairs, I, naturally don't intend to diminish the role of other universities at all. But we have to remember that whenever there has occurred a need for defending our national interests our University has always and traditionally been the initiator and leader of the students' movements. Our University has been the leader and other universities have followed its example and joined its actions. The same can be said about our nearest past, when we held an action of protest against the Russian occupi-



ers mobilized near Igoeti. Nobody's life was safe there, as the invaders stood with their arms aiming at us.

As to the students' self-government, as a result of the reform in our educational system, the role of the students has further increased. Owing to the self-government the students participate in the process of governing the University. Consequently, the students' word is very important. Now they speak a lot whether students should participate in decision-making process of the government or not, but in my opinion, they should not be highly politicized, though everyone has the right to hold his/her opinion and express their opinion freely. What I want to say is that a student should not speculate in the University's name while developing his political ideas and preferences. At the same time, it is very important, that whenever our national interests and sovereignty come to stake students have to be active. A lot is said about the notorious events in November and about the students' being passive then. Here our position is clear-cut – everyone today realizes that the opposition in those events was moved solely by narrow partisan interests and not by state, national interests. That's why our students stood apart from those events.

Whenever Georgia needs it, our students will be at the front-line and its initiator will be Tbilisi State University.

- **When the military actions began in the so-called South Ossetia, the president announced mobilization of the reservists. In our opinion, how successful preparation of students-reservists proved?**

- I suppose, the issue of preparation of the reservists is better known to military experts. As regards my personal subjective opinion, this program was justified, as we had received the elementary military education and experience. We were twice in the reservists' camp, first for 18 days, then for 8 days, but it was not enough. If we approach this problem realistically, we'll see that we were not ready for the war. Directly engaging in warfare is not a reservist's function. He has to control the territories already occupied by the troops and we would fulfill this task successfully. It is a pity we did not get that chance.

As soon as the mobilization was announced, all our students, whether reservists or not, came themselves, despite the fact that nobody called us from the commissariat. The students put on the uniforms and went to fight. Today you can hear someone say that the reservists got frightened and they are cowards, but it is an absolutely unfair accusation. Although they did not participate directly in the battles, the student-reservists were ready to fight and even sacrifice their lives for the well-being of our country. When we, students, went to the reservists' camps, none of us had any guarantee that we would return home safe. According

to the information, two of the reservists perished. It is a tragedy for all of us.

- **Besides being publicly responsible, the students' foremost function is acquiring good education at the University and they have to work to this end. Our country today badly needs genuine professionals and enlightened people. In your view, what category of youth comes to the university today and how competitive is the environment here? How motivated are the students today to learn and get proper education?**

- Certainly, the main commitment and function of a student entering the university is acquiring highly qualified education and experience that will enable him/her to lead a successful career. All the necessary conditions are available at our university today to meet these needs, I mean, the academic staff, effective operation of the administration and also, improvement of the infrastructure. As a result of the educational reform, if only we take the reformation of the entrance examinations all over Georgia, only young people oriented on learning come to the university.

In addition to all the necessary conditions for the realization of their academic ambitions at the university, they can enjoy their leisure time fruitfully. The self-government of the university helps them to achieve these goals: if in the past they had to spend their free time in the streets and play cards in the university garden, today they participate in conferences, various activities and with our support they can participate and engage in different cultural events and even, in Olympic Games.

- **How successfully does the self-government encourage participation of the students in exchange programs?**

- When students receive invitations to different conferences from abroad, or for some exchange programmes, we try our best to find ways for financing them fully, or at least, partially.

- **What is the mission of the University today, from your viewpoint, and how would you congratulate it on its 90th jubilee?**

- The role of the university since the day of its foundation has been highly significant. I don't share the opinion that it is no longer a leading University in Georgia. Our university is "the Mother University" and the Temple of Knowledge – it has been and will remain thus in the future. So, I congratulate the University on its jubilee and, frankly speaking, I am sorry that in just two years' time I'll be leaving it... Though, of course, I will always support my University and will do my best in order to encourage the future generations.

PHILANTHROPY OUT OF LOVE FOR PEOPLE AND SCIENCE

With the assistance of Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili and The Kartu Group the University regains its former architectural face

"... Great deeds yield to those, being amiable and cordial. Own people and science ought to be held dear by every individual, fee-ling responsible for dissipating the energy for science and people". These are words, uttered by Ivane Javakhishvili as a homage, paid to the devotion of all those, who had greatly contributed to the establishment of the first Georgian University.

Never ever the University in Georgia was looked upon as a mediocre higher educational institution. The public figures, standing at the sources of its foundation perceived it to be the symbol of statehood and nationhood, therefore erecting it in Tbilisi as a temple to house the University.

90 years elapsed since then. These walls have shouldered the burden of Georgia's anguish and joy, lifting up the bondage of the thirst for independence as well as free thought. Consequently, the University has never been a

mere higher educational institution, rather being the symbol of Georgia's originality, liberty, historical memory and identity.

To date, the Tbilisi State University faces another task. Its main goal is to deservedly become a member of the integrated European educational space, aided by people, on their part, ignited with enthusiasm and love, envisaging it as the symbol of spirituality, with which to raise future generations and playing a significant role in the advancements of the country.

Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili's person comes forth as an acclaimed philanthropist, conferred upon Georgia and Tbilisi State University. As a University graduate, he always makes exceptionally warm mentions in his scanty interviews of his Alma Mater.

It is of essence to note that he commenced his career through academic and scientific activities, therefore, he is clearly aware of the University space, that feels so native a place for him. No wonder, that the University takes the due pride in graduates such as him.

In Mr. Ivanishvili's person, The Tbilisi State University owns a Maecenas, who mani-

fest love towards his people and the country, involving himself as well in the revival of the University.

It is of his own free will, that the University has received a wonderful gift at the 90th anniversary of its birth. In alliance with the Kartu Group, he volunteered a full-scale rehabilitation of 1st and 2nd buildings of the University.

It has to be observed, that the University had been under repairs as long ago as the 70s of XX century, depriving it of its initial architecture. However, due to Mr. Ivanishvili and the Kartu Group, University restored its historical architectural image. At present, it is designed to have a university museum and libraries along 35 000 sq.m. of lecture rooms – all refurbished and equipped with the latest facilities next to the renewed assembly hall. Besides, it is scheduled to cater for the University pantheon and the yard equipment. To say more, the University expects to have an amphitheatre at its disposal, constructed for solemn occasions, such as awarding diplomas, and also many other cultural and edu-cational arrangements.

Above all, with the assistance rendered by Mr. Ivanishvili, the University is capable to purchase modern scientific and academic literature to a total value of about 1 million dollars and have them translated into Georgian. This would provide our students with an opportunity to acquire knowledge, based on text books, applied in the leading Western universities.

The jubilee celebrations ensured the University one more reward: - the Georgian government initiates a plan for carrying out the construction of a campus on the grounds of the upper buildings of the University. The government initiative has been underscored several times by the President of Georgia himself. The project, worth 250 millions GEL, encompasses the construction of a modernized university town over 80 hectares of the territory. Further on, it is scheduled to completely rehabilitate the 'upper building', including the premises assigned for biological sciences - 60 000 sq.m for lecture rooms

as well as 40 000 sq.m for students' hostels. In approximately 4 or 5 years' time the new town will have had renovated rooms for lecturing and studies, conference halls and laboratories both for students and scientists, all-round-sports and leisure grounds, cultural and entertainment centers, the libraries, fixed with advanced technologies.

This initiative of the President derives a great encouragement from him to the first university, which has been caught up by Mr. Ivanishvili providing for the expenses of the university town's projecting.

This is yet another manifestation of the feelings of those, loving their country, explicitly seeing the needs it has on the way towards ensuring future.

Georgia's historical reality through centuries based on spirituality and education, espoused with the initiative of Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili, - has found its embodiment in the setting up and the revival of the two major cultural centres Sameba (the Trinity Cathedral) and the Tbilisi State University. The initiative, in its turn, has created a space, where Sameba stands as a temple of Georgia's spirituality side by side with the Tbilisi State University, the symbol of knowledge and free thinking.

Gratitude is too great a feeling to which one cannot but succumb. Invoking Ilia the Righteous "...the strengths of the country is man of talent and spirit alone". Bidzina Ivanishvili, on his part, is regarded as a person, able to endow his country with such force.

The University greatly values his contribution and charity; for it is almost after a century the University has been given a care of the Maecenas to be inspired with vigor and liveliness of a new life.

To revive science and education is the daydream and the target goal of the people with the hearts beating for the welfare of the country.

Giorgi Khubua
Rector of Ivane Javakhishvili
Tbilisi State University



ON THE PATH OF WAR

Tbilisi State University announces mobilization of intellectual forces against Russia's aggression

At the end of July and at the beginning of August in South Ossetia – one of the conflict regions of Georgia, Georgian military units carried out an operation in order to defend its own territory and people from the trouble inspired by separatist forces in South Ossetia. And this fact became the reason for Russia to start war against Georgia. Russia started a massive military aggression against Georgia and on August 8th Russia occupied our territory. Russia fired civil infrastructure, bombed educational units and behaved extremely brutally towards the whole Georgian population. The whole world expressed readiness to support our small nation to fight for its sovereign rights against our unkind neighbor which was obsessed with even more brutal imperial ambitions. Russia deliberately disregarded the decision to cease fire on the Georgian territory and to withdraw Russian military forces that was achieved and registered legally among the sides mediated by Nicola Sarkozy – president of France. Kremlin abrogated all kinds of promises and during several weeks it was extremely pleased while carrying out psychological terror addressed towards Georgia's whole population. In the towns and villages controlled by them tanks rolled freely and robbed military infrastructure, stole people's property and threatened the troubled people. Russia carried out these cold-blooded actions in the period when all international organizations and all countries openly expressed concern on Russia's aggression, blamed its military intervention and proclaimed it to retreat.

Nino Kakulia

Georgia managed to win informational war against Russia and we made the whole world see Russia's real face. While lustrating it the West understood that the menace was threatening not only to Georgia and other

small countries like us, but the whole world was facing a great trouble as it had difficulties in prognosticating Russia's plans inspired by an aggressive charge. Several days before the EU summit, Russia impudently recognized South Ossetia and Abkhazia's independence. It did not take any notice neither of America's open support towards Georgia nor to the joint respond of political

leaders of the leading countries at the EU summit concerning the shocking actions. The leaders admitted Georgia's territorial integrity and denounced encroachment of its sovereignty. Until today Russia has not fulfilled the agreement signed between the sides. Despite the current EU president - Nicola Sarkozy's visits in Russia and Georgia and despite negotiations with the presidents of the countries Russia goes on moving mili-

tary forces not only in conflict regions but in the rest territories of Georgia and continues digging military basements. In the locality of Akhal Gori conquered during the war Ossetian separatists started ethnic cleansing of Georgia. Georgian government hopes that the leading countries of the world will become more active against Russia's aggression.

to be continued on p.11



Tbilisi State University announces mobilization of intellectual forces against Russia's aggression

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The loss caused by the war is great. Nothing can replace the loss of hero soldiers, brave journalists and peaceful population killed during the war. Great patience and generosity of refugees from the conflict zones should be appreciated. It is notable as well that state structures did their best to support the country. Tbilisi State University used all the resources to inform the whole international university society about the current events happening in Georgia and also, to help the refugees sheltered in the stud-town.

As soon as Russia started massive war actions against Georgia Giorgi Khubua – head of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University addressed the universities of Europe and America in the name of the whole university. The appeal says:

DEAR COLLEAGUES!

Today Georgia is facing a great trouble. As you know Russia continues carrying out an aggressive military campaign against Georgia and it obviously tries to totally annex our country. The western values that Georgia used to defend and save during years seem to be sacrificed to Russia's imperial intensions.

The conflict provoked by separatists and Russian military forces was the precondition for Georgia to get involved in the massive war. Despite the fact that Georgian government took a cease-fire decision in South Ossetia – the conflict region, Russia's regular army continues carrying out the countries military intervention. The aggressor deliberately infringes Georgian sovereignty and demonstrates its own military power. Russia bombs the whole territory of Georgia inhabited by innocent and peaceful civilians. Reservist camps where our university students are called up are bombed. Russia behaves as a cruel country not caring about the number of dead innocent civilians. A lot of peaceful people – old, adult and children were killed. Russian media tries to misinform society while spreading misinformation concerning current events. As for the Georgian government, it strives to defend its citizens from the aggressor.

In the XXI century when the whole world unanimously fights against international terrorism and strives to establish peaceful relations between countries, Russia vividly ignores the world order civil laws.

Today, in this unequal fight Georgia needs the support of the world society for keeping the nation's sovereign rights. A number of countries and international organizations have made encouraging statements to back Georgia but Russia does not intend to change its action plan. Probably the world society needs to be more active concerning this fact in order to stop this barbarism.

Coming out of it, please, express your protest against Russia's unfair actions that threatens not only Georgia but international peace and safety.

These days the first and probably the main duty of Tbilisi State University is to mobilize all intellectual forces in order to defend Georgia's interests against Russian aggression. At the decisive moment of war for independence and freedom we hope that the university society of the world will respond and protest the Russian military campaign aiming to topple Georgian sovereignty.

G. Khubua

The appeal was immediately responded. International organizations and partner universities of Tbilisi State University expressed their sympathy and stated their readiness to render assistance to wounded and suffered people from conflict regions.

The university spread the information concerning Russian bombers having destroyed Gori State University and asked partner educational organizations for assistance in rehabilitating infrastructure of Gori University.

For carrying out these tasks the university opened a special account that enables partner universities international organizations to contribute to this extremely generous activity.

Pages of Georgia's history again speak up on the role of Tbilisi State University in the fight for defending Georgia's sovereignty. The university administration, academic personnel and students are involved

in all directions in this extremely difficult defensive campaign.

Activities the University has carried out

After the war actions a number of refugees took shelters at educational centers.

441 people from Kodori and Samachablo settled down in the dormitory of the university stud-town. The university administration started rehabilitation works of the dormitory aiming to create living conditions for refugees.

Coming out of the war actions and state of emergency Tbilisi State University treating-diagnostic centre started a humanitarian campaign to assist refugees. Ambulatory-polyclinic assistance and hospital treatment were absolutely pay-free.

At the very beginning of the conflict the institute of conflict studies functioning at the university opened an urgent psychological assisting centre uniting professors, teachers, MA and BA students from the direction of psychology. The centre carried out urgent psychological assistance for the groups of refugees sheltered compactly and also, served individually if needed. Children and soldiers were among the people needing urgent assistance. As for those, who suffered from heavy psychological traumas caused by the war had been cared by neurologists from the faculty of medicine. With the help of US Embassy the institute of psychology invited a trainer having a great experience of working in post-conflict situations. Together with the trainer the urgent psychological assisting centre continues conducting consultations and trainings to the persecuted people. Besides this the centre provided people with a humanitarian aid.

At the very beginning of the war in South Ossetia with the help of an initiative group of the university, students' centre was opened to assist the persecuted. The centre was led by our university student Teona Chalidze who is the chairperson of a student club 'Isani'. The centre started functioning under the name 'Young students for peace'. The group members informed students of the world universities about the chronology of war actions and events. 'Students living abroad were misinformed about Georgia. They accused us of bombing the Georgian territory by ourselves and then blaming Russians for it. But after providing foreign students with photos, records of interviews with the persecuted, and after introducing

them the real situation they started writing supportive letters to us' – Tamar Chalidze noted. She also confirmed the fact that the group had to work in the conditions when Russian sites were continually being blocked. Besides leading the informative campaign the students' initiative group took an active part in organizing humanitarian assistance for the persecuted and carried out a number of activities in this direction.

It was an extremely difficult situation. At first it was hard to operatively provide the persecuted with clothes, food products, hygienic items and first-consumer-goods. That's why we focused on solving this problem and created a mobile group who managed to collect clothes, food products and those things among population that the refugees needed. At first we helped the refugees who had settled down in the dormitory of the stud-town. After that our students' club 'Isani' and 'Caucasus' – the business development centre of Georgia participated and won the grant contest announced by the fund – 'Businessmen ready to assist suffered people'. According to the grant the winner should render humanitarian assistance to infants, pre-school children and pregnant women during 21 days. We chose five places – they were I and III buildings of the stud-town, a dormitory in Gmir Kursantta street in Gldani and two places in Isani. I think we managed to provide them with all the necessary things they needed' – noted Tamar Chalidze, head initiator of these activities who was greatly encouraged by the university administration while carrying out these programs.

Together with students the university staff carried out a number of humanitarian activities and provided refugees with food products and first-consumer-goods valued 5 000 GEL. Apart from this, they assisted refugees with clothes, mats, cushions and linen collected by students. The faculty of natural sciences collected 7 300 GEL and their representatives transferred the money together with clothes, food products and hygiene things to the persecuted. A joint charity activity was held twice by Tbilisi State University and a computer company 'Orion Technology' to help refugees. The culture and sport centre of the university invited children's theatre 'Bambi' in the stud-town that performed 'Salamura' for the persecuted children.

According to the joint charity activity held by the Rustaveli cinema and Tbilisi State University a cartoon 'Shrek 2' was shown to the persecuted children at the Rustaveli cinema.

➔ to be continued on p.12



Teona Chalidze, visiting refugees



"Help refugees" - Student's activity

Tbilisi State University announces mobilization of intellectual forces against Russia's aggression

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After the Russian military forces left the territory of Gori and the city returned to a normal life-style a great number of the persecuted were moved to the 'Tent-town' in Gori and provided with elementary living conditions. At the beginning of September representatives of the university administration, members of students' self-government, professors, teachers, members of the club 'Temple' and collaborators of president's attorney administration in Shida Kartli took an active part in the cleaning and rehabilitation works in Gori. They were also involved in distributing humanitarian luggage to those living in 'Tent-town' sent by international organizations.

Of course, all these activities won't make the persecuted especially, children forget the terrible reality but expressing some kind of sympathy towards them means at least partially sharing their pain. The university, as well as the whole Georgia listens to tragic histories of the persecuted and together with the whole nation it tries not to dream but to seriously care about the plan of returning these people to their own houses.

The process of integration of refugee kids with "Children University" has started

Maia Toradze

On September 9 'Children's University' functioning at Tbilisi State University treated the children persecuted from Tskhinvali region. Professors, teachers and students of the faculty of social and political sciences of Tbilisi State University initiated the activity and thirty children of different ages had been given an opportunity to listen to the lecture and learn about the working process of 'Children's University'. They visited labs of general physics and chemistry and attended entertaining experiments prepared specially for them.

Giorgi Khubua, head of the university addressed to the persecuted children. He noted that it was only the beginning step and that the university was eager to enlighten the heavy fate caused by the Russian aggression and that 'Children's University' would help the persecuted children in choosing their future professions. 'By getting fundamental education proper to modern requirements you will have a successful future. While a successful generation is the guarantee of a powerful country and exactly this kind of country will ensure returning Tskhinvali and Apkhazia regions. That's why your involvement in 'Children's University' is not a pure academic activity. This is a future reintegration perspective and the unique alternative for these two regions to integrate with Georgia' - Giorgi Khubua noted.

Nodar Surguladze, deputy of education and science minister of Georgia declared that Russia's deliberate actions aiming to annihilate Georgian places of education and culture menaces the future generation. That's why all the citizens of Georgia should care about these activities with a great responsibility. As for the young, their first duty is to study and to become professionals. 'From this point of view 'Children's University' is a good start that has successfully been working for already a year at Tbilisi State University. Here you will be given an opportunity to learn about the principles of higher education, links between school and higher education and also, you will be introduced to the traditions of Georgian scientific school. This is the best way for integrating the young into

the university space to get education. Real professionalism, education and culture will save and integrate Georgia' - Nodar Surguladze addressed to the young persecuted people.

Natia Jokhadze, head of Georgia's national scientific fund also attended the meeting. She thanked Tbilisi State University and its rector Giorgi Khubua for the initiative and declared that the national scientific fund was carrying out a project in three towns of Georgia. According to this project scientific lectures in different directions such as - physics, chemistry, biology, information technologies and ecology are being conducted to school children. 'Gori is among these towns. I wish you could also get involved in this project that enables us to loudly express our main value, that the young generation should be oriented on knowledge and education which is greatly important for the whole country', she noted.

The meeting with the persecuted children was also attended by a trade union chairperson of education -- Manana Ghurchumelidze and Iagor Kalandadze, head of scientific research and development department of Tbilisi State University. He declared that the current year the persecuted children would be given an opportunity to choose a desired field and attend lectures on interesting topics according to their wishes.

Nino Durglishvili, an assistant professor of the faculty of social-political sciences who is the author of the idea and organizer of the meeting as well, noted that those kind of meetings would be held regularly in future. Other children having suffered from the war actions will also be involved in the project. 'We did not focus only on the social working with these children. We tried to make the relations between the children and the university become steady and regular. The faculty of scientific research and development of Tbilisi State University was actively involved in this direction and decided to encourage children to integrate with 'Children's University' and to make them interested in university resources. Working with them should be carried out in different directions. Some children need a psychological assistance, others - social assistance in order to adapt with new conditions and feel themselves as ordinary members of the society. That's why we should visit persecuted children not only in compact settlements but in other areas as well. Some of them have not seen bombing in live but have watched their destroyed houses via internet. They have got the feeling of fear caused by appearing in a new unknown environment. Our duty is to make them see and feel that this environment is friendly towards them' Nino Durglishvili declared.

The persecuted children attentively listened to Iliia Lomidze's lecture named 'What's the use of stars for us' and they attended entertaining experiments in the labs of general physics and chemistry.

The meeting was summed up by professor Giorgi Khubua, head of Tbilisi State University who noted in speech with us that the university found one of the best ways how to help the persecuted children. 'Regular contacts with the university staff, children's integration into the university environment, lectures, visits in labs and other interesting activities provided by us will by all means strengthen their interest towards the university. Thus, Tskhinvali region as well as the whole Georgia will have trustworthy, powerful and what's more important, educated generation' rector noted.



Staff works on the test of Sociological research on refugee's problems



Student's activity "Help Refugees" in Gori



Younger refugees' visit the University



Cheritable performance for refugee Kids at Theatre Bamby

The Gori University acknowledges atrocities of war and the price to pay for peace better than ever

An interview given by Zaza Tsojniashvili, Rector of the Gogi University

The standing phrase has it, that one can choose from among friends, never from neighbours. Our lot has turned out bitter, because there is hardly anyone who would think of making friends with Russia, obsessed but one thought: to conquer. But the fact that Russia is our neighbour could not have been helped nor by the collapse of the Soviet Union or any lip service or just by giving a deaf ear to its constant provocations. As for having a bad neighbour, it is worse than foe. However, nobody, expected Russia to have done the injustice beyond the limits of the conflict region of South Ossetia before the stunned world. After bombing South Ossetia and the territories bordering it, the Russian aviation commenced to shell civilian objects in Gori such as premises, educational institutions and the infrastructure, on August 8th among objects damaged by cassette bombs was the Gori University with its administration and other buildings housing all the inventory, necessary for the functioning of a higher educational institution. The administration building was being prepared for repair works and it had been emptied completely, but the enemy targeted on the storehouse, full of training appliances. Despite this harmful act, the Gori rehabilitation plan had not been ruined; more than that, on August 25th, before the damaged building the Minister of Education and Science Mr. Gia Nodia introduced the Gori University rehabilitation plan, envisaging the university, possessing high European standard, with its own administration and educational premises. In order to acquire a new material base and the book fund and provide for the expenses of the education for those internally displaced, the Gori University will need commitment. We made a visit to Gori University to talk to Mr. Tsojniashvili- Rector, who let us be shown to the damages about the buildings, at the same time remembering the days of the nightmare, when Russian jets were harassing his town.

Nino Kakulia

- **What was the situation like in your university, when the town was being bombed? It is of utmost importance to hear the story of people, having eye-witnessed the war in order to learn about the places where the war got hold of them, to know about what they saw or felt.**

- We were having a solemnity, a farewell gathering, for graduating Bachelors, when the armed conflict began. Despite the alarming circumstances all of our staff reported the next day. After hearing a Russian plane in my room, we saw the VIth building explode. We had the feeling as if the bomb had blast in our room, the walls around had been shuddering. We were instructed to go down into the basement, which we did. It was the first onslaught, carried out on the University. Building 6, with the inventory in it from the first building, under the President's programme meant for repairing – was ruined completely.

- **Is it planned to rehabilitate any other buildings besides yours? Has anybody volunteered to do it?**

- In compliance with the promise, we are going to have premises for both lecturing and administrating, fixed according to European standards, creating the atmosphere for acquiring modern education. Besides, we wrote a letter describing the bombing of our university to have sent it to a lot of address-

ees around Georgia and abroad. We sent our appeal to the embassies as well, out of which many responded with the promise to help. We would have a great mind to thank the Rector of the Tbilisi State University Mr G.Khubua through your newspaper for facilitating our contacts with Tallin and with several of well known American universities. We are in wait to be aided financially as regards inventory and book fund stocking. However, we are quite able at this stage to cater for the educational conditions for 1700 students at present enrolled at Gori university.

To speak of the commitment on the part of the government, Mr. Nodia says the government will endorse the idea of assisting financially the students from South Ossetia and the other different occupied territories of Georgia, who find it difficult to provide for themselves to this end. Mr. G.Nodia promises that the government will undertake to finance, at least in part, the studies of students in internal replacement.

As you know it, these students are living in difficult conditions. But it will be addressed proceeding from the resources country disposes to date. The sixth building, as an issue, is being also considered, though nothing definite as yet has crystallized in this regard.

- **How many students have been registered as replaced?**

- Based on the preliminary data their number makes about 150 (excluding first-year students) from the regions being dev-



astated. We regret to say, that the University finds it impossible to finance out of its own budget funds. However, we will be trying hard to seek the sources.

- **As for your academic staff, did they anyhow partake in humanitarian actions?**

- This kind of tradition is traced in Ivane Javakhishvili State University. In 1921, the rector of the University called students for the fight against Bolshevism. Today, the situation is regarded identical; because, a number of University people and students have fought physically and morally against Russia, with the masterminded plan to occupy Georgia.

The part of our administration functioned temporarily in Tbilisi to let the news reach the world along diplomatic missions about Gori University being in dire need of support. Our students, in their turn, volunteered to act as reservists, but since the war stopped, they have been involved in humanitarian actions ensured by international organizations, helping the replaced.

The academic staff has raised money in order to give assistance to the people living in tents and being wanting in many ways. The students local self-government registered the replaced of the age between 16-23, finding out, that in the tent-town there are living 90 of them. We are planning to reveal some special care toward them, rendering help gradually.

- **How extensive is the enrollment list this year?**

- There has been left practically no vacancy in the line of academic and higher professional programmes, we enrolled about

450 students this year and with the resources we possess at this stage, we will ensure all sort of conditions in order to abstain our students from encountering the aftermath of the war.

The Tbilisi State University has become 90 years of age, notwithstanding the situation today, we are going to celebrate this date. We have invited rectors as well as professors from the partner universities, who will be familiarizing themselves with the situation at hand first source.

- **What do you think of the mission the Tbilisi State University has today?**

- It has to be taken for granted that the "Mother University" will be native for everybody regardless of nationality. As regards to its graduates, including me, it may be deemed to be the Alma Mater.

Over the time period the university existed, the great mission allotted to it has been fulfilled wonderfully well. The only fact, that Georgia's higher institutions, all of them unexceptionally, have stemmed from its bosom, - makes it a must for each of us to take hats off before it and congratulate it on its occasion of the 90th anniversary, wishing that it would preserve the greatest traditions it has had through almost already a century.

Besides, I wish it could conduct training and educational processes towards challenges set up by the time.

As well as this, I do express my special gratitude to Mr. G.Khubua for being by our side in the hard times. We acknowledge the fact, that University retains all the facets of dignity not only in times of peace but also in trials of war.



Gori University, building I



Gori University, building VI

Both were killed with "a red ribbon-covered" crack of a shell-sent by the Russian occupants

The sea calms down only after throwing its sacrifice ashore. God created a man as his icon. He rules our falls and risings. People become heroes not sporadically. Shifting to myths and legends and leading afterlife is possible only for those who will strengthen the wall of the castle like Zurab and will sacrifice himself for his people. Heroism is the lot of those who didn't think only about themselves and who cared much about future even after their death. It's said that a fearless man is just mad, but bravery means just the same as overcoming that fear.

Shurtkhia Beroshvili



We should prepare "swords and necks" for the sake of our motherland. However, no one could think that such sacrifice would be needed in 21 century, that we would use again the words like: bullet, bomb and bunker. We couldn't even imagine that we would ask our youth to show bravery in something more than learning.

Probably, everything was just the same in February, 1921, when Russian 11th army came to newly-independent Georgia.

Our history remembers the following dates - February 19, 1921 and August 8, 2008 as the dates of fatal analogies. The fates of Maro Makashvili, the 2-year student of the Faculty of Philosophy and Shalva Gabunia, the 2-year student of the Faculty of Humanities resemble each other greatly. The difference lies only in time. However, time definition bears only a symbolic loading for a patriot who has already become eternal.

Maro Makashvili, a daughter of the famous Georgian poet Kote Makashvili didn't even think for a while when the rector of the University of that time-Ivane Javakishvili called the young people for the fight in order to defend their moth-

erland. On February 19, 1921 several Junkers died in the ruthless fight near Kojori and Tabakhmela. Maro Makashvili who had gone to the war as a sister of charity was among them.

On August 8, 2008 Shalva Gabunia was called up as a reservist and sent to the military base of Senaki on that very day. During night hours, while air-bombing of the reservist's camp in Senaki Shalva Gabunia died on the spot.

Both of the 19-year old youngsters died in the fight for independence. Both were killed with a red ribbon-covered crack of a shell that had been sent by the Russian occupants.

Both, Shalva Gabunia and Maro Makashvili seemed to determine their fates themselves from the very beginning. They even passed a kind of verdict for themselves. "It's not the right time to care about one's private life when the future of Georgia is questioned".

What can be higher and more beautiful than the feeling of love for your homeland"---Maro makashvili wrote in her diary.

Before going to the war Shalva Gabunia wrote a poem in which he gave an oath- always to be devoted to his country. "Let's take care of everything that was left by our ancestors, let's not lose a piece of land. God will condemn every man who will betray the Georgians. We will soon heal our wounds of Abkhazia, Ossetia and Georgia will be proud of its courageous boys".

I am reading both writings with trembling because these are the last words of the life-loving heart.

Maro Makashvili and Shalva Gabunia like many other young people of their age dreamt of getting European education.

"I want to go abroad very much and I will go there by all means. After finishing my studies I will work, collect money and help my parents in this way. I want to go to Paris and Italy so much. What will hamper me?"---Maro Makashvili writes in her diary.

According to Shalva Gabunia's teachers he was a highly motivated and determined student, who had seriously decided to learn Arabian. Shalva Gabunia was introduced by the Faculty of Humanities for the stipend granted to Georgia by the Supreme Ministry of Kuwait. His documents had already been received by the Ministry of Education of Kuwait through the help of the Ministry of Education of Georgia and Geor-

gian Embassy in Kuwait. Shalva Gabunia had to go there in September and spend the whole academic year learning in the centre of languages of the University of Kuwait.

University demanded from Maro Makashvili and Shalva Gabunia heroism only in learning, but due to the Russian aggression the future of the both was haloed for the devotion and sacrifice for the sake of their motherland. Russia doesn't change. Moreover, it deepens its anger against Georgian heroes, fighting for the country's independence.

As it's known, on February 26, 1921, on the second day of Tbilisi's "Outer Councils" a massive funeral procession was held on Rustaveli Avenue. The deceased were buried with great honor in the centre of Tbilisi, in front of the present building of Parliament.

Kote Makashvili expressed unbearable pain in his poem, in which he wrote: "February turned my May into the winter forever". The whole university was mourning with him. It was then, but today, even in 21 century Russia seems to have more anger for the Georgian youth. Many students-reservists went to fight in the war launched in August together with Shalva Gabunia. Some of them returned uninjured, but others were badly hurt. After finishing the war, disastrous news of Shalva Gabunia's death spread in the University.

The rector of Tbilisi State University- Giorgi

Khubua sent a letter of concern on behalf of the whole university to Shalva Gabunia's family. "I want to express my deep concern for the death of your son who was a successful son of the University as well. During hard times of our country he went to the camp of reservists at the first call considering fighting for his country as his first duty. I feel much sorry that such a motivated and determined young man passed away. Our university and the whole Georgia with it will greatly suffer this loss. The belief and aspiration that he would be a man of use for Georgia at the age of 19 is really a worthy example. Shalva's heroism will be added to the history of those great Georgian patriots, who decided to go to the war immediately, at the necessary moment of the hardship. On behalf of the whole university I want to express my sincere compassion and support to your family and share your tragedy".

Shalva was an orphan from his father's side. Maros's father who brought her up tenderly wrote:

- My motherland or you? Who shall I cry for? But no! It's a momentary weakness! Forgive me! Maro's father shouldn't be frightened like a coward."

Today both of them deserve these words and we can say publicly: How should that University be frightened in which they studied?



AT ROUND TABLE

The West should Open Its Eyes to Some More Things

"Nothing is more disgusting than armed injustice" — these were the words of Aristotle, the master of Alexander the Great from Macedonia. He inspired the young commander, obsessed with the craving for conquering the world: "Remember one thing. You didn't get such unreasonable education as some people did."

In 21st century, in the epoch of civilised relations between countries, it's very difficult to fly over the centuries and on the way of fighting for freedom meet Medvedev, who was brought up by Putin and whose political success is measured by the level of injustice: "Murvan the Deaf was not really deaf at all. He didn't want to hear". Maybe Sarkozy doesn't know this French saying, but he would definitely have realised that Medvedev disregarded his initiative many times, that Russia doesn't want to listen to the civilised dialogue. At the same time, on the background of the war, launched in Georgia, the world faced this fact and probably has been remarkably concerned, because no one wants to launch a new Cold War. However, by a rough attempt to trespass the territorial integrity of Georgia, Russia showed his far-reaching intentions. Respectively, the "tillage" of Russian hazardous politics gained a foot in the Ukraine immediately.

Nino Kakulia

It is said: "First help me and then tell me what to do". Such is the request of the Georgian people towards the West, the protest campaign of which is not evidently enough for making

Russia retreat. Our aggressive neighbour is not satisfied with the recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia's independence and is still threatening us with the next "surprise" for our tendency towards NATO. Can we manage to protect our sovereignty through the help of international relations and diplomacy on the background of the combat between "Russia of Putin

and "Russia of Medvedev" -- that is the question.

It is strongly doubtful that Russia will become a better country by setting its foot on the Georgian land, as it is deprived of the morals and wisdom of the great Russian writer and thinker Lev Tolstoy who is the author of the following words: "My intention to arrive in Georgia was inspired by a great blessing. God forced me to take this step and I am grateful for that. I feel that I have become a better man in Georgia. Indeed, Georgians will never forget about any of deeply moral and sensible Russian just like the fact that they will never forget the extreme cynics and bloodthirstiness of the Russian military forces who nearly headed towards Tbilisi. The world got to know the real Russia and welcomed Georgia--this is the main adversity and joy of the miserable August.

Such is the assessment of the events occurring up to now. What are the future prospects? How much energy and time is absorbed by the world diplomacy? And for us? - What shall we wait for--for the collapse of Russia or for not letting it dissolve our unity, for the verdict of the Hague-based Court for Russia on a charge

of the Georgians' ethnic cleansing or for Abkhazians and Ossetians' realisation that they signed the beginning of their Russification and not their independence by factual linkage with Russia? -- These are the questions asked by the Georgian society only in order to find the concrete way of returning Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Georgian people have found themselves in the similar situation many times over the history. Probably we have to go through this way but we should do it so that we should get home as safely as possible. That's why it's so necessary to analyse the present position of Georgia persecuted from his own territory from the stance of a well-wisher.

Strong support to Georgia made Mc Ckane, a candidate for the U.S presidency say: "Today we are all Georgians". It also made Sarkozy, the first man of EU look for "a man of promise" in Russia on the background of extremely tense relations between Russia and Georgia. Many things need to be mulled over:

to be continued on p.15

The West should Open Its Eyes to Some More Things

from p.14

- how to manage to be on the first pages of the world press in order to stay vital for long and not to make our persecuted population live longer in "the city of tents". The more intellectual opinions about the acting plan of the nation we hear and the more we make the real elite of the country -scientists the leaders of ideas, the sooner we will approach the boarders of Georgia, oppressed from every side, and cross them.

With this in mind I invited you, professors of the university, political scientists-Zaza Piralishvili and Tamar Kiknadze to talk about the problem around the table of discussion.

- The plan of the occupation of Georgia by Russia is viewed and explained by various experts differently. The motivations for signing the implementation of such massive aggression by Russia is also much talked about. Your evaluation is also very interesting. What had driven Russia to act against Georgia? What did it get and lose after the events that had occurred and developed first in South Ossetia and then already outside its borders? In what condition shall we find ourselves and what expectations should we have?



ZAZA PIRALISHVILI:

- Russia acts against Georgia for several motives that are familiar to all:

- The desire to have a loyal country in his South border (which actually means slavery to the Russian politics)
- The desire to gain a full control over energy corridor going to Europe through Georgia.
- The desire to keep control over former colonies.
- To overcome the syndrome of Afghanistan by a quick and effective military operation. The war in Chechnya proved not to be enough because of its vague ending and enormous death toll.

Already for many years Russian propagandists has been making an image of an enemy out of Georgia, which was severely defeated in August according to those propagandists. Generally, Russians think of us inadequately. According to the polls, our population is allegedly to reach 50 million, mostly Muslim people among them.

All four wishes are easily identified. After that the irrational side of Russian politics emerges. While talking about Russians it's often said that in this case we have to deal with psychology and not with politics. So one needs to be a psychologist- doctor rather than an analyst. It's obvious that Russian politicians are totally devoid of the ability to lead the paritative dialogue with partner countries. They look like a capricious and weird Boiarin who is sure that the whole world has been conspired against him and he must disclose it with one attempt. It's not a literary image. It is reality. Let's remember the dialogue between Russian minister of Foreign Affairs and his British colleague when the former used quite inappropriate vocabulary. The contents of the dialogue were immediately spread over the European mass media in order to reveal the real face of Russia. Generally, the West doesn't realise that Russian politics is mainly formed according to "Velikoderjava's" taste and psychology and not morality or mind. It doesn't follow any rules and doesn't even strive to get any political profit. However, this tendency is perfectly understood in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

There is another reason, however, why Russia is against Georgia and Ukraine. Already for many years Russian geo-political scientists who are close to Putin have been writing about the following: The idea of uniting and "rising Russia to its feet" is just the same as the idea of the Third Rome. (Unfortunately, this opinion wasn't



widely spread among the Georgians). In this context Georgia and Ukraine together with Byelorussia gains considerable importance. Therefore, our ambition towards West is extremely painful for them. They get it as a kind of betrayal to the idea of the Third Rome. Although it is extremely vague why we should be loyal to this Philetistic and National-Messianic idea that has nothing to do with Orthodoxy and on a large part with the Christianity.

Putin's watchword "to rise the nation to its feet" is not genuine. The first person who used it was Mussolini and then Hitler.

The situation is aggravated under the following circumstance: Definitely, President Medvedev doesn't approve of being in the position of a marionette and we shouldn't be surprised to find out one day that in a certain case he will prove to be "more Putin than Putin himself". I think that cunning and devious Putin didn't intend to expand the intervention outside the territory of Abkhazia and Samachablo. It was Medvedev's attempt, wishing to gain extra marks for himself in the eyes of "Velikoderjavins". Obviously, neither Putin was behind the events. Frankly speaking, I have a feeling that today Putin and Medvedev compete on radicalism with each other and the whole Russian political surrounding imitates them. Such double-governance and exaltation due to its irrational and unpredictable nature will do more harm to Russia itself.



TAMAR KIKNADZE:

- Today nobody believes any more that Russia took such an aggressive step against Georgia only to guarantee Ossetia's welfare. However, we shouldn't forget that Ossetia has traditionally been the most reliable and solid backing

force for Russia in the region of the Caucasus. Probably, such exaggerated commitment to Ossetians was the main reason for escalating the situation in Ingushia, but in our case Abkhazia and Ossetia were only the manipulative mechanism set against Georgia as a punishment for our pro-west orientation.

The question was: What did Russia get and we lose? We got a huge support expressed by the civilised world (not only moral support, but material as well). On the one hand, this made us foresee the future more optimistically and on the other hand, we became critical and relentless towards the actions of Russia. At the same time we lost Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which has been occupied by Russian military forces with their so called "buffer zones". Moreover, military operations resulted in the loss of people, destruction of military infrastructure and persecution of thousands of refugees.

- Today the fact that Europe and America are concerned about the fate of Georgia due to their own interests is much talked about. To what extent do you think we should use this factor in order to sustain our territorial

integrity and how we should struggle for this idea.

ZAZA PIRALISHVILI

- At present the problem of our territorial integrity is closely connected with the struggle against Russian energy Imperialism and respectively, we should use it cleverly. Supposedly, the West will put up with authoritarianism in our geo-political region rather than the loss of their chance to get rid of Russian energy hostage. In my opinion, our opposition also should consider this matter

TAMAR KIKNADZE:

- Generally, in the space of international politics political figures act in accordance with their own interests, every state having their own national relevance. Today the interests of Georgia coincide with those of Europe. We are in the same camp today. Georgia is a country of western orientation and strives to integrate into the Euro-Atlantic Structures. It wishes to become an honourable member of the civilised world. On its turn, the West welcomes this initiative, but Russia, considering Georgia as the domain of his power and needing it for his geo-political reasons is a serious and considerable enemy on this way.

- Do you think the opinion that we may yield the territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in exchange for the intervention in NATO is realistic?

ZAZA PIRALISHVILI

- Personally, I want to intervene in NATO for the interests of my country and society and not for the ideal love for this organisation. Therefore, the answer is clear. At the same time approached realistically, it's hard to imagine that we may lead any kind of talks with Russia over the given deal as it proved to be unreliable and untrustworthy partner to us. They have given us similar promises many times before and if today Georgia has a strictly-defined geo-political orientation it comes out of many of their politician's non-partnership features. Our independence is just a temporal caprice of history for the typical "Velikoderjava". I count on some other circumstance: I believe, the West will not wish to have Russian markets in Abkhazia and Samachablo near the independent energy corridors, which in this case is the same as the segregation of our territory. Actually, a certain consensus can be found between Russia and the West let it be yielding the Intervention in NATO to guarantee the safety of the energy corridors going through the Georgian territory, which means our territorial integrity. Personally for me such deal is acceptable if the countries of the West will guarantee this. However, such trade is highly doubtful. Today the West has another arsenal: financial and economic pressure, coming closer to Byelorussia and Armenia, which will be a serious attack on Russia and etc.

To say in other words, NATO is not an award for Georgians, it's more a kind of way out.

TAMAR KIKNADZE:

- In my opinion, integration in NATO will be connected with a number of problems. The

USA evidently supports Georgian initiative to integrate in NATO, but we shouldn't forget that NATO is an European organisation and not all of its members agree with this initiative. In this context, serious diplomatic effort will be needed.

- The perspective of energy-rich Russia's isolation is viewed with a suspect even in Europe. Considering this factor Europe measures and weighs his steps towards Russia. Naturally, Russia will not take back his decision to recognise Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent countries. How do you think, by the help of which mechanism it will be possible to restore Georgian territorial integrity?

ZAZA PIRALISHVILI

- Such mechanisms can always be found. The most important thing is that Russia should see the economic, political and moral damage it suffered as a result of the two, brave Sambast guy's action. Today it is euphoria. Tomorrow the financial loss will be reflected on every citizen's life.

That's why I think that the struggle continues. It started as an ethnic conflict and was converted into the confrontation between Russia and the West. We couldn't even dream about it several years ago. That's why I think that the attempt of some of the politicians to build up their strategy on the despair and hopelessness of our population has been failed to survive. Anyway, it is a mistake to push people to the anguish when there is a real ground for hope as the most important thing happened: The problem of our territorial integrity has been linked with many of the "mighty" countries' vital interests.

TAMAR KIKNADZE:

- Russia has recognised the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, whereas Europe despite its energetic dependence on Russia considers them as indivisible parts of Georgia fully supporting the latter's territorial integrity.

On this stage, we should pay more attention to our democratic development, economic growth, the reformation of the court, the freedom of the media, care for our citizens and restoration of the country. Of course, the situation is not simple, but there can always be a way out: Who would imagine, for instance, that the events would take such turn on Cyprus? Cyprus was divided into two parts and finally the Turks themselves wished to live with the Greeks. This was stipulated by the economic and political success of the Greek part of the island and its integration in EU.

- Under the condition, in which power stands above everything, how necessary is it to involve the intellectual resources of the country in solving the conflicts and how would you imagine to work in this direction?

ZAZA PIRALISHVILI:

- In present situation I would wish to cooperate more closely with the intellectuals of those countries which were in the space of the Soviet Union and had a considerable experience in dealing with Russia. The matter is that the West should open its eyes to more things. Such cooperation, let's say such post-Soviet solidarity can become an important political factor.

TAMAR KIKNADZE:

- In this particular situation, the involvement of the intellectual resources is one of the most important factors. The way out of any situation can always be found, if evaluated and calculated correctly. I want to say one more thing: politics and diplomacy cannot bear radical, improvident actions. The people who are involved in politics shouldn't forget the Biblical truth: Everything has its own time and turn under the heaven. The time of silence and the time of speech, the time of crying and the time of laughing, the time of mourning and the time of happiness, the time of love and the time of hatred, the time of war and the time of peace, the time of scattering stones and the time of their collecting.

Mr. Scheffer's call for us to be more democratic as we intend to join NATO

Students Meet NATO Secretary-General

Georgia's attempts to push ahead with democratic reforms as an independent /sovereign country was wrecked by a war with Russia.

The small country's 'disproportionate' fights with its Northern neighbour have never attracted the attention of the world—Neither in the 1920s of the twentieth century, when the occupation of Georgia was deemed as Russia's own affairs, nor when Russia, hidden behind the separatist regimes of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, recognized the independence of the Georgia's breakaway regions. At that time no one would believe that the only 'fault' that Russia had found with Georgia was its rich history and geo-strategic importance.

Maia Toradze

In August Russia committed aggression in Georgia. Soon after, it was clear that the world recognized the reality of the danger. The world noticed that still existing Soviet/Russian imperialism was aspiring to the world hegemony. According to experts, this can be considered as a strong message of support from the West. A belief, that Georgia was punished because of its desire to join NATO and achieve independence and democracy, was prevailing among experts making the evaluation of the facts.

Politologists still have time to produce final analysis. At this stage there are several reasons underlying Russian aggression: To give a lesson to Georgia because of the independence that it values and the democracy it is aspiring to; To replace a democratically elected government with the authorities acknowledged by Russia; to hinder the expansion of NATO; To exert influence on power lines and piping in the Caucasus.

We can say that energy and finances spent on Georgia exceeded the amount that Russia had ever spent endeavouring to repress any other nation over the last millennia. Until today the only official body that had been blamed for its desire to join NATO was the Georgian government. 2008 Referendum revealed that together with the Georgian authorities about 70 percent of the Georgian population approve of Georgia applying for NATO Membership.

The results of 2008 Referendum were converted into a message for Russia urging the imperialist power to take action. Before NATO summit in Bucharest they were openly stating that they would work to the best of their ability to stop Georgia from joining NATO. Georgia's failure to obtain NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP) triggered the implementation of Russia's plans and let the country direct the armed aggression against

Georgia. As a result of this, the idea was reinforced among our society that the struggle for our country's territorial integrity was just. A firm bond between Georgia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization would be a tool for us to be used in self-defence.

This is the first time we have noticed that Georgia is not alone in the struggle against aggression from Russia. All democratic countries are on Georgia's side thus isolating Russia from the international community. Political experts say that Georgia has lost the unfair war against Russia, but in terms of politics Georgia has achieved success after all. The country has managed to demonstrate how large the scale of Russian aggression is in reality. It is not surprising that U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is critically evaluating Russia's move. Early in the spring French Foreign Minister was speaking up for Russia. However, now French position on what has happened in Georgia does not lack logic. Today Russia is under constraint to comply with the agreement offered by President of France Nicolas Sarkozy. Russia is forced to withdraw forces from Georgian territory.

NATO Council visiting session in Tbilisi proved to be a suitable format which provided unequivocal support. The establishment of NATO-Georgia Commission caused the provocation of Russian political establishment, though it did not hinder NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer from visiting a shelter for those harmed in the war as he met people from a broad spectrum of society. Notwithstanding a tight schedule Mr Jaap de Hoop Scheffer managed to meet with Georgian students at Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University on Septem-



ber 16. It was his third visit at the university where, as he says, feels very comfortable. In an auditorium the audience put questions awaiting explicit replies. A lot of effort went into making Mr Jaap de Hoop Scheffer speak openly and avoid diplomacy. However, the NATO Secretary General did not make a slip in speaking referring to a conventional approach to discussion. In his speech Mr Scheffer made several important points: 1) Georgia is backed by NATO, 2) A denunciation of aggression coming from Russia, which led to the recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia's independence, is clearly evident, 3) Georgia will definitely join NATO and this will be agreed on by 26 member states together with Georgia, 4) Georgia must not give up setting up democracy through necessary reforms towards joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 5) The reality is that we cannot escape Russia. Georgia and Russia, therefore, must learn how to form friendly, peaceful relations.

According to NATO's chief, the strong support, which has been given to Georgia, is clearly shown in NATO Communiqué. They in NATO not only condemned Russia's recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, they called Russia to reverse its decisions to recognize the two separatist territories in Georgia as well. Russia was told that the alliance would change their attitudes and would no longer be able to maintain the same relations with Russia. The NATO Secretary General was saying that they disapprove of any proposal from Russia conveying that the alliance members must make a choice between Georgia and Russia. He explained that our country is located in this geostrategic zone and it is not possible for them to move the territory. He suggested that Russia and Georgia should devise ways to coexist successfully side by side. According to Mr Scheffer, this kind of system will only work if Georgia guarantees stability and enough

safety which will be fully appreciated by all its neighbours. He said they were convinced that Georgia would keep on taking a root in this direction.

Students asked questions about the necessity for Georgia to be allowed to join the NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP) by way of an exception. More specifically, students were interested in the following questions:

- Would NATO make an exception for Georgia to be accepted into the organization in this particular situation?
- Would it be possible to accelerate the above process?

As we have already mentioned, though NATO Secretary General refrained from replying explicitly, he pointed out that NATO was confident of further expansion. As for Georgia, the country should not hold back the ongoing process of reforms and should make its institutions truly democratic. As Mr Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

states, the encouragement and support provided by NATO has enabled Georgia to achieve remarkable results in the sector of economics, defence and the judicial system. However, "there is more that Georgia must still do" to satisfy NATO requirements. Mr Scheffer's advice to us is that it is essential to make Media independent and impartial and launch a constructive dialogue with the Opposition.

Speaking with students from Tbilisi State University Mr Jaap de Hoop Scheffer indicated that it was within their interests to see Georgia involved in the continuing process of democratization, for the country had shown willingness to provide security and not just seek security. He added that Georgia had demonstrated its commitment in this direction at the international level in Kosovo and Afghanistan; And the contribution had been appreciated by NATO.

NATO Secretary General says that we should not expect NATO to bring in troops. Since gaining independence Georgia, a small country free from Soviet imperialism, has been expecting a war and hoping for some help from NATO. Until recently, in spite of making a special effort, we have never been able to get NATO's attention. We thought our wish to join NATO was the only thing that mattered. As the Georgian saying goes 'It's better to confess our sins to God' and... Until now, our society has been expecting a change for the better. That is why most Georgian experts and university students were asking Mr Jaap de Hoop Scheffer the following questions:

- Why are we aspiring to NATO?
- Is the struggle worth the sacrifice that Georgia has made?
- Would the political support received from the organization be enough to affect the scale of Russian aggression?

The above queries were responded to and dealt with by Kakha Katsitadze in 1996. He explained that NATO was an organization the objective of which was to neutralize any

dangers of global importance and defend member states against some aggression by providing military help. Mr Katsitadze expressed his regret at the fact that Georgia did not belong to NATO. These lines of reasoning still work and Mr Scheffer's answers below, as compared with his other answers are unambiguous and explicit. He says that what has happened is acknowledged to be true by them all. However, he tells us that we should not expect NATO to deploy troops here; And if we are expecting this to happen we will end up disappointed. He reminds us that NATO is an alliance that has a membership of 26 countries and Georgia does not belong to NATO yet. Therefore, we should not look for something more than what has been done for us. As Mr Scheffer states, the membership have already demonstrated that they are actively engaged in supplying assistance to Georgia.

It should be taken for granted that when speaking before the meeting the NATO Secretary General was pointing to the encouraging official statements that had been made as well as other events that had been held in favour of Georgia. Also he hinted at the NATO Summit meetings in Bucharest during which it was stated very clearly that Georgia would be admitted into NATO and would receive MAP. Students expressed an interest in the following: The world was informed that if Georgia had not receive MAP it would not have been possible to avert Russian aggression. The NATO Summit in Bucharest produced no good results for us. Mr Jaap de Hoop Scheffer had only one answer for students who were putting the same questions in different contexts. According to him, they arrived at the clear-cut decisions at the summit conference. The outcome was beneficial. The issue bearing relation to Georgia as a prospective member of NATO had never been touched upon before. In December NATO foreign ministers will gather to make their first assessment of the events that happened in August. It is difficult to make predictions about the consequences that will stem from the evaluation. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer says that the problems are well under discussion in NATO, but the latest happenings in Georgia do not relate to the alliance and the

summit in Bucharest at all.

The NATO Secretary General made comments on the necessity of the continuation of reforms and noted that NATO would not engage in the activities or reforms of the electoral system, the judicial system etc; But it does not mean that the reforms are of no importance. In December NATO Member Countries will make judgments on what Georgia has done to deserve its entry into the organization. Any country willing to be a member of the Democratic alliance must meet NATO's democratic standards.

Mr Jaap de Hoop Scheffer's speech emphasized the importance of the creation of NATO-Georgia Commission. According to him, this is not for demonstrating a relationship between NATO and Georgia. the Commission will act as a valuable instrument for Georgia and will help the country expand relations with NATO. He asserts that NATO enlargement will continue and will aim at preserving stability in Europe. Democratically elected governments will have opportunities to make their own decisions and defend their interests. Mr Scheffer formally announced that Georgia will be accepted into NATO. It would be sacrilege to have distrust of such a high-ranking person. We simply must find our ways to get NATO Structures interested in order to receive real assistance. We must try our best to have admirable record on human rights and improve further our democratic institutions and practices. The NATO Secretary General suggests that our country should become democratic and achieve stability. We must learn how to conduct peaceful negotiations and settle conflicts in order to coexist with Russia.

Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer assures us that the door to NATO is wide open for Georgia. He also says that we should not worry because it might not take us a long time to attain success. He, therefore, wants to let us in on the secret—26 NATO member countries are convinced that Georgia will be accepted into the block.

Formerly Russia was supported by UN and I felt my country to be powerless

Following Mr Scheffer's visit there appeared not much optimistic articles about Georgia and prospects for Membership of NATO. Experts appreciate the visit of The NATO Secretary General enormously. They say it should come as no surprise that Mr Jaap de Hoop Scheffer did not promise to do more than what NATO Mission believed was the right thing to do to help Georgia in that context.



Professor Levan Aleksidze, of Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University, thinks that Jaap de Hoop Scheffer's visit was a big event. According to him, the fact remains that Russia has been forced by the West to withdraw the military

from Georgia before the 15th of October. NATO has taken this step to prove that our territorial integrity is strongly supported.

Professor Levan Aleksidze was explaining that he had had to go through a turbulent period taking part in peace talks with Abkhazians. He said the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia had been on their side then. Today's picture is different. The governments of all 26 allies agreed to pay a visit to the ex-Soviet republic to show solidarity with its people; and this is very important. Now Russia will not be able to resist the power which is in the hands of NATO.

The War in Georgia has cast our minds back getting us to recall Bertolt Brecht's words saying that the war has come to an end and that people should have a fear of the peace now. The war has not stopped in Georgia yet. It has just erupted. the whole world has seen that the fight of a small country for freedom and democracy has turned out to be the fight for world peace and democracy. Now Georgia is not alone in this struggle.

University graduates

Inspite of being high - ranked officials, University graduates talk to us with respect and awe

"We all come from the University" These are the words of the generations who experienced the first years of Soviet rule, World war II, the period of the "powerful and victorious" Soviet Union, and last of all, the troubled times of the post-soviet independent Georgia. Nevertheless, time has not managed to separate these generations mentally. That is why, while talking about the graduates of Tbilisi State University, we should bear in mind that a large number of members of Georgian society come from the roots of the Mother University. Some of the graduates have become respectable members of society, some of them occupy high positions, some of them - regrettably - did not find enough personal drive and resources to continue their life with dignity. Still, they were all treated equally by the University, they were all given the opportunity to obtain a truly European

education and were equally encouraged to become responsible members of the society.

To be called a university graduate is a mantle to be borne with pleasure. You are honoured to follow the steps of Ivane Javakhishvili, Philippe Gogichaishvili, Ilia Vekua, Shalva Nutsubidze, Akaki Shanidze, Giorgi Tsereteli, Niko Muskhelishvili, Dimitri Uznadze and Arnold Chikobava for example. You are lucky to feel the aura of the University saturated with the intellectual power of these masters of Georgian science.

Thus the university graduate must be accountable to the memory of the honoured and highly respected founders of the University. This unique mission is fully recognised by our well-known respondents, graduates of TSU of whom the University is proud of.

You can always rely on me!

Lado Gurgenidze,
Prime Minister of Georgia



Any country would be proud of the traditions Georgia enjoys in education. This can be proved by just naming academies such as Pazisi, Gelati and Ikalto which were started in the fourth century AD as well as educational centres functioning at Georgian churches abroad. Unfortunately, historical misfortunes and hardships and later, the rule of Russian Empire over Georgia destroyed the glorious past and by that time no Georgian University existed in Georgia.

In the short period of Independence Georgian patriots founded a national university. It is symbolic that the University was opened on the day of David the Builder, the king whose name is cherished by each Georgian. This happened on 8 February, 1918.

At that period the University was unique within the Transcaucasian region. During the following decades our University endured unbelievable ideological pressure and censorship still managing to retain the Georgian national spirit. Within its walls well-known scholars were raised and nurtured who later gained international recognition and showed the whole world the intellectual abilities of Georgian people. The first Rector of the University was a famous scientist, chemist Petre Melikishvili.

I am proud that I am among the thousands of the University graduates carrying the title with pride.

Today, the University has great contacts with the educational Institutions all over the world, joint conferences are held, joint Scientific journals are published. Our students participate in Exchange programmes and I can say with pride that they are always among the best in terms of their motivation and intellectual capabilities.

Ivane Javakhishvili University is the temple for nurturing and strengthening national spirit and mentality. That is why

it is so enveloped by love and respect. This is why each and every Georgian is proud of it. Personally, I am always with you as Prime Minister, one of the people desiring to witness the progress and development of the University. You can always rely on me!

How can I forget those spiritual seminars, lessons in humanity...

Tamaz Chiladze, writer

- A lot of precious memories are related to the university. It was the university that was one of the oases, where not only students, but the whole nation, who pinned their hopes to this temple of enlightenment, found a kind of relief during the Communist regime.



How can I forget those wonderful personalities, who not only taught us a subject but raised us up as responsible and decent citizens of Georgia.

How can I forget the lectures delivered by Akaki Shanidze, Varlam Topuria, Korneli Kekelidze, Simon Kaukhchishvili? I can call them "seminars of spirituality, lessons of humanity".

The generation of the writers of the 1960s was conceived and brought up in the University, under the umbrella of thoughtful kindness of the rector Niko Ketskhoveli.

Before we moved to the newly founded journal "Tsikari", we were called "Pirveltskhiveli" (people from "Pirveli Skhivi"- the almanac ardently desired and founded by Niko Ketskhoveli).

In 1977 I was awarded Ivane Javakhishvili medal, by Tbilisi State University.

Alongside with Rusitaveli Reward I consider this to be the highest and most sought for medal among all the awards I have got.

In 1994, at the Jubilee of TSU, which was held in the Opera Theatre, I had the

honour of making a speech, one extract from which I will recall with pleasure in order to remind some of our citizens that" The University has a unique mission and importance in the life of Georgia- to give birth to the future of the nation! Even the superficial listing of the contributions to the Georgian nation made by University professors can't fail to fill the hearts of Georgian citizens with pride and foreign visitors with respect towards Georgia.

Either by the almighty, by fate or by our history, the University, together with Georgian writers and church was given the mission of being the highest mentor of the nation.

May it bear this noblest but hardest burden for many years to come, during the future life of Georgian people, in other words, forever!

We were not much involved in street protests as we were more concentrated on learning

Lasha Jvania,
Chairman of the Committee for International Relations of Parliament

- **What should be the role played by University in terms of regulation of the current processes in Georgia? How can Georgia use its great intellectual potential?**

I am a university graduate... In 1995 I graduated from the Faculty of International Law and International Relations. I specialised in International Law. I became a postgraduate student in Humanitarian Law of the University. It was a very difficult period for Georgia. I mean economic and energetic crisis, difficult social conditions... Everything reflected our university.



University is a very fragile instrument, which reacts on the situation in our country. If something happens in the country, University al-

ways shows its position. But the primary duty of it, is the provision of high-quality education and the promotion of important scientific researches. I respect Giorgi Khubua very much and I believe, that he will enhance the prestige of our university in the world.

- **You are a university graduate. What can you remember from your university life?**

- We created a mechanism of self-education. Of course, our professors supported us, but we were very purposeful. We had the greatest ambition to study all the subjects very well. We seldom took part in street activities, because we thought that independent Georgia needed skilled professionals and high-quality specialists of the International Law. 18 students from 32 took diplomas with honour. Among them were Kote Kublashvili, Tina Khidasheli, Gia Getsadze, Irakli Okruashvili, Vika Dolidze, Irakli Alasania, Koba Lursmanashvili, Zurab abashidze, Mirian Gogiashvili and others. During the period of our studies there was a lack of foreign literature in Georgia. We had no books of International Relationships and Law. I want to remember professor Alexander Rondeli, who played the greatest role in the creation of the library of our faculty. Alexander Rondeli tried to attract foreign specialists to deliver lectures. It was an important innovation for university life. I want to remember a young, well-prepared lecturer, who had a surprising ability of delivery. This was Nino Burjanadze. I remember every lecture delivered by Tedo Ninidze. Lado Chanturia - a very interesting professor. The lectures delivered by Alexander Rondeli, Levan Aleksidze were distinguished and memorable by the discussions and analytical evaluations of current events.

- **What would you advise university students?**

- To be longing for continual development and progress. Everything achieved should be hanced, one should not stop, should not become satisfied with the achieved. One should think that nothing has been done yet and should never stop developing. One should be ambitious and well-aware of the curriculum. Our country will be saved only by our intellectual capabilities. We don't possess fuel resources, great amount of natural resources. We will never be able to compete with the major world states and export something extraordinary. The only competitive product we can create must be intellectual product. I mean, we should create and export some intellectual product. Right now I am talking about Sciences as well as Technologies. If our students use their university years well, learn how to operate IT, they will be able by creating even one computer program bring a lot of financial profit to Georgia, as well as to themselves.

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Inspite of being high -ranked officials, University graduates talk to us with respect and awe

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We should work in this direction... There are no boards for our brains.

May University be very successful? TSU possesses enormous intellectual and human resources which should have IT support. If this problem is sorted out, then, TSU will be able to conquer the summits of sciences. We should start by identifying scientific resources. 21st century is the century of IT.

Students Ought to unite Only for the Defence Purposes of Democratic Values and Principles

Sozar Subari, Ombudsman:

- **Mr. Sozar, a lot of responsibilities are reposed in you as People's defender, especially today, when under the circumstances of the Russian aggression the rights of thousands innocent people's have been abused. How do you visualize your own part as regards the development of democratic principles, which come forth as demands of the West.**



- The Ombudsman's Institute has been working into many directions in connection with these issues. My colleagues and I were in the zone of conflict to have witnessed the unfolding events. Once the replaced started arriving in Tbilisi, our personnel took up rendering assistance to them financially and otherwise.

From the very first days, the government did not practically admit that the war had been lost and that the country became infiltrated with thousands of fugitives; contrary to that the agitated TV companies congratulated people on the victory won, echoing with the meetings of the same locution. However, Tbilisi was filled with a huge number of homeless and famished people. Therefore, the Ombudsman institution undertook the maximum position of help to those being wanting. As well as this, we started to reveal and register facts of looting, raping and murdering, relying on the thought, that they, in their turn, mould the history. As we think these facts represent materials that could be drawn upon at International Courts. These documents will undoubtedly outline also the political liability of certain politicians. I do believe, that this day will arrive but sometime. If we happen to fail to base our country on democratic values, the West is bound to stand with its back to us leaving Georgia without support.

As it is of no doubt, the West European countries ought to ensure more active commitment in order to have as developing our democracy, providing on its part the freedom of word and unbiased elec-

tions. On the other hand, any assistance, ensured by Europe must be conditioned by one priority, recognizing democratic values to be irreversible to process. It's common knowledge, when having to choose between democracy and stability, the world opts in favour of stability. Georgia makes no exclusion in this regard...

For the very same reason to maintain stability the truth had been hush-hashed, leading the country to the catastrophe. Our aspirations to become a NATO member have to face its foremost requirements: strengthening democracy and the fair trial. How can one at all discuss the strengthening of democratic institutions, when budget funds of Ombudsman personnel have had no single increase as yet to say nothing of the technical side being wanting in many ways. Indeed, it's a fact, that the donor organizations' help is dramatic, but their aid is in no way reflected on employees' income or the expense of the office and its overheads or another. We expect the state should exceed our financial assistance at least symbolically, in order to allegedly ascertain later that it is strengthening the democratic institutions at present. I'm seeing that, the things will take this turn in the future.

- **You are our university graduate. What do you think one can say about the part, the university is to play in these days of life trials. What do you think the university should be like at its 90th anniversary of birth?**

- The university has always had two functions. First, being a centre of knowledge at the same time being a floor for most vociferant proclamation of the truth, needed to be heard by the country. Besides, the university has been but first amongst those, protecting the democratic values. Its studentship introduced the force that proclaims progress... It was deliberately arranged that students would not associate or become politically conscious. Students must unite only to secure democratic values, standing aloof from its administration or arbitrariness. A student must be liberated from fears to speak his / her mind. We remember hard times, when the

University played the most effective part in the political life of the country, becoming a pivotal force of the processes in the 1980s. Though it is a fact, that the time period, mentioned was to a certain extent, a set back as regards studies, which should not repeat again; because it is of great importance that the University retain its academic makeup. I have a great mind, that the University would proceed with committing itself to the playing of its honorary part even in the future.

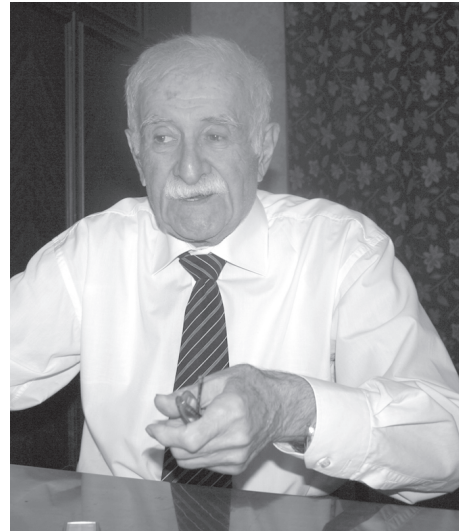
- **Would you mind recalling anything from the bygone university days?**

The university is noted for its people having taught us not only the disciplines but also inculcated its students with aspirations to turn into real sons of our own country. I studied history at the University remember the relationships between students and lecturers to be most cordial.

The University has been a flagship, the nation's progressive banner, that should not be ever bent down

Kote Cholokhashvili,
a scientist-collaborator of Georgia's state museum, leader of nobles' board, professor:

- When great Ivane Javakhishvili passed by the University, he used to take



off his hat as the sign of respect. During the years of World War II the university was painted in black in order not to be easily noticed by airplanes of enemy. Once I happened to pass very closely by the University. The cabman was surprised to see the re-painted building and cried out loudly that something strange had been done to their University. Can you understand what I mean? The university used to be an important institution not only for students and professors, but it was a public and admirable educational centre for everybody. When the University was being built, Ilia was asked what the use of such a huge building was... Ilia told them that at that time they were building a high school but later it could become a university... And it came true.

- **When did you study at the University?**

- In 1940 I finished a secondary school and in the same year I got enrolled at the University. At that time all the branches had brilliant representatives: Ivane Javakhishvili, Giorgi Chitaia, Giorgi Nioradze, Niko Muskhelishvili and others. They used to be spiritual fathers of the nation.

The university has always played an important role in political and social life of the country and has always expressed its opinion and stated its position concerning the current events. The Academy of Sciences has always been adherent to university traditions.

- **Russia's aggression has already led us to serious consequences a number of times. What do you visualize the role and mission the university in this situation? What would you wish to the 90-year-old university?**

- We are a small nation and we should always avoid a war. Only great countries, having no demographic problems can wage wars. That's why the tragedy that took place is very mournful and alarming. In addition, to that a special care to be given to the reproduction of the nation and the ways contributing to solving this problem. The nation should be rescued physically... Of course, the university should express its opinion.

The university belongs to each of us. It has the greatest public importance. It's a fact that it used to be different educational centers in the past, but we have never had anything more valuable and greater than this. The university has been a flagship and a progressive banner that should not be bent down.

- **Do you feel anything special about the fact that you are a university graduate? The feeling carries a wonderful charge, does it not?**

- I felt a great responsibility and I was obliged to behave appropriately. I tried not to do anything, tarnishing its name. Though I was not asked to have had stand

point I had. I like the present Rector of the University, who brilliantly fulfills his duties without any pomp or fuss. This kind of person should lead the great temple of knowledge. The university should continue its traditions, being a model for other universities, established on its intellectual and scientific base.

The University was a place by which I continuously protested improprieties

Dato Turashvili, writer:

- **What role should the University play in current situation?**

- I can't say anything concerning the present role of the university, as I am not in touch with students any more and I don't know exactly what is happening now. But still, when they say that coming generation seems to be bad, I don't believe in it. The same used to be said in the times of Aristotel. Coming out of my several-year teaching experience I think on the contrary, we have a wonderful youth. But I cannot see that students had protest charge whatever. Maybe such students do exist, but I don't know about them. However, it is clear that a protest determines the value of freedom. A student is the most free-thinking person in the world. Today there is seen a lot to be criticised but unfortunately, I have heard of nobody judging anything at the university. The fact that students do not protest anything tells of the problems to be with the country itself and not with the students.

- **While studying at the university did you protest everything? The time was different, in the soviet period you really had a lot of reasons...**

- We used to protest anything we didn't like, I mean that we were busy holding not only demonstrations but we studied and generally, we managed everything.

While a student, I visited the whole Georgia on foot. My studenthood was the happiest period when I was in love most of the time.

- **What do you think what the university means for the Georgian nation?**



- Niko Tskhedadze and Simon Kldiashvili's initiative seemed to be funny for some people, as this idea was not popular from the very beginning and a lot of people wanted to build a military institute. There were only few people who considered that a book was much more important than a military institute. But enthusiasts managed to found the university anyway. Since 1918 the university has always been in the centre of events since the very day of its foundation.

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Inspite of being high -ranked officials, University graduates talk to us with respect and awe

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The university would always say its own word. Every process was straightly reflected on it and vice versa... When we were students we were very active and protested anything we did not like.

- Is it partially the university's merit that today you are a writer today?

- The university has surely provided me with education and helped me to formulate values. But neither an institution nor any kind of organization can make a writer from you.

Though the system being Soviet, you could surely manage to study, you had enough urge to do it as there were a number of good professors at the university at that period.

As for our distorted conscience, I can tell you an example from statistics. In the seventies there were more students in Georgia than in France, Spain and Italy taken together. It seemed that everybody studied in Georgia but today a deficit has been traced among professionals in our country. That's why the reform of education is of great importance but it takes years. We won't be able to see this result now. It needs generations to pass to notice the result of the reform. I like the fact that entrance exams have become more transparent but there are not perfect...

- Did the government take students' opinions into consideration when you were a student?

- When the government feels that students are indifferent of course, it would not care less about their opinion. It happens when students themselves ask for something.

We used to be quite disobedient people, moreover, the government was very afraid of demonstrations at that time. From the beginning there were only few of us the resolute, the KGB used to attend demonstrations to spy, but later we managed to get the whole studenthood involved in this process.

- Were not you afraid?

- Only the insane have no fears. I thought it was worth being active. There were cases of imprisonments and facts of intimidation. But all this was of minor importance compared to the reason demonstrations arranged.

A student should be the freest individual among all the rest. As it is deemed throughout the world! In all the countries a student has got at least one explosive as an instrument of protest. If a student has not got the feeling of protest, it will be very bad for a country. There won't be any progress and nothing will develop. In all the countries any kind of progress is caused by a movement. The country that does not "move" won't develop. Do you remember Iliia's words...?

Others can keep silent but students should not, as in reality there is not a single person as liberal as a student. If I were a student I would not stop. If I can't stop now what force would stop me then.

- What would you do?

- I would protest anything I didn't like. I can't believe that students can accept everything.

- What would you wish to the university at its 90 years anniversary?

- You probably know how Petre Melikishvili, the first rector of the University died. Though in desperate need to be operated on abroad he refused to be provided with the expenses for the operation. Such was the tragic history of the first uni-

versity rector having no parallel in the world.

It is seems that people are at a lose as regards the university's shoulds. I guess the way out of this predicament is in reading its ordinance. The University should be autonomous and an absolutely independent unit - a state within the state. If it is achieved at all, everything will be all right. I wish freedom to all people and universities and firstly, I wish this to our university. It is not that I am haunted by one thought about freedom, I just think that no person can develop unless he is free... The moment the university obtains freedom it will be potent to give a high level education to students. Therefore I always thought the university to be the right place where to express protests. I don't suggest that students be divided according to their political crede. God forbid that... But I'd like my university had the same semblance with that of European ones. Apart from Tbilisi, I also studied in two other European universities and I'm absolutely sure that unless there is students' movement and freedom neither the society nor the country develops...

Taking other countries' experience into consideration don't make us lose our identity

Nugzar Tsiklauri,

Chairman, relations with compatriots residing abroad committee:



- What does the university mean to you? What could you say about it? How does the university continue the mission laid on by the founders?

- Not only the years make me separated from the period when I became a student... The whole epoch has changed in Georgia since that time. The university was adjusted to the Soviet system in that period but despite the fact it has not lost the function of intellectual centre of the nation. At the end of the 80s, at the very first stage of the struggle for independence it became clear that despite the soviet history the university continued to be the main center of national identity. And Georgians got together around the university at the very decisive moment. This was the quench laid in the foundation of our university.

- What was the studenthood like at that time and can you draw parallels between the old and the present generation?

- We were ordinary students. Not infrequently we had the interests going asunder from the curricula.. Like elsewhere we liked playing a truant having fun apart. Though regretting it now that can't be simply helped ...

- Don't you think that you lost a lot? Were there any lecturers whose classes you never missed?

- We didn't lack such kind of things. It

should be noted that after the constellation of great Georgian scientists left the university, there were only few lecturers whose classes were pleasant for us... Although, I would single out several lectures and disciplines that we studied with pleasure. I still remember the impressions caused by Zurab Kiknadze, Rismag Gordeziani and Alexander Aleksidze's lectures. There were days when the students from other faculties told us that a certain lecturer delivered an interesting course and we attended those classes.

Today it is different. Tbilisi State University has got an opportunity to have relations with leading university schools. I know that rectors and scientists from different universities of the world intend to arrive in Georgia for the 90th anniversary solemnities of the university. It is very useful as during such meeting representatives of different scientific branches share their experience with each other bringing along progress.

- You used to be the head of the university Publishing house. What did you manage to do in that short period and in what direction should the publishing house work in order to provide for the problem of textbooks published in the native language.

- When I worked at the publishing house I had clearly formulated the publishing politics in which Georgian studies takes an important part. We should finance directions of Georgian studies as nobody else except us will make a deliberate study of Georgia's history at its certain periods, as well as hagiography, the Georgian literature and the stages of its development better than us. As for the Exact sciences or the branches like: medicine or astronomy, we take advantage in translating the coursebooks attested by international educational system. Foreign universities have got a great experience in this direction. Over the course of years, they had an opportunity to spend finances and carry out important scientific researches. For instance, there are several programs of NASA the budget of which by far exceeds the budget of Georgia. These are the programs that feed different scientific directions. Thus, provided that we have got an opportunity to use their experience and translate their books we should do it by all means.

By the way, Georgian traditions and culture has never been confined. Let's remember the Mtatsmindelis who were busy translating in the very period when Georgians opposed the Greek and translated theological literature from Greek. Later the sense and direction of Christianity was defined by it.

- You mentioned tradition... How should Georgian traditions and Western values coalesce with each other without losing the identity?

- We should remember that we are Georgians and our culture is unique: and nevertheless Georgia should be open to share experience with European, American and Eastern countries. I will tell you an example of Japan. This is a country of great historical traditions aware of time values and being able to invent a train to covering 400 km per hour. However at the same time, Japan is the country that can spend hours on tea-drinking rites. This should be our keypoint - we should respect our own tradition and past but at the same time we should be ready and susceptible to other experiences. Innovations can't be born only in a single coun-

try. The old Greeks have it that only the mixture of both tradition and innovation can outline opportunities of development unfailingly. We have traditions of which we are proud, but holding in esteem the experience of other cultures won't make us lose our identity.

Coming out of its potential the University can work on anticrisis projects

Giorgi Gogvadze,
a member of Parliament:



- Today our country and society face new challenges. What is your thought on the role of the university in this situation?

- First of all, I would like to congratulate the university on its 90th anniversary. Having created the history of its own and of Georgia, as well. The recent events have made several unforeseen priorities come to the fore. Unfortunately, we'll have to look through the plan again formulated in the peaceful period by the country and the government. Today it is very important to know how the country and its society will develop; it is nontheless important to know about the ways chosen by the intellectuals of the country, as well as by the University itself. Education has always been a prior concern for our country but at present we should make it more intensively. If education is given a due care our generations will realise tasks of the future, however challenging.

- Besides the educational function the University has a serious intellectual potential. Under the circumstances, do you think it is possible for the government to fully use the potential?

- Preceding from its potential today, the university can surely work in the line of anti-crisis projects of different character. It will be very important to have employed the right expertise and to formulate issues on the economic development of the country. As one of the deputies I am always ready to support these kind of initiatives and have no doubts that members of parliament among which there are a lot of university graduates will like the initiative. In this hard times, the function of the university is great and I know, as well that students are responsive to the upcoming requirements of the time. I am bound to say that a number of the university initiatives will be given a mighty launch.

Articles about University Graduates were prepared by:
Tamar Maruashvili, Shurtkhia Beroshvili,
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The History of Foundation and Development of the University

The origins of Georgian enlightenment traditions go back to Phazisi School of Philosophy and Rhetoric (4th century, Kolkheti), Gelati and Ikalto Academies (12th century) as well as to monastery-educational centers of Palestine (5th century), Syria (6th century), Greece (10-11th centuries) and Bulgaria (11th century). As a result of political-economic decline and invasions of various enemies, Georgian educational centers stopped functioning in 14th century. Turning into Russia's colony put an end to the existence of national institutions of higher education.

For centuries "the energy directed mainly to rescuing nation from physical annihilation was unable to develop weakened spiritual culture, to restore ruined educational centers. Although the wish for their revival appeared many times." (Z. Gaiparashvili "The Luminary of the Century" p. 107)

In 1830 opened Tbilisi Gymnasium, whose aim was not to prepare young people for entrance to university. In 1835, after introduction of teaching of French and German languages, graduates of Tbilisi Spiritual Seminary were allowed to enter the school of higher education. The very same year 5 graduates of the gymnasium were sent to Russia University to continue their studies. Since that period Georgian young people had travelled to Russia for acquisition of higher education. There gradually increased the number of Georgians and was created strong nucleus that played decisive role in the foundation of the university.

In the first half of the 19th century appeared the idea of foundation of the university that later grew into actual struggle of "Tergdaleulis." The leaders of Georgian national-liberation movement under Ilia Chavchavadze's guidance persistently demanded opening of a university, but "Czarism" was against this under the pretext that the country was unprepared for having its own university. Despite this thesis of "Czarism", the reality presented different picture: increase in the number of Georgian students in European and Russian institutions of higher education proved the fact that our young people were ready to fill university halls, provided one opened in Tbilisi. Regarding that false statement, Ilia Chavchavadze was writing the following: "Let's say that our people are really unprepared. But in that case should they stay that way forever? What prepares people? Learning, practice, experience, getting familiar with the matter for which they should prepare. We tie up a human and tell him to learn wrestling."

Advanced youth did not stay passive while waiting for the emperor's permission. They were developing written language, creating educational and scientific centers, and thus enriching the soil, where Georgian University was going to emerge. For that purpose, they took measures – started construction of the biggest building of those times in Tbilisi – the building of Gentry Gymnasium (the present main building of the university), which from the very beginning was conceived as Georgia University by Ilia Chavchavadze, Niko



Tskhvedadze, Iakob Gogebashvili and other Georgian public figures.

The idea of establishment of university was implemented in the 10s of the 20th century, when there started the process of taking extremely difficult but consistent measures under Ivane Javakhišvili's guidance.

What Information Was Sent from Petersburg via Direct Wire?

On July 1, 1914 the emperor signed a law about private schools, classes and courses of the Ministry of Public Education. This forced step taken by the royal authorities was extremely limited and full of contradictions, but all who dreamt about creating school of higher education willingly welcomed the law. Georgian patriots used precisely this law as legal grounds for opening Georgian Private University. During the czarist autocracy as well as during short term rule of transitional government the state university by all means had to be the Russian one. July 1, 1914 law made it possible to establish a national university in the form of private institution. Founders of such university had to act by strictly observing all requirements by law; otherwise there were envisaged severe sanctions.

Ivane Javakhišvili burdened himself with the whole responsibility for this great endeavor.

On May 12, 1917 was summoned the first meeting of the university founders, which was attended by 28 representatives of Georgian science, literature, culture and public figures. Among whom were: Korneli Kekelidze, Ekvtime Taqhaishvili, Philippe Gogichaishvili, Akaki Shanidze, Dimitri Uznadze and others.

The constituent meeting was opened by Ivane Javakhišvili, who read the long report about the necessity of foundation of Georgian University. Upon his request the meeting made decision to elect the chairman. Ekvtime Taqhaishvili was elected as the chairman, and Ilia Zurabishvili as the secretary.

The meeting decided to establish Georgian Free University with corresponding faculties. However, at that time there was to be opened only Faculty of Philosophy. Eventually the meeting decreed that: "there should be established special society of Georgian Free University, whose constituent meeting would be considered the present meeting."

After collapse of Czarism, the branch of transitional Government in Transcaucasus (Ozakom), whose head was cadet Kharlamov was oriented towards Russian University. The members of Ozakom

were Kita Abashidze and Akaki Chkhenkeli. Kita Abashidze died in 1917 and defending national interests in that body became responsibility of Akaki Chkhenkeli, who closely collaborated with Ivane Javakhišvili, who in his turn went to Russia to get permission for resolution of the issue. He did not content himself with merely sending the main provision of the University to Petersburg – he also got in touch with Georgian public figures in Petersburg and asked them to hasten in the government the process of approval of main provision for private Georgian university.

In that period appeared perfidious plan that was to be implemented by forces instigated by the provisional government: In Tbilisi can be formed private Georgian university, but prior to that there should be established Transcaucasian Russian State University. Shalva Nutsbidze recalls: "Oldenburg, Vasiliev and others advised us in a caring tone to give up thinking about the hopeless matter that was called the University of Georgia. These caring people tried to convince us that Georgian Language had neither scientific terminology nor scientific tradition and that creation of all of that was not only difficult but practically hopeless endeavor. You would not have any students either, as one part of them would come to Russia to study as in the past, while the other part would prefer to study in the Russian University that would be next to you and with whose scientific quality you would never be able to compete".

On October 14, 1917 Akaki Shanidze in the Paper "Sakhalkho Sakme" published an article "Two Universities", which said: "There is a message via direct wire that form January Russian University is going to open in Tbilisi. From Petersburg is coming slowly by post and still has not arrived the main provision of Georgian University, permitted and presumably approved except two articles by the transitional government. It has not arrived yet but it will some day and thus from January in Tbilisi will be two universities, one - Russian and the other - Georgian".

Georgian Public Figures Were Waiting In Vain for Nonexistent Address Coming by Post

The transitional government made decision to accelerate opening of Tbilisi Polytechnic School, which was to be basis for United Caucasian University. On July 11, 1917 in Petersburg at the Ministry of Public Education was held meeting of representatives of special departments, delegates

of main committee for foundation of Tbilisi Polytechnic School and of specially invited individuals. The meeting decreed that in Tbilisi was to open Polytechnic School, with only one faculty that of agriculture and with the prospect of transforming into Caucasus University.

Despite multitude of individuals willing to enter Polytechnic School, which was a proof of necessity for opening an institution of higher education in Caucasus, the school did not possess either material means or scientific-pedagogical staff who would work there. Despite big efforts made by the autocracy the opening of Polytechnic School did not hinder the process of establishment of Georgian University.

On November 27, 1917 Ivane Javakhišvili addressed the Transcaucasian commissariat for approval of the main provision of the University.

Akaki Chkhenkeli recalls about those days: "I was a witness of the great difficulties Ivane Javakhišvili and his small group had to overcome before achieving their goal. Although in the initial period of the revolution, as if in conditions of complete freedom, opening of a university even of the private one was absolutely impossible without permission... Who was Ivane Javakhišvili to address for permission? To Ozakom that carried Petrograd transitional government authority in Transcaucasus. Armenians and Azerbaijanis had one representative each, Georgian side had two representatives and the chairman was Russian."

Ozakom reviewed Javakhišvili's appeal ... its non-Georgian members were disposed hostilely to our intentions, although they tried to conceal that. They raised the second question that had to indirectly obstruct the affair. "We were anticipating this moment for a long time – they said – when we were granted opportunity to carry out long dreamt wish. Funds are allocated and we have to start implementation soon and meanwhile you raise the issue of Georgian University!" They clarified that Russian University would become the centre of unification of intellectual potential of Caucasus, while Georgian-Armenian, Tatar universities would provoke their separation.

"...That was not their only argument: "Opening a university is not that simple, - they claimed in an extremely polite manner, - Apart from variety of technical equipment, it requires a big number of teacher-professor staff, and how is it possible to address all those issues in such a short time?"

to be continued on p.21

The History of Foundation and Development of the University

from p.20

Ozakom's Approval

"Eventually Ozakom gave its consent and endorsement to our proposal" (magazine "Independent Georgia", Paris, 1928)

For that time opening of only Philosophy Faculty was decided. However, in order to have full university it was necessary to have at least four faculties – Historico-philological, Mathematics and Natural sciences, Law and Medical. At the meeting held on November 9, 1917 it was stated to create only one faculty for the time being that is the Faculty of Philosophy with following departments: 1) Department of Humanitarian Sciences (that equaled Historic-philological and Oriental Languages faculties of Petersburg University); 2) Department of Mathematics and 3) Department of Natural sciences. In regard to Medical Faculty it was decided to "request Georgian Doctors and Naturalists Society and docent of Moscow University Gabriel Grigol Gambarashvili to have joint discussion as to when it is possible to establish Medical faculty at Georgian University."

Upon Ivane Javakhishvili's proposal, professor of Odessa University Petre Melikishvili was elected as the first Rector of the university.

Having undergone long and difficult way, Georgian public figures were rewarded for their efforts. On January 26, 1918 on David Aghmashenebeli's day at 01:20 p.m. in the building of Tbilisi Gentry Gymnasium was opened the first Georgian University.

Kote Abkhazi, Ilia Chavchavadze's nephew was responsible for reception of guests and supervision of the celebration.

The Catholicos-Patriarch of the whole of Georgia Kirion II consecrated and blessed the University. He ended his speech with the following words: "I wish with all my heart and soul that quite soon all planned faculties opened at this young university, as it is in the Western Europe." (Z. Gaiparashvili "The Luminary of the century", p. 107)

On behalf of the authorities opening of the university was welcomed by the chairman of university founders' society, the member of executive committee of National Council of Georgia Akaki Chkhenkeli, who recalls that day as follows: "I find it difficult to remember what I said from the chairman's chair on that day. I only remember wonderful excitement and throb that I experienced... the faces of all other attending people showed the same feelings. Great was their number. Spacious festive hall or even wide vestibules could not accommodate all of them. A lot of people were freezing outside in the yard. So these people without places inside had to contend themselves with joining sounds of cheering and applause heard from the hall.

It is remarkable that besides students, there was a huge number of representatives of lower strata of society: ordinary workers, craftsmen, tradesmen... the number of latter even exceeded that of students. As for political and public figures, official representatives were not seen among them. Only delegations of our neighbors, who delivered congratulatory speeches, are worth mentioning (magazine "Independent Georgia", 1928, Paris).

At the opening ceremony the first Rector of the university Petre Melikishvili, professor Ioseb Kipshidze and representatives of Georgian, Russian, Armenian, Azerbaijani and Polish Cultural-educational organizations delivered speeches. There were also read congratulatory telegrams.

Ivane Javakhishvili became the Dean of Philosophy Faculty, the only existing faculty at that time at the university.

The theme of the first lecture read by historian Ivane Javakhishvili on January 30, 1918 was "Personality of a human and its significance in ancient Georgian-philosophical writing and life."

There were 18 professor-teachers at the university at that time. 369 students and free listeners 89 started their studies.

According to the university provision, citizens of both genders, irrespective of their nationality and religion, who graduated secondary school, could become students. Education process was conducted in Georgian.

On May 30, 1918 the University Board of Professors held special discussions about the issue of relation between the University and the Government of Georgia. The board decreed that after becoming state



university "it should have autonomy. The government should be responsible for approval and checking of budget..."

University Authorities and Board of Professors of University Were Striving to Create New Faculties

From September 3, 1918 National Council of Georgia declared the university to be the state university and it received name of "Tiflisi State University." The university founders continued defending autonomy of the university unrelentingly. Every attempt of Ministry of Education to intervene in the sphere of the university self-governance was thwarted by active self-defense of the university authorities.

The university authorities and Board of Professors of University were striving to create new faculties. In the first place there had to be created faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. For that purpose there had already been made first steps at the very beginning. On May 10, 1918 the university satisfied request of Archil Kharadze, who had stayed at Moscow University to prepare for professorship, to start work as a lecturer. This way started the process of inviting specialists for the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

On June 17, 1918 session, which was attended by the chairman of Georgian Doctors and Naturalists Society Sp. Virsaldze, was decided to open the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and Medical Faculty form next September.

By September 1918 the building of Georgian Gymnasium, where university occupied only several rooms till that moment was handed over to the University.

On October 8, 1918 Michael's Hospital was handed over to Medical Faculty of

University that made it possible for Anatomy Chair to accommodate in hospital dissecting room.

The university mathematical and natural science branches provided Medical department with lectures in a wide range of disciplines. The faculty was not only the centre for development of fundamental sciences but it also became the foundation for establishment of the first agronomical and then polytechnic faculties.

On January 3, 1919 the Board of Professors reviewed Justice Minister's proposal about creating Law Faculty. Although due to lack of specialists the faculty only opened during the Soviet dictatorship.

In October 1919 at the university started functioning Pedagogical Institute, the aim of which was researching pedagogical methods and the issues related to child's mental development. The same year, on December 17 the Board of Professors approved the candidature of professor Dimitri Uznadze as the director of Pedagogical Institute affiliated to the university.

In the first years of its existence at the university were working not only Georgian but also Russian and Armenian scientists. Together with that, in manner of competition the university invited European scientists, the first ones among whom were professor of Clermont University Jan L. Jiro (Geology Chair), R.P. Blake (Chair of Byzantine History), Dutch scientist professor Erenfest (Chair of Physics). Unfortunately, from enumerated scientists only professor Blake was able to come.

The university was also preparing Georgian scientific staff for professorship. At that time at Tbilisi State University was only introduced a degree of Doctor of Sciences that equaled MAs of Russian universities and European Ph.D.

The first public defending of thesis at Tbilisi State University was appointed on May 9, Sunday, at 10 a.m., 1920 in room 1 (later Science Library Hall). The first defendant was Akaki Sahnidze, who appeared before the audience in compliance with accepted tradition in white gloves and a tailcoat. The theme of the dissertation was "Subjective Prefix of Second Person and Objective Prefix of Third Person in Georgian Verbs". Official opponents were Giorgi Akhveldiani and Ivane Javakhishvili, who gave the work high appraisal. The event continued 6 hours. The Faculty of Philosophy unanimously granted Akaki Sahnidze the degree of Doctor of Linguistic Sciences.

Georgian Institutions of Higher Education have their Origins in Tbilisi State University

In 1921 in Georgia was established Soviet rule, which determined as its aim liquidation of previous system of education and introduction of general-public educa-

tion. That function was assigned to system of primary education. There was created a basis for introduction education among the masses of workers and peasants as well as for preparation of specialists with higher education from workers ranks. With this purpose, in 1922 at Tbilisi State University was formed first faculty of workers.

Tbilisi State University was the only centre of higher education at that period. The major part of scientific-pedagogical staff was gathered at the university. Georgian institutions of higher education started from Tbilisi State University. In particular, on the basis of relevant faculties of Tbilisi State University was established Polytechnic Institute of Georgia (1928), Agricultural Institute of Georgia (1929) and Tbilisi Medical Institute (1930)...

At the same time Tbilisi State University was the first scientific-research institution. The university stimulated development of all fields of science. The University scientist later became founders of other scientific-research institutions.

At Georgian University were formed many internationally recognized scientific schools: Mathematics (Andria Razmadze, Nikoloz Muskhelishvili, Ilia Vekua, Viktor Kupradze, Archil Kharadze, Andria Bitsadze and others), Physics (Rajden Khutsishvili, Elepter Andronikashvili, Mate Mirianashvili, Vagan Mamasakhlisovi, Givi Khutsishvili and others), Chemistry (Petre Melikishvili, Shalva Tsintsadze, Petre Kometiani and others), Psychology (Dimitri Uznadze, Revaz Natadze, Pati Khundadze and others), Physiology (Ivane Beritashvili, Dimitri Gedevanishvili and others), Historiography (Ivane Javakhishvili, Simon Janashia, Nikoloz Berdzenishvili, Shota Meskhia, Vladimer Dondua and others), Literary Studies (Korneli Kekelidze), Georgian Psychology (Shalva Nutsbidze, Sergi Danelia, Mose Gogiberidze and others), Art History (Giorgi and Nikoloz Chubinashvili, Shalva Amiranashvili and others), Georgian Linguistics (Akaki Shanidze, Giorgi Akhveldiani, Varlam Topuria, Karpez Dondua and others), Iberian-Caucasian Linguistics (Arnold Chikobava, Ketevan Lomtadze and others), Classical Philology (Grigol Tsereteli, Simon Qhaukhchishvili and others), Eastern Studies (Giorgi Tsereteli, Sergi Jikia, Makar Khubua, Vladimer Puturidze, Konstantine Tsereteli, Mzia Andronikashvili and others).

In 1989, Tbilisi State University was given the name of its founder Ivane Javakhishvili.

Today TSU has Trust of the Best Part of Youth

The university continues to head towards the goal of its founders – that is to become one of the most successful institutions of higher education in the world education field. In relation to these objectives Ivane Javakhishvili was writing: "Only substantial knowledge would provide opportunity to youth to occupy honorary place in society. They should remember that without love no great deed could be achieved. Indifferent, uncaring person could never accomplish anything significant; each of them should love their people, should love science, and should feel responsibility to sacrifice his energy for science and people. Scientific work is a big happiness. That is the happiness that is not granted to everybody and those lucky ones gifted by nature and possessing will and enthusiasm, should also feel that they have to repay the nation they come from."

Prepared by MAIA TORADZE

The University Rector Determines the Principle and the Priority

The University Rectors

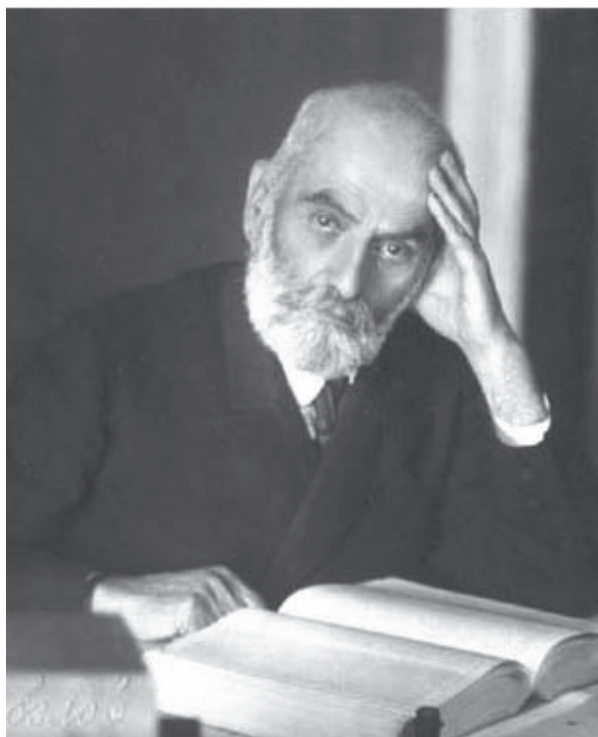
The first Georgian university in Georgia was founded by the individuals, who with their work and activities immortalized the name of the university. Such high-flown style is no more in use today, however moral and intellectual merits of those individuals generate such attitude. Not once has the present rector of the university Giorgi Khubua mentioned that precisely because of those traditions we should be worthy of the heritage that our great ancestors left us.

Shurtkhia Beroshvili

Since its foundation to present day the position of the university rector has been considered as the most honorable and responsible post. That has its objective precondition: powerful Georgia has always been associated with enlightened society. The university rector determines the principle and the priority. Since 1918 up today the university has had twenty-five rectors. All of them have been allotted different fates. The majority of them endeavored to retain national ardor and the potential the university has always been distinguished by. During soviet period the post of rector was occupied by party nomenclature and correspondingly they were thought as implementers of the Central Committee policy. However, the majority of them managed that the university retained the niche that it initially had. Their support encouraged establishment of the world famous scientific schools that were initiated by Georgian scientists.

Several university rectors, in particular, Pert Melikishvili and Ivane Javakhishvili enjoyed special affection of Georgian public. Foundation and evolution of the university is related to their names.

The chairman of the first organizational meeting of the "University Society", the famous Georgian scientist and public figure Ekvtime Taqhaishvili remembers the elections of the first rector of university as follows: "The meeting was attended by Petre Melikishvili, who was then in Tbilisi. We elected Petre as an honorable chairman of the meeting. The meeting avidly welcomed the idea of establishment of the first Georgian University. At the very first board meeting on January 13, 1918 Petre Melikishvili was elected as the rector of the first temple of science. To be fair, we had to elect Ivane Javakhishvili, as he had been the initiator and inspirer of the cause. But we needed to have as the head of the university such person who would have substantial authority



Petre Melikishvili

in enemy's eyes and also against whom nothing could be said. The only obstacle to which Petre himself drew our attention was that he was not well familiar with our society. He did not have good command of Georgian language either. However, that was not of great importance as Ivane Javakhishvili, elected as the dean of Philosophy Chair stood by Melikishvili and supported him in every way. The actual rector was Javakhishvili. He met students, members of public, teacher and professor staff." Ivane Javakhishvili had the same attitude: "Petre Melikishvili is a well known scientist both in Russia and abroad and his election will add an immense prestige to our University."

In his memoirs Ekvtime Taqhaishvili characterizes Petre Melikishvili as the person who strongly cared both about his motherland and job. According to him, establishment of the university made elderly scientist more youthful and filled him with more energy. "He walked from Sololaki Street to the university. The life at the university was extremely busy. Board meetings sometimes lasted till two a.m. and after he walked home again. In the morning he was at the university on time. Melikishvili was ardent defender of the university name and interests. He always held himself with dignity with his compatriots as well as with foreigners. He knew very well how to respond to his interlocutors. When the US representative invited him to get updated about university matters and when hearing about the situation at the university, the envoy remarked: "Wouldn't it have been better to open Russian university in place of Georgian one. You must be experiencing a lack of Georgian forces and as science is international it does not matter in which language you would acquire scientific knowledge". Petre responded: "Yes, science is international, that is why every nation should study it in their own



Ivane Javakhishvili

language", - recalls Ekvtime Taqhaishvili.

On October 11, 1919 Petre requested resignation after an incident with a professor. The University Board of Professors assented to his request.

In 1923 Georgian people celebrated 50th anniversary of Petre Melikishvili's pedagogical and scientific-public work. The jubilee turned into a big celebration. That was public acknowledgment of Petre Melikishvili as a great scientist and citizen.

Petre Melikishvili died on March 23, 1927 at the age of 77. He is buried in the garden of the University Building I. There is a bust on his grave (artist I. Nikoladze).

On December 17, 1919 Ivane Javakhishvili was appointed as the rector of the University. He held the post during an extremely difficult period. In February of 1921 Democratic Republic of Georgia was invaded by troops of the Soviet Russia. Georgian militaries, intelligenzia and students - all stood together to defend the independence of the country. TSU professors and teachers under leadership of Ivane Javakhishvili declared solidarity with the authorities of the republic and they requested to let them join ranks of defenders of the motherland. The university authorities demanded keeping order... therefore, due to its strong adherence to the principles - the university escaped destruction.

Ivane Javakhishvili was striving to build on scientific level of professorate. He was struggling to improve professors' domestic conditions. He was inviting specialists from various countries, was supporting preservation of scientific institutions affiliated to the university as well as upgrading their working conditions. Ivane Javakhishvili created the University Publishing House (1923). He created new faculties. He was providing assistance to poor students in every way. Not once did he help them in material or moral terms;

he was an etalon of humanity for students: while being extremely demanding he was at the same time very kind and considerate.

On March 30, 1923 TSU Professors Board elected Ivane Javakhishvili as a rector for a new term. Unfortunately, quite soon the soviet authorities started persecution of Ivane Javakhishvili. There was initiated horrendous blackmailing campaign against him that resulted in his resignation from the post of rector on June 23, 1926.

In 1928 the 10th anniversary of establishment of the university was marked by big celebration during which not even a single person mentioned the contribution of Ivane Javakhishvili to the cause of foundation of the university. A lot of citizens felt how unfairly he had been treated and sympathized with him secretly but no one dared to support him openly.

On grounds of 1930, July 7 decree by Peoples' Commissars Council of SSR of Georgia was conducted TSU reorganization and on its basis there were formed four special educational institutes. Proceeding from May 28, 1931 decree by Peoples Commissariat for Education Ivane Javakhishvili was ousted from Pedagogical Institute while accused of sympathizing with direction of subversive group "Kondratievshchina". That was an incredible ingratitude towards the founder of the university.

On September 27, 1931 Ivane Javakhishvili was appointed as a science-consultant at the state Museum of Georgia. On February 17, 1931 he was appointed as the head of chair of Ancient History of Georgia, where he had worked till 1935.

At that period resumed an unmerciful fight against Ivane Javakhishvili, the culmination of which was the report "About the Problem of History of Georgia" read by TSU rector Carlo Oragvelidze at the board meeting of History faculty on 23 March,

1936. In the report Oragvelidze harshly criticized Ivane Javakhishvili's works; he called him apologist of oppressors class. As for his contribution to the development of Georgian science, that was restricted to only collection and systematization of empirical materials and facts. Ivane Javakhishvili made principle decision - on April 10, 1936 he addressed a letter to Peoples Commissar of Education, in which Javakhishvili declared his decision about quitting his activities at the university.

As mentioned above, since 1918 up today the university has had twenty-five rectors. After Petre Melikishvili and Ivane Javakhishvili, the university rectors were as follows: Tedo Glonti, Malakia Toroshelidze, Ivane Vashakmadze, Aleksandre Erkomaishvili, Levan Agniashvili, Karlo Oragvelidze, Giorgi Kiknadze, David Kipshidze, Aleksandre Janelidze, Niko Ketskhoveli, Ilia Vekua, Ermile Burchuladze, Victor Kupradze, Giorgi Dzotsenidze, Evgeni Kharadze, David Chkhikvishvili, Vajha Okujava, Nodar Amaglobeli, Tamaz Gamkrelidze, Otar Japaridze, Roin Metreveli, Rusudan Lortkipanidze.

In 2006 acting rector, Doctor of Legal Sciences, professor Giorgi Khubua, replaced her. On January 5, 2007 all twelve members of TSU Academic Board voted for Giorgi Khubua's appointment on post of the rector. During the time of his being rector came into force Law of Georgia "About Higher Education" that envisages engagement of the University in the European system of teaching. There was implemented reorganization, which generated mixed public response. That turned out to be really painful process as rebellious professorship did not take part in the competition held for academic staff, which meant that they refused to continue their work at University and that they did not recognize developments of University reform in transitional period. Although it should be noted herein, that at that period, while holding position of acting rector Giorgi Khubua offered everyone, who was precious to the university cooperation after contest as well. As a result of reform were formed structured Bachelor's and M.A. systems; there started functioning doctorate programs. Salaries of teachers, professors and other employees increased nearly ten folds. The Advisory Board has been created and there have been implemented drastic administrative changes.

"Focal point of my action plan is that it is impossible to carry out partial changes. It should be systematic and it should comprise all spheres of university life. The University should by all means retain its individual profile that distinguishes it from other universities," - states the 25th Rector of the University Giorgi Khubua.

"University Received Ready-made Building that Partially Decided its Opening"

At the beginning of the 19th century, the Gentry Gymnasium building constructed on the outskirts of the Vera district in Tbilisi became a symbol of the revival of educational and enlightening traditions as well as the symbol of higher education in Georgia.

The initiator and organizer of the construction of the gymnasium was a well-known Georgian public figure, one of the founders of the "Society for Spreading Literacy among Georgians" Nikoloz Zebede Tskhvedadze. In 1897 at the meeting of "Tbilisi Province Gentry Society Supporting Needy Students" Mr. Tskhvedadze brought up the issue of constructing a building for Georgian gymnasium. According to the adopted decree, the executive committee was entitled to purchase land in order to construct a building for the Gentry school.

Maia Toradze

The Self-sacrifice of Niko Tskhvedadze and the Patriots like him did not Allow Selling of the Gymnasium Building

In 1898, for the purpose of construction of a new gymnasium building, 6 hectares of land was purchased from Solomon Bebutashvili. The land was located on the outskirts of the city in Vera, on the other side of Varazis Khevi. The purchase price was 21 002 roubles and 15 kopecks. Journal "Moambe" wrote in 1899 in its first issue about the event as follows: "Space for the school, (12 versts) is already purchased on Vera and money is being collected for construction of the building. Mr. Tskhvedadze took complete responsibility for the cause. There is no doubt that the respected public figure burdened himself with the heavy responsibility. However, his devotion to public cause, relentless labour and close familiarity with the business is a guarantee that the undertaking should have a successful outcome. Let's hope that all Georgians would support this benevolent and noble cause. "Niko Tskhvedadze collected the major part of the funds from individual persons and from institutions. "If not all conscientious Georgians, at least those ones whose hearts were throbbing with patriotic feelings were involved in the implementation of this cause. A lot of people gave financial assistance to the wonderful endeavor. Young and elderly, women and men, rich and poor, all made their contributions in order to carry out this great deed. The Zubalashvili brothers have special role in fulfilling the project" - wrote Zachariah Chichinadze.

In regards to special contributions to the project, the general meeting of "Tbilisi Province Gentry Society Supporting Needy Students" elected D.Z. Sarajishvili, A.G. Mdivani, G.S. Gandzieli, C.I. Zubalashvili, I.B. Saginov, G.N. Skhirtladze, S. Bebutashvili, N.A. Kherkheulidze and others as its honorable members. At the very same meeting upon Ilia Chavchavadze's proposal, a special thanks was paid to N. Tskhvedadze. The issue of his becoming an Honorable Member was raised as well. However, due to his modesty Niko Tskhvedadze declined the title. Only in 1911 was he granted status of Honorable Member for his contribution in the course of construction of the gymnasium.

In 1898 under Niko Tskhvedadze's supervision the gymnasium construction commission was created. Its members included Ekvtime Taqhaishvili, Constantine Qhavrishvili and Niko Tskhvedadze. From 1902 Ilia Chavchavadze also became the member of this commission.

The draft project for a prospective gymnasium and supervision of its construction was assigned to a young but already famous architect Svimon Kldiashvili, who started devising project in 1899.

If we had a look at the architects' names working at that time, we would hardly come across Georgian surnames, taking into account the drawings used and the construction supervision of the buildings constructed in Tbilisi. As for construction of the Georgian Gymnasium, the absolute majority of builders starting from masters to ordinary workers and guardsmen were all Georgians. That fact makes clear Niko Tskhvedadze and the Construction Executive Committee's decision to turn construction of Georgian Gymnasium into an apotheosis of the talent and industriousness of the Georgian people.

Simon Kldiashvili coordinated details of the project with Niko Tskhvedadze's. Kldiashvili had projects of educational institutions brought from abroad as samples.

The construction of the gymnasium commenced in 1900. Laying down the building founda-

tion turned into big celebration. Newspaper "Iveria" wrote: "On October 14, on the piece of land purchased by the Executive Committee of Gentry School, a foundation of a new building was laid down and consecrated." Ilia Chavchavadze, Akaki Tsereteli, Mariam Jambakur-Orbeliani, Niko Tskhvedadze, Iakob Gogebashvili, Ekvtime Taqhaishvili, Simon Tsereteli, Cristephore Mamatsashvili, representatives of public and gymnasium students took part in the ceremonial.

A festive service was conducted by specially invited clerics under the supervision of theology teacher Calistrate Tsintsadze. Gymnasium choir under conductorship of Zachariah Chkhikvadze was singing.

"The culmination of the celebration was the moment when two servicemen of the gymnasium brought something in two baskets and put it on the edge of foundation pit. The foundation for the big building had been dug rather deep. Below were standing masons clad in clean aprons as if waiting for something... In the baskets was 10-12 liters of the best wine. Following tradition, it was handed down to masons, who put the wine in previously prepared vessels inside the foundation," - wrote A. Beshkenadze in his book "Pictures from Past."

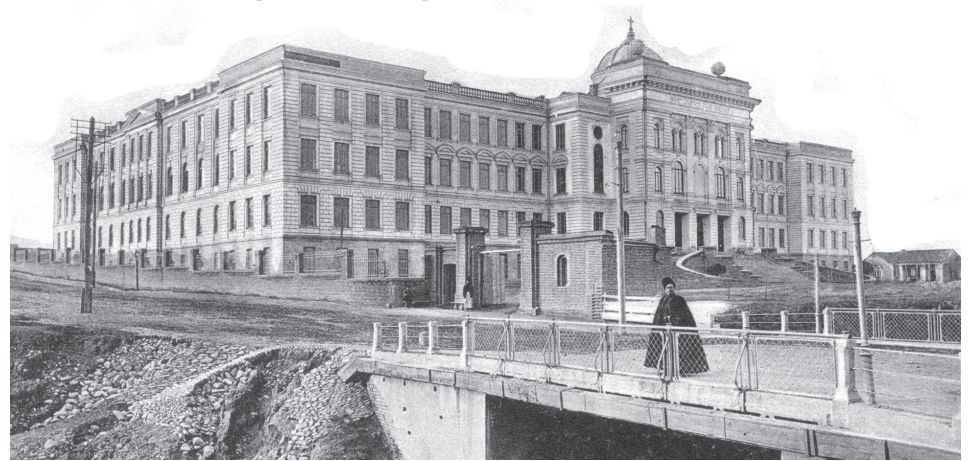
On one side of several bricks put into foundation "Georgian Gymnasium" was engraved, while on the other side "Georgian University" was inscribed.

The Georgian public welcomed the event with great admiration. However, there were many skeptics as well. They looked at the perspective of grand construction with doubt, nor were they pleased with the chosen location for future institution. Niko Tskhvedadze was castigated for purchasing the land that was a more suitable place for Vera foxes and jackals. He was also admonished for his intention to drive young Georgian men to the area of Vera charcoal-dealers and woodcutters." Niko Tskhvedadze ignored recrimination and blackmail. He was the one who was well aware that the road to achieving the goal was hard but that it was the right one. "After the ceremony ended he turned to us, the young people and said: - Young men, I advise you to buy here plots of land for residence, as at the moment their value is only few kopecks, while in several years the prices will soar up. Vake then was a lumpy desert and we mocked the elderly enthusiast behind his back: what is saying? Who will settle here?!" - remembered Giorgi Laskhishvili. Time proved that intuition did not let down Niko Tskhvedadze.

A famous military engineer was put in charge of the construction works. In the course of laying the foundation he as a specialist of ferroconcrete structures supervised the laying of communications as well as ferroconcrete works. For the connection of the sewage system of the building he devised ferroconcrete pipe to be constructed in Varazis Khevi.

The project of the globe on the head of the gymnasium building (the main building of our present university) belonged to Vasil Jorjadze. The drawing printed in the picture supplement to the paper "Tsnobis Purtseli" reveals that the architect Kldiashvili had not envisioned any architectural elements next to the dome. According to the contemporaries, later there appeared an idea about placing figures of a young boy and a girl above the central façade. That proposition was promptly rejected and with V. Jorjadze's advice and so in place of figures on the globe.

On the construction site a small drugstore was arranged. Niko Tskhvedadze himself drew up the work schedule. Within the possible limits he did his best to increase remuneration. In 1903 the statement written by Tskhvedadze says that workers' wages increased by shauri and thus "senior" worker was paid 65 kopeks, while "junior" worker - 55 kopeks.



Daily routine was the following: workers and masons gathered at 6:00 a.m. at the construction site and they started work. They had breakfast from 8:00 to 8:30, and from 12:00 to 2:30 was a break for lunch. Workday finished at 7:00 p.m.

People not only from Tbilisi but also from its suburbs came to the construction site. In spite of delayed wages and absence of construction equipment, the construction of gymnasium building carried on by use of their own hands. The artist-designer, whose family name was Jmukhadze, fulfilled the painting work. The dome was covered with layer of white tin by whitesmiths Vano Korpashvili and Cola Kervalidze.

Due to financial difficulties, the threat of selling the finished building arose several times. Niko Tskhvedadze was doing his best to see that Georgian children wouldn't lose the new gymnasium building, where according to his strong belief in the future the Georgian University would be established. The gymnasium under construction was even mortgaged several times. A part of the money loaned from the bank covered the debts while the other part was used for construction needs. Only the self-sacrifice of Niko Tskhvedadze and of patriots like him rescued the gymnasium building from selling. Sadly he did not live to witness the opening of the university in the building constructed, thanks to his relentless labour. His dream was to be present at the opening of the university. As the very first brick was laid he declared to the people present: "Georgian University will be stationed in this building in the future." Niko Tskhvedadze died in 1911. He is buried in the Didube public figures pantheon.

November 26, 1906 is considered to be the date of the construction of the main building

In 1905 "Tbilisi Gentry Gymnasium" was renamed "Tbilisi Private Georgian Gymnasium". Kldiashvili's drawing reveals that it was intended to put inscription "Tbilisi Gentry School" on the façade. However, after completion of the building due to the change of the name of the educational institution there appeared different inscription - "Tbilisi Private Georgian Gymnasium".

In 1906 after the murder of the gymnasium principal Shio Chitadze and the raid on the gymnasium, the army was stationed there (then the gymnasium was located in Selikov's house, in present day Sh. Chitadze street). It was impossible to continue educational process in the gymnasium. For short time several groups found shelter in Ivane Machabeli's wife, Anastasia Bagration-Machabeli's house. On November 26 all groups started studying in the new building, despite the fact that the building had not been finished yet (floor was not laid in every classroom, glass was not put in many windows, there was no heating).

Precisely November 26, 1906 is considered to be the date of construction of Tbilisi Georgian Gentry Gymnasium, the present day Tbilisi State University main building.

In 1909 the construction of a sports hall was finished in the upper floor of which was arranged an assembly hall with double light. The construction of the gymnasium continued two years. By 1916 the construction cost constituted 690 000 roubles.

The building immediately became an important sight. It was often visited by guests, who were immensely impressed by the wonderful building. Zachariah Chichinadze wrote: "The gymnastics hall and hundred and twenty quite spacious rooms; Superb halls, one gym, another assembly hall, the other museum and also reading hall, which will carry the name of late Stephane Zubalashvili. All in all, whatever is required by contemporary science, architecture and pedagogy

is addressed and fulfilled here. Apart from this enormous building, according to the project there will be another building in the vicinity of the school."

In the new school together with the gymnasium functioned Historical-Ethnographic Society of Georgia that occupied the whole right side of the third floor. There was also stationed Tbilisi Girls Gymnasium there, the Museum of "Society for spreading Literacy among Georgian People", and from 1915-1918 the military hospital, where in 1915 died Vajha Pshavela.

According to "Tsnobis Purtseli" picture supplement, the functional plan of the gymnasium building was as follows: "In one half of the ground floor there will be: a dining hall, needlecraft rooms, a kitchen, a canteen, a chancellery, an archive, a gym and teachers' rooms, two recreational halls, 9 classrooms and other. On the first floor there will be: a church, an assembly hall, various science rooms, 9 classrooms, a music room and other. On the second floor there will be a boardinghouse. In all, the building will house 800 students; the boardinghouse will house 300 ones and the church - 800".

An Architectural description of Tbilisi Georgian Gentry Gymnasium building is provided in Vakhtang Beridze's work, where it is said that: "the plan is completely symmetrical and despite its size, it has rather clear configuration; with its outline it resembles Georgian O, only the middle line is significantly shorter than the side lines and also it widens at the end. The biggest structures are gathered in the center of the composition: the spacious vestibule, which is on the first floor, wide staircases and a gym. The latter holds the height of two floors below at the end of middle limb. Above the vestibule there is a church and on the opposite side, above a sports hall, - an assembly hall - the present club. Both the club and the church have double light and they fill the height of the whole building. All other structures are situated around this central nucleus in symmetrical wings.

... Exterior decoration of the building was no easy task. There was huge empty space around as there was no other house in vicinity. The building could be seen from all sides from long distance. Two façades are the most important: one that of a garden, and the other of Marry street (currently Chavchavadze avenue - Z.G.). Both are facing the main road coming from the city. The third facade naturally drew less attention, especially considering the fact that then the city had not expanded in that direction yet.

For the outward appearance of the building the architect chose renaissance forms. In spite of the size of the building and the simplicity of architectural elements, he still managed to avoid monotony, although he employed décor quite moderately, even sparsely.

The garden façade is the most important as the building "looks" in that direction. The center stands out distinctly with higher upper somewhat protruding part equipped with exterior "Dome".

As a whole, the building produces an impression of grandness, although it is completely devoid of some particular festive ambience. It is a real educational institution, the huge building of public significance, very moderately and sparsely decorated."

On January 26, 1918 on David Aghmashenebeli's day in the building of Tbilisi Gentry Gymnasium opened the first Georgian University, which, according to Ekvtime Taqhaishvili's words, received "wonderful readymade building and that partially decided the issue of opening the University."

Prepared according to Zurab Gaiparahshvili's book "The Luminary of the Century"



Congratulation the Patriarch of All Georgia

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, founded 90 years ago, has played a great role in the advancement of our society. After the Academies of Gelati and Ikalto, it was the major centre to have given a powerful incentive to the evolution of the national potential. Solely the fact that by 1980 there were 19 higher educational institutions in Georgia, organically attached to Tbilisi State University to be nurtured and guided by the University, indicates to its greatest importance.

We hope that the scientific fields developed at such a high level at this Temple of Knowledge will be maintained and further advanced.

The modern world imposes new challenges upon the society and it is our responsibility to meet them.

God Bless and repose the souls of all noble sons of our nation who did not spare their strength, intellect, energy and love to set up this haven.

May God bless all the students and teachers who devotedly work and fulfill their duties, faithfully serving God and the nation.



Iliia II
The Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia

"Every Written Letter Is Meaningful"

"We have received an express message by direct wire from Petersburg notifying that a Russian University will open in Tbilisi in January.

In the meanwhile, the basic statute of the Georgian University approved by the Temporary Government, though allegedly with two articles extracted, is slowly driving home from Petersburg and has not yet arrived.

It has not yet arrived, but will arrive one fine day, which means that we will have two universities in Tbilisi starting from January, one - Russian and the other - Georgian: one - governmental, the other - private; one - possessing legal advantage and backed by the state, the other - lacking rights and relying on private initiative; one - kept by the state treasury and financially provided, the other - based on the support, assistance and care of individuals... The Georgian Temple of Knowledge, the source of knowledge of the Georgians and Georgian-speakers, sprouted up on the needs of Georgians will soothe the national anguish of the Georgians.

We have just received an urgent message by direct wire from Petersburg notifying of the opening of a Russian University. The statute on the opening of the Georgian University is slowly driving home by mail. Two of its articles are not approved. Two Universities will open in Tbilisi in January."

Akaki Shandize

Founder of Tbilisi University

Extract from the article "Two Universities" published in the newspaper "Sakhalkho Sakme" on 14th October 1917.

"At these moments feeling burdensome we realize the threat under which we are today. Nevertheless, we do have an urge to create and construct industriously. Belonging to small nations we never compare ourselves to those great. Our aspirations therefore are as humble as follow: we wish we were able to draw on scientific truth and humanitarian principles in the language of our ancestors, resounding through centuries.

The first Georgian University is being found today to let our people be acquainted with the fundamental principles of sciences in our mother tongue and have our land explored by skillful forces."

Petre Melikishvili

First rector of Tbilisi State University

Speech made at the opening ceremony of Tbilisi State University on 26 January, 1918

"All my treasure and possessions are composed of my historical and archaeological materials, texts, plans, photographical pictures and others. Send off my library, that I have collected with great effort and care and received from Georgia during the last 22 years. Most of the materials are kept in separate packets with inscriptions on them indicating what part and monuments they belong to. If some materials are not published here they must be sent to the University, when the suitable time comes, or you must take them yourself, if fate allots this to you. All my books and brochures published in Paris and Europe, that is to say, the extracts from the scientific publications must be sent to Tbilisi University."

Ekvtim Taqashvili

Founder of the University

Extract from the will. The village of Le Ville. 26 December.

"Now, dearest professors, the destiny of this highly scientific temple is in your hands. Our heart is overjoyed, as wisdom having no limits will be planted in our people. We will live to see this day when we will open the Georgian University... Pursuit to light, the thirst for learning and love for the truth has collected today innumerable people here.

Man is made for light and the nature itself has inspired the Godly bestowal - pursuit for the truth which makes man free.

I congratulate you, the leaders of our First University and wish that our common cause is successful for the well-being of our nation.

Man is distinguished from man for his enlightenment. It is the invaluable treasure acquired through endurance, effort and patience."

Kirion II,

Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia

Speech made on the opening of Tbilisi State University, 26 January, 1918

"We did not have a higher educational institution, as, like many other oppressed nations, we were a constituent part of the Russian State ... Our schools were basically oriented on Russian values and were bureaucratic, providing but little knowledge, - unable to accommodate for those willing to learn... But it is yet to be explained why the opening of the higher institution today is of essence when we have no institutions of lower level; - the answer is that it is the requirement of the time that the higher institution such as university should be established where scholarly people would guide the young into founding new educational institutions..."

Akaki Chkhenkeli

Chairman of Founding Society of University

Speech made at the opening of Tbilisi University on 26 January of 1918

"On these days of University solemnities I do appeal to Georgian students to be with our long-suffering history in mind when striding towards future, discerning the revival of century-old culture to be brilliant."

Shalva Nutsubidze

Founder of the Georgian university

Journal "Kartveli Studenti".
Extract from article: "One Page from the History of Our University." 16 January, 1920



"The Caucasus is a linguistic laboratory; the study of these languages is of great importance in terms of general linguistics. Linguistic research of the specific Caucasian languages (such as Kartvelian languages, Apkhaz-Cherkez, Chachen, Daghestanian languages) is

of actual significance in order to determine the identity of people, being the creators of the civilization in Asia Minor, as well as to establish a scientific precision of the remote past of our nation. This time the study of the Caucasian languages has become a scope of interest for scientific centres here and abroad (Norway, France, United States of America). Under these circumstances there is an urgent need for the establishment of the Department of the Caucasian Languages at Tbilisi State University."

Arnold Chikobava

The first graduate of the University, linguist, Caucasiologist.

This is how Arnold Chikobava maintained the need for opening a Department of the Caucasian Languages in 1933.

"...Great deeds cannot be done without big love; cold-hearted, indifferent people can never commit great deeds.

Every one of them ought to love their people, ought to love science, and ought to feel responsibility in order to expand every last strength on science and the people."

Ivane Javakhishvili

Founder of the University

Speech made at the 20th anniversary of Tbilisi State University on 25th May of 1938

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