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 university 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 University 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
Should we always bear in mind the burden of responsibility which georgian society has towards the university?

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

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—there was a severe outbreak of war against Russia. What is the role of Tbilisi State University in given situation and what are the duties it has to perform? Our university is deeply involved into the implementation of an anti-crisis program which would utilize our intellec- tual 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 Rus- sian aggression in our country. Like the entire Georgian society the University has organized its staff members and students actively participating in combat. Social activity of our students is also worth noting: a number of activities have been organized and among them the ones to support the internally displaced people.

The University is facing a new challenge in con- nexion with the defense of the Georgian statehood. In this regard our main task is to provide the coun- try’s educational system a comprehensive solution. Our intellectual potential must be used to neutralize all possible threats the Georgian na- tion is facing. Science should be the main shield against the aggression. The basic social function of TSU is to elaborate and formulate the long-term educational and state development. In this respect I am sure we can posi- tively contribute to the Georgian politics. Politics cannot be understood in the narrow sense of the word ‘state’ but rather in the context of everyday life. Politics is in need of strategic, long- term planning. As a university we should take care of our students’ future and the future of their profes- sion shouldn’t be identified with an abstract idea, but should be built in an everyday life and career-oriented way. How is the country going to react to this issue? Can science help in elaborating such long-term programs? In this respect we have to consider the experience of the European Union. The OSCE and other organizations such as European Union, OSCE and etc. are interested in the instability of the Caucasian re- gion. In this respect I am sure we can positively contribute to the issue of the restoration of peace in the region.

Tbilisi State University has never failed in this respect. As a science- based institution the University has always been interested in the instability of the Caucasian re- gion. It is the University’s and the Georgian scientific community’s moral obligation to contribute to the process of the restoration of peace in the region. We believe that the process of the restoration of peace in the region can be accelerated if we ask the scientific community to focus on this issue. The University couldn’t have developed without such a long-term cooperation with the Georgian-Abkhazian and Georgian-Ossetian organizations. We should see the process of cooperation as the key to the restoration of peace in the region. A number of conferences have been organized in Tbilisi, especially after the August events.

The University will continue to focus on the regional issues as well. The University will continue to work on the problems 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 ma- jor concern should be neither the University nor the Abkhazians. Our common enemy, i.e. common enemy is the Russian aggression. The Russian ag- gression 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, expansionist policy.

Hence, we have to consider Ossetian and Abkhaz- ian population only that their reintegration in the united Georgia will ensure the prospects for the future development of these regions. Other- wise, complete assimilation of the Ossetians and the Abkhazians is inevitable. This is what I believe the Abkhaz and the Ossetes are well aware of. We can clearly tell them that the right to self-determi- nation doesn’t equal to the right to secession. Each of these groups should think of Georgia as a state ensuring their culture, language and autonomy within the borders of the Georgia.

- Why autonomy? You delivered a lec- ture dedicated to this problem at the Tbilisi State University. What is your point of view in connection with the restoration of the Abkhazian and Ossetian national and international consolidation to that end?

Perhaps now it is not appropriate time to dis- cuss the issue of autonomous Abkhaz and Ossetian regions. The main thing is to see the autonomy as the very means for the resolution of all the conflicts existing in Georgia. Everyone should be done to make sure that this urgent issue. What we mean is how Georgian govern- ment approaches this 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 it means the development of their culture and lan- guage and wider autonomy within the borders of the Georgia.

- What is your opinion about that?

Scheffer did not promise anything except hoping for an increased interest in Georgian statehood. The primary function of our university is not a place of political activity. Therefore, we have to define the spheres, which are not interested in the instability of the Caucasian re- gion. University is the provision of high-quality edu- cation in the fields of science. At the same time, we have to be focused on the future and always remember our responsibilities to Geor- giang scientists in sciences we are justifying.

Our university had great achievements in scientific research in the post. What is your opinion about these achievements? What is your opinion about what is to be done for the development of science?

- We want to be a university which encour- ages scientific research. We believe that science is essential to a full extent. We are going to define our priorities and have plans to develop all the fields of science equally. Therefore, we have to define the sphere, which will be interested in the instability of the Caucasian re- gion. University is the provision of high-quality edu- cation in the fields of science. At the same time, we have to be focused on the future and always remember our responsibilities to Geor- giang scientists in sciences we are justifying.

What is your opinion about that?

We were never short of prominent faces at our university. The appearance of von Trier and other famous directors brought a lot of new professors who enriched our university and making it more attractive for the University is the provision of high-quality edu- cation in the fields of science. At the same time, we have to be focused on the future and always remember our responsibilities to Geor- giang scientists in sciences we are justifying.

How is possible the celebration of the 90th jubilee of our university? How are you going to celebrate it?</ref>

We will organize a whole series of activities in connection with the restoration of peace in the region. We will organize a whole series of activities in connection with the restoration of peace in the region. We will organize a whole series of activities in connection with the restoration of peace in the region. We will organize a whole series of activities in connection with the restoration of peace in the region.
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, patent 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, batted 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 evenemasculate their activities.

- Do you think that the 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 XX th XXI st 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 vacation 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 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 territory obstacles brings 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 deter 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 Lori 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.

- 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 chance 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.

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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 cultural and scientific activity, 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. Classical and scientific significance of our National University. Irane 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, by 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 Irane 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 establishment of the Georgian National University in 1918 is 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 factor of an independent Georgian state. That is exactly why the founder of the national higher educational institution and new national intellectual centre, the great Irane 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 Irane 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 realize 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 Irane 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 considered one of the main scientific, intellectual and cultural standards of the country, will be a powerful means for national consensus and unity, leading the Georgian people, a people of advanced culture, towards wide international recognition in the 21st century.

President of the Academy of Sciences of Georgia

Tamaz Gamkrelidze

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 alumnuus 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 cultural 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 dramatic 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 basis of political significance. I mean to mention the names of our outstanding scientists such as Arnold Chikobava, who founded an intellectual centre of the Caucasian nations in Georgia. His theory of the linguistic unity attracted the intellectual forces of the Caucasian nations ungrammatically 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 Goreji Monastery Complex. It was at this university, where students stimulated actions later transform 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 educational standards 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 “commercilizing 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 highly fundamental value which can have a huge effect on the people’s lives in future.
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, have 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.

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 deteriorating the role of educational, scientific and cultural centres. The Academies of Gelati and Ikalto ceased to function. The attempts of Vakhtang VI (1474-1724) and Erekle II (1744-1798) were not followed by wide-scope developments: 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 centres at that time – the Seminaries of Tbilisi and Balta. 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 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 Ivan 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 why 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 imitate 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 Tbilisi and installed a Georgian and established communist rule in the conquered country. On the outskirts of Tbilisi, near Kajari and Dzatoka, some Red Army of Soviet Russia occupied Tbilisi on February 25, 1921.
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 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 mobilisation of the same inner-energy and drive. Ivane Jvakshishvili Ivane Jvakshishvili 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.

Shurkhia Berashvili

The implementation of these objectives began in 2005 with a set of new reforms. In May 2005, Ivane Jvakshishvili 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 master programme and 401 persons working on their doctorate degree. 1,743 professors, including 893 invited professors, take responsibility to educate the students.

Ivane Jvakshishvili Tbilisi State University implements exchange programs with several partner universities. These universities are: Co’ Foscarini (Venice, Italy); Jenov, Graz, Grazland (Germany); Tartu (Estonia); Vilnius (Lithuania); and universities in Latvia. In addition, the faculties independently exchange students with other universities.

Since 2007 Ivane Jvakshishvili 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.

Internationalisation is a primary objective of the university. Special attention is paid to the organisation of joint programs 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 Cultural of Massachusetts.

Last year the Law Faculty started joint master’s programmes together with Külün University. The graduates of the faculty will be awarded the diploma of Külün University alongside with the diploma of Ivane Jvakshishvili Tbilisi State University. Medicine Faculty students get practical experience at the medical colleges of Chemnitz and Munich.

Alongside the educational process it is important 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 Jvakshishvili Tbilisi State University were renewed. The scientific researches have been financed through grants provided by the government. This year, for the first time, the National Scientific Funds held a competition through which they selected 37 young scientists, among them 10 representing Ivane Jvakshishvili Tbilisi State University, who were awarded presidential grants.

Even in present times the best part of the youth put trust in Ivane Jvakshishvili 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 are based on the objective-oriented implementation on 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 political economy, sociology, journalism, international relations, political sciences and public geography. The faculty, in cooperation with this international scientific community, has been functioning for more than 90 years. Numerous innovations have been introduced in the faculty during this period. The primary objective is to develop a teaching system that complies with the international standards.

In the course of this period the masters programmes have been modified and the bachelor programmes are in the process of modernization. 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 professors from the leading western universities and that the faculty cooperates intensively with European and American specialists.

The results of the work implemented by the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences were very truly 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, 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). The preparatory University (Poland) on organizing joint international conferences and summer school courses. The summer schools shall ensure friendship among the students from different countries.

An Everlasting Idea of Freedom at the University

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 violated). Tbilisi and Tbilisi University were most dangerous for the Soviet regime. The first to strive 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 interfered 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 government.

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 several years after they were sentenced to prison. 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 went to the front.

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 centers 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 the new movement. People of different age and professions came to our Mother University to join the fight. At the viewpoint of the new generation 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 grandale rally to preserve the status of the Georgian language in the Constitu- tion 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 lecturers thought. Many of them had to stay in jails or exile for quite a long time. Their endurance and suffering for success was an example to our society.

From a dream, the eternal idea of freedom became a reality in 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.

An everlasting idea of freedom
One of the achievements of the faculty that cannot be ignored is the international experts assist in the process of development programmes for some of the departments of the Faculty. Such programmes meet the modern requirements. In November, a German journal on social and political sciences was invited to deliver lectures to the students of the department, whose expertise will be used for the development of the teaching programmes. An American specialist has been invited again by the department. He is ready to give 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 of the country. 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 still hope that the 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 the first step, 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 nation, but it was also directed towards the university. The sharp and objective debates about science in general, as well as certain scientific issues, can be conducted here among the scientists. The students were actively involved in the events that had recently happened in Georgia. In order to assist the internally displaced people a special scientific and psycho-technical service provided. Our students organised and participated in number of protest actions. Despite the fact that the existing situation in Georgia were conducted. I think protest actions. Debates about the existing logical service provided. Our students certain burning questions, used to be conducted about science in general, as well as educational and scientific institution, the hope of the nation. The first Georgian university was not only an university it should be mentioned that the faculty has specialists too. The budget of the faculty allows us to do so, and whilst it is presently only the first step, we hope that these funds shall be increased in the future.

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 and all the year students and teachers consulted three times a week, presented the programmes and informed what the university has to offer.

When the refurbishment works are finished the students will be able to use the new 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 classmates describe him as one of the distinguished students of the faculty. Some activities are already planned to be carried out on behalf of his memory.

The establishment of the first Georgian university was one of the most important events in the history of Georgia. The role of the faculty was to prepare students for 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 a lot of complications. The main problem concerns the clinics. Our students are provided with an extensive clinical and laboratory programmes and will share an experience of the teaching programmes with international experts assist in the process of development programmes for some of the departments of the Faculty. Such programmes meet the modern requirements. In November, a German journal on social and political sciences was invited to deliver lectures to the students of the department, whose expertise will be used for the development of the teaching programmes. An American specialist has been invited again by the department. He is ready to give 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.

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

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

The 90th anniversary of the university, which was held in June of this year, demonstrated the development 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 the development of the scientific and students' conferences held. It supported the development of the pro-

pressors, teachers and students of the faculty.

It should be mentioned that the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences was invited to deliver lectures to the students of the department, whose expertise will be used for the development of the teaching programmes. An American specialist has been invited again by the department. He is ready to give 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.

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The establishment of the first Georgian university was one of the most important events in the history of Georgia. The role which the faculty played is of great importance. I believe this assignment will be executed by the university in the future too.

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

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The Best Part of Youth Still Puts Trust In University

From p.7

Two tours of the Students' Conference were successfully organized which was financed by the faculty alumni – Professor Nikoloz Bakasishvili. The students who won, together with their scient.
ific advisors, were awarded the prizes totalling 10 000 GEL. Our students won first place in the contests organized by the International School of Econom.
ics, "Eli-Electronics" and the Association of Edu-
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ferences 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 Cacischa. We implement joint programmes for the master students together with the Technical Uni.
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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 pro.
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sity. The students will be offered scholarships and be able to have internship opportunities in the university too.
Rutvik Boychuk, Georgia State University.

The personnel of the faculty have been changed. Twenty highly qualified professors have been invited and offered a job of a teacher.

The faculty is not restricted in the number of students wishing to study here. Despite the fact that the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences is not restricted in the number of students wishing to study here, the number of students wishing to study here.

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Students Today Keep to Main Principles - Being Free and Unbiased

Nino Kakulia

In struggle for freedom most successful is a nation possessing the young genera-
tions with healthy views and ambitions. Nobody can accept university being silenced, as Georgians cannot imagine their univers-
ity deserted. As a result, our university always anxious and concerned as the leader force in supporting and encour-
aging 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 oc-
cupied 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 cen-
tury. Our students had to bear this honorary burden and before laying claim on our stu-
dents’ camps, none of us had any guarantee 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 moment 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 move-
ment of the younger generation?

- In the first place I’d like to mention that in general, the students of the Univer-
sity 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 lan-
guage and its status was maintained. The evil intention of the aggressors — to banish Georgian language at schools — failed, ow-
ing 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 stu-
dents’ activities and the role of our Univer-
sity in all these affairs, I naturally don’t in-
tend to diminish the role of other universities at all. But we have to remember that when-
ever there has occurred a need for defend-
ing 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 Iogeli. Nobody’s life was in danger, but all the invaders stood with their arms aiming at us.

As to the students’ self-government, as a result of this reform in our educational sys-
tem, the role of the students has further in-
creased. Owing to the self-government the students participate in the success of gov-
erning the University. Consequently, the stu-
dents’ word is very important. Now they speak a lot whether students should partici-
pate in decision-making process of the gov-
ernment or not, but in my opinion, they should not be highly politicized, though ev-
eryone 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 when-
ever 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 opposi-
tion in those events was moved solely by narrow partisan interests and not by state, national interests. That’s why our students stand 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 be-
gan, according to so-called Special Law, the president announced mobilization of the reservists. In our opinion, how successful was the preparation of students-
reservists proved?

- I suppose, the issue of preparation of the reservists is better known to military ex-
periet. As regards my personal subjective opin-
ion, 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 engaged in war, there 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 an-
ounced, all our students, whether reservi-
ists 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 unfounded accusation. Although they did not partici-
pate directly in the battles, the student-re-
servists were ready to fight and even sacri-
cifice their lives for the well-being of our coun-
try. When we, students, went to the reservi-
ists’ camps, none of us had any guarantees that we would return home safe. According to

the information, two of the reservists per-
ished. It is a great testimony to our students which perished to protect our country.

- Besides being publicly respon-
sible, 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 en-
lightened people. In your view, what category of youth comes to the uni-
versity today and how competitive is the environment there? How motivated are the students today to learn and get proper education?

- Certainly, the main commitment and function of a student entering the uni-
versity is acquiring highly qualified educa-
tion and experience that will enable him/ her to lead a successful career. All the nec-
essary conditions are available at our uni-
versity today to meet these needs. I mean, the academick staff, effective operation of the administration and also, improvement of the infrastructure. As a result of the educational reform, if we only 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 condi-
tions for the realization of their academic ambitions at the university, they can enjoy their leisure time fruitfully. The self-govern-
ment of the University puts 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 partici-
pate 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 participa-
tion of the students in exchange pro-
grams?

- When students receive invitations to different programs 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 jubilees?

- 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 univer-
sity is the ‘Mother University’ and the Temple of Knowledge — it has been and will remain thus in the future. So, I congratulate the Uni-
versity 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, feeling responsible for dissipating the energy for science and people'. These are words, uttered by Ivane Javakhishvili as a homage, paid to the late Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili, as a hommage, paid to the devoted energy for science and people".

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

Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili’s person comes forth as an accomplished philanthropist, con- ferred upon the University and Tbilisi State Uni- versity. 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-

feats love towards his people and the coun- try, involving himself as well in the revival of the University.

It is of his own free will, that the Univer- sity has received a wonderful gift at the 90th anniversary of its birth. In alliance with the Kartu Group, he volunteered a full-scale re- habilitation of I" and II" 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 as- sembly hall. Besides, it is scheduled to cater for the University pantheon and the yard equipment. To say more, the University ex- pects to have an amphitheatre at its disposal, constructed for solemn occasions, such as awarding diplomas, and also many other cultural and edu-cational arrangements.

Aboive 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 Geor- gian. This would provide us with an opportunity to acquire knowledge, based on test books, applied in the leading West- ern 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 modern- ized university town over 80 hectares of the territory. Further on, it is scheduled to com- pletely rehabilitate the ‘upper building’, in- cluding the premises assigned for biologi- cal sciences - 60 000 sq.m for lecture rooms as well as 40 000 sq.m for students’ hos- tels. 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 sci- entists, all-round sports and leisure grounds, cultural and entertainment centers, the librar- ies, 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, elicit- ing the needs it has on the way towards ensuring future.

Georgia’s historical reality through cen- turies 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 Cathedr- al) and the Tbilisi State University. The ini- tiative, 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 Ila 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 contri- bution 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 everyday and the target goal of the people with the hearts beating for the welfare of the country.

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 Sarkoz – president of France. Kremlin bragged about 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 infrastruc- ture, 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 lauding 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 difficul- ties in prognosticating Russia’s plans inspired by an aggressive charge. Several days be- fore the EU summit, Russia impulsively rec-ognized South Ossetia and Apsahlia’s in- dependence. It did not take any notice nei- ther 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. This leaders admitted Georgia’s territorial integ- rity and denounced encroachment of its sov- ereignty. Until today Russia has not fulfilled the agreement signed between the sides. Despite the current EU president - Nicola Sarkoz’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 aggres- sion.

to be continued on p.11
Tbilisi State University announces mobilization of intellectual forces against Russia's aggression

DEAR COLLEAGUES!

Today, in this unequal fight 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 intentions.

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 country's 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 false information concerning current events. As for the Georgian government, it strives to defend its citizens from the aggressor.

In the XVI 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 whole 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.

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 destructed 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 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 operateively provide the persecuted with clothes, food products, hygiene 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 Omri Kuriatani street in Gldani and two places in Ianoi. 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 projects.

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

After the Russian military forces left the territory of Georgia and the city returned to a normal life-style a great number of the persecuted were moved to the “Tent-town” in Gori. It’s 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 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 experiences 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 that 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 lighten 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 pre-university 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 Ajkhazia 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.

Nadar Suruguladze, deputy of education and science minister of Georgia declared that Russia’s deliberate actions aiming to annihilate Georgian places of education and culture menace 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 how to 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’ – Nadar Suruguladze addressed to the young persecuted people.

Nata Jakhadze, 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 – Mamana Ghurchulidze and Iogor Kalandadze, head of scientific research and development department of Tbilisi State University.

He declared that the current year the persecuted children would be given on opportunity to choose a desired field and attend lectures on interesting topics according to their wishes.

Nino Durjgulishvili, 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 Durjgulishvili 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.

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

Younger refugees visit the University

Charitable 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 Tsotniashvili, 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 starred war. 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 23th, before the damaged building the Minister of Education and Science Mr. Gia Nodia introduced the Gori University rehabilitation plan, envisaging 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. Tsotniashvili- 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 this town.

Nino Kakula

- 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 6th 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 in crisis was being entirely destroyed 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 administrative, 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 addressers 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, proceeded from the resources country disposed to date. 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 Georgia’s higher institutions, all of them unexceptionally, have stemmed from its bone, - makes it a must for each of us to take holds 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.

- 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 bone, - makes it a must for each of us to take holds 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.
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.

Shurkhia Berashvili

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 bullet. 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 an patriot who has already become eternal.

Maro Makashvili, a daughter of the famous Georgian poet Kate Makashvili didn’t even think for a while when the rector of the University of that time-home Javakhishvili called the young people for the fight in order to defend their motherland. On February 19, 1921 several Junkers died in the ruthless fight near Kajori 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 a-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 Akhalkh, 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 study at such. What will happen 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 Arabic. After finishing the University he was called up as a reservist and sent to the military forces who nearly headed towards Trebiz 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.

Tbilisi State University—Giorgi Kibua 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 student 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. Maro’s father who brought her up tenderly wrote:

"My landlord or you? Who shall I cry for? But not it’s a momentary weakness! Forget me! Maro’s father shouldn’t be frightened like a cow—"

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

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The West should Open Its Eyes to Some More Things

ZAZA PIRALISHVILI

- Russia acts against Georgia in the media in order to reveal the real face of Russia. Generally, the West doesn't realise that Russian media is highly influential in order to sustain our territorial integrity is closely connected with the struggle against Russian energy imperialism and respectively, we should use it cleverly. Subsequently, 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, the opposition also should consider this matter.

TAMAR KIKNAZDE

- Personally, I want to intervene in NATO for the interests of my country and society and not for the ideal love for this organisation. The independence is just a temporal caprice of historical considerations that are familiar to us. According to the polls, our population is allegedly 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 Phyletic and Nationalistic idea that has nothing to do with Christendom and on a large part with the Christian-ity.

- Putin's watchword "to rise the notion 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 mori-anette 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 running and devious Putin didn't intend to expand the interference outside the territory of Abkhazia and Samachabalo. It was Medvedev's attempt, willing to gain extra marks for himself in the eyes of "Velikoderjavinists". 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 exhalation due to its irrational and unpredictable nature will do more harm to itself.

ZAZA PIRALISHVILI

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TAMAR KIKNAZDE

- 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 view it as a goal. In this context, serious diplomatic effort will be needed.

- The perspective of energy-rich Russia’s integration in NATO is highly improbable and suspect even in Europe. Considering this factor European measures and weighs his steps towards Russia. Naturally, Russia also takes back his decision to recognise Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent countries. However, the help of which mechanism it will be possible to restore Georgian territo-rial integrity?

ZAZA PIRALISHVILI

- Such mechanisms can always be found. The most important thing is that Russia should see this problem and that it is suffered as a result of the two, brave Sambist gau'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 with a partial conflict and was con-verted into the confrontation between Russia and the West. We couldn't even dream about it sev-eral years ago. Now, we should attempt of some of the politicians to build up their strategy on the despair and hopelessness of our population has been fallen. Anyway, it is a mistake to push people to the anguish when there is a real goal for hope as the most im-portant thing happened. The problem of our ter-ritorial integrity has been linked with many of the "mighty" countries' vital interests. TAMAR KIKNAZDE

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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 neighbours have drawn attention to this region—Medea, as it is known to NATO requirements. Mr. Scheffer's advice is that it is essential to make media independent and improve the law, construct a dialogue with the Opposition. Speaking with students from Tbilisi State University on September 16, Mr. Scheffer was speaking up for Russia. According to experts, this can be considered as a strong message of support from the West. A belief is in reality it is not a guarantee that U.S.-based NATO, and this will be agreed by with 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 farm friendly, peaceful relations. According to NATO's chief, the strong support, which has been given to Georgia, is clearly shown in NATO Council. 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 territories in Georgia as well. Russia was told that the alliance would change their attitudes and would no longer be able to maintain the dialogue with Russia. Mr. Scheffer was saying that he disagrees with 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 us to move the territory. He suggested that Russia and Georgia should devise ways to coexist successfully by side. According to Mr. Scheffer, this kind of system will only work if Georgia guarantees stability. Well, the situation 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 of 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 admitted into the organization in this particular situation?
- Would it be possible to accelerate the process of reforms and should make its institutions truly democratic as Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer states, the encouragement and support provided by the U.S.-based NATO Mission to Georgia has made notable marks in the sector of economics, defense and the judicial system. However, "there is more to do" in Georgia; Mr. Scheffer added. NATO's advice is that it is essential to make media independent and improve the law, construct a dialogue with the Opposition.

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As we have already mentioned, though NATO Secretary General refrained from replying explicitly, he pointed out that NATO was considering the possibility of being able to accept Georgia into the organization in this particular situation.

Following Mr. Scheffer's visit there appeared not much optimistic articles about Georgia and prospects for Membership of NATO. Experts agree to 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 Geor- gia in that context.

Professor Levon Aleskhidze of the Ivanjevishvili Tbilisi State University, thinks that Jaap de Hoop Scheffer's visit was a big event. According to him he says that Russia has been forced by the West to remove the military threat from Georgia before the 15th of October. NATO has taken this step to prove that our territorial integrity is strongly supported. Professor Levon Aleskhidze is explaining that he had had to go through a turbulent period taking place in October 2008 with Aleksidze. He said the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia was a decisive achievement. Today's picture is different. The governments of all 26 allies agreed to pay a visit to the ex-Soviet republic to see the situation. Aleskhidze says that this is very important. Now Russia will not be able to resist the power which is in the hands of NATO. The Visegrad Group is also talking about getting us to recall Bertolt Brecht's words saying that the war has come to an end and that people should not be afraid of it. But he adds that NATO has not stopped in Georgia yet. It has just erupted. the whole world has seen that the fight of a small country for its independence has turned out to be the fight for world peace and democracy. Now Georgia is not alone in this struggle.
Any country would be proud of the traditions Georgia enjoys in education. This can be proved by just naming academics such as Pazieli, 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 in the life of Georgia.

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 got 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 wonderful personalities, who not only taught us a subject but raised us up as responsible and decent citizens of Georgia.

University graduates... In 1995 I graduated from the Faculty of International Law and International Relations. I became a postgraduate student in Humanitarian Law of the University. It was a very difficult period for Georgia - to give birth to independence.

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from p.17
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 these summits of sciences. We should start by identifying scientific resources. 21st century is the century of IT.

Principles

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 programmes congratulated people on the victory won, echoing with the meetings of the same location. However, Tbilisi was filled with a huge number of homeless and famished people. Therefore, the University has always had two functions. First, being a centre of knowledge at the same time being a floor for the 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. Students must be liberated from fears to speak his/her mind. 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, we have never had a war. Only great countries, having no demographic problems can always avoid a war. Only great countries, having no demographic problems can always avoid a war. Only great countries, having no demographic problems can always avoid a war. Only great countries, having no demographic problems can always avoid a war. Only great countries, having no demographic problems can always avoid a war. Though I was not asked to have had stand... from p.17
On the other hand, any assistance, ensured by Europe must be conditioned by the possibility of 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.

The University is a place by which I continuously protested improprieties

Data Tsurashvili, 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 Aristotle. 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 charges whatever. Maybe such students 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 a lot to be criticized 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 anything? The time was different, in the way 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.

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

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Kote Cholokhashvili, writer:

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- What do you think of the university means for the Georgian nation?
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 a lot. We didn’t like:
- It is partially the university’s merit that today you are a writer to-day.
- 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 many defects in Georgia than in France, Spain and Italy taken together. It seemed that everybody studied in Georgia but today a defect has been traced among professionals in our country. That’s why the reform of education is of great importance but it takes years.

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 resolutely, 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 started.

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 know Ilia’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 have done anything. 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 the university to do at its 90 years anniversary?

You probably know how Petre Malafev, the first university rector 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 university rector having no parallel in the world.

It seems that people are at a loss as regards the university’s shoulds. I guess the way out of this predicament is in reading its ordnance. 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 devided according to their political crede. God forbid that... But I like my university had the same ambivalence with the rest of areas. Apart from Tbilisi, I also studied in two other European universities and I am 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 compatrits
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 90s, at the very first stage of the struggle for independence became clear because 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?
   - It is worn the old and the present generation

- We were ordinary students. Not infrequently we had the interests going arround from the curricula... Like elsewhere we liked playing a truant having fun apart. Though regretting it now that can’t be simply-... the same thing. We played a truant and fun. But the same time, Japan is the country that can spend hours on tea-drinking rites. This is 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 country. 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.

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

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

Giorgi Oogadze, 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 political period by the country and the government. Today it is very important to know how the country and its society will develop; it is nonetheless 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 a given cure our generatons will realise tasks of the future, however challenging.

- Besides the educational function the University has a serious intellelctual potential. Under the circumstances, do you think it is possible for the government to fully use the potential?
   - Preceeding from its potential today, the university can surely work in the line of anti-crisis projects of different characte.

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The origins of Georgian enlightenment traditions go back to Phazisi School of Philosophy and Rhetoric (4th century, Kolkhe-ti), Gelati and Ikalto Academies (12th century) as well as to monasteries-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 institutions. Although with the wish for their revival appeared many times.” (Z. Giajaparashvili ‘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 French and German languages, graduates of Tbilisi Spiritual Seminary were allowed to enter the school of higher education. The very same year 5 of the best graduates 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 an idea of foundation of the university that later grew into actual struggle of “Irgbadameba.” The leaders of Georgian national movement, followers of Patriarch Oldenburg, Vasiliev and others advised the chairman, and Ilia Chavchavadze as the secretary. “Let’s say that our people are really unprepared and that the country was unprepared for having its own university. Despite this thesis of “Czarism”, the reality presented different picture 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 do something.”

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 Georgian University by Ilia Chavchavadze, Mikhe Tsikhevedzaze, Jakob 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 Ivan Javakhishvili’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 strictly observe all requirements by law; otherwise there were envisaged severe sanctions.

Ivan Javakhishvili 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 Keladze, Evrime Tagoashvili, Philippe Gogichashvili, Akaki Shandizde, Dimitri Uzname and others. The constituent meeting was opened by Ivan Javakhishvili, who read the long report about the necessity of foundation of Georgian University. Upon his request the meeting made decision to elect the chairman. Evrime Tagoashvili 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 Transcaucasia (Ozakom), whose head was ca-

det Kharmov was oriented towards Russian University. The members of Ozakom were Kato Absahidze and Akaki Chikheneli. Kato Absahidze died in 1917 and defending national interests in that body became responsibility of Akaki Chikheneli, who closely collaborated with Ivan Javakhishvili, 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 Petersbur-

ge – 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.

It appeared the idea of foundation of the Uni-

versity. The very opportunity to carry out long dreamt wish. Funds had to overcome before achieving their goal. Although in the initial period of the revolution, as in conditions of complete freedom, opening of a university even of the private one was absolutely impossible without permission… Who was Ivan Javakhishvili to address for permission? To Ozakom that carried Petrograd transitional government authority in Transcaucasia. Armenians and Azerbaijanis had one representative each, Georgian side had two representatives and the chairman was Russian. Ozakom reviewed Javakhishvili’s appeal… its non-Georgian members were disposed hostilely to our intentions, al-
though they tried to conceal that. They raised the second question that had to indirectly obstruct the affair. “We were antici-

pating 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 imple-
mentatation soon and meanwhile you raise the issue of Georgian University!” They clarified that Russian University would be-
come the centre of unification of intellec-
tual potential of Caucasus, while Geor-

gian-Armenian, Tatar universities would not have any students either, as one of 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 whose scientific quality you would never be able to compete.”

On October 14, 1917 Akaki Shandize in the Paper “Sakhaliko 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 deci-
sion to accelerate opening of Tbilisi Poly-
technic School, which was to be basis for United Caucasian University. On July 11, 1917 in Petersburg at the Ministry of Pub-
lic Education was held meeting of repre-
sentatives of special departments, delegates of main committee for foundation of Tbilisi Polytechnic School and other highly individual individuals. The meeting decreed that in Tbilisi was to open Polytechnic School, with only one faculty that of technical education, and thus from January in Tbilisi would work there. Despite big efforts made by the chairman, the Russian University Poly-

tech did not hinder the process of establishment of Georgian University. On November 27, 1917 Ivan Javakhishvili addressed the Transcaucasian commissariat for approval of the main provision of the University.

Akaki Chikheneli recalls about those days: “I was a witness of the great difficul-
ties Ivan Javakhishvili and his small group had to overcome before achieving their goal. Although in the initial period of the revolution, as in conditions of complete freedom, opening of a university even of the private one was absolutely impossible without permission… Who was Ivan Javakhishvili to address for permission? To Ozakom that carried Petrograd transitional government authority in Transcaucasia. Armenians and Azerbaijanis had one repre-
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Ozakom’s Approval

“It was remarkable that besides students, representatives were not seen among them. As for political and public figures, official endorsement to our proposal” (magazine "Independent Georgia", p. 107).
The University Rectors Determine 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 a 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.

Shurtkhi Bershvili.

Since its foundation to present day the post of the university rector has been considered as the most honorable and respectable post. That has its objective pre-condition: 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 fats. The majority of them endeavored to retain the national order 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, Petre Melikishvili and Ivan Jvakhishvili 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 vividly 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 Ivan Jvakhishvili, as he had been the ideal and inspiring of the cause. But we needed to have as the head of the university such person who would have substantial authority 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 Ivan Jvakhishvili, elected as the dean of Philosophy Chair stood by Melikishvili and supported him in every way. The actual rector was Jvakhishvili. He met students, members of public, teacher and professor staff." Ivan Jvakhishvili 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 Saloloki 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. The morning he was at the university on time. Melikishvili was ordent 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 language", - recalls Ekvtime Taqhaishvili.

On October 11, 1919 Petre requested resignation after an incident with a professor. The University Professor of Physical and Chemical public work. The incident 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 Ivan Jvakhishvili 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 military, intelligentsia and students - all stood together to defend the independence of the country. The university professors and teachers under leadership of Ivan Jvakhishvili 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.

Ivan Jvakhishvili was striving to build a scientific level of professorate. He was struggling to improve professors’ domestic conditions. He was inviting specialists from various countries, who were supporting preservation of scientific institutions affiliated to the university as well as upgrading their working conditions. Ivan Jvakhishvili created the University Publishing House (1922). He created new faculties, he provided assistance to poor students in every way. Not once did he help them in material or moral terms; he was an eloquent of humanity for students: while being extremely demanding he was at the same time very kind and considerate.

On March 20, 1932 TSU Pro- fessors Board elected Ivan Jvakhishvili as a rector for a new term. Unfortunately, quite soon the soviet authorities started persecution of Ivan Jvakhishvili. 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 Ivan Jvakhishvili 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, 1933 decree by Peoples’ Commissariat for Education Ivan Jvakhishvili was ousted from Pedagogical Institute while accused of sympathizing with direction of subversive group "Kontraiavelxhia", That was an incredible ingratitude towards the founder of the university.

On September 27, 1931 Ivan Jvakhishvili 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 Ivan Jvakhishvili, the culmination of which was the report "About the Problem of History of Georgia" read by TSU rector Carlo Orovelidze at the board meeting of History faculty on 23 March, 1936. In the report Orovelidze harshly criticized Ivan Jvakhishvili’s works; he called him apologist of oppressors class. As a result on December 17, 1936 appeared the resolution of the Central Committee, which was the report "About the Problem of History of Georgia" read by TSU rector Carlo Orovelidze at the board meeting of History faculty on 23 March, 1936. In the report Orovelidze harshly criticized Ivan Jvakhishvili’s works; he called him apologist of oppressors class. As a result on December 17, 1936 appeared the resolution of the Central Committee, which was the report "About the Problem of History of Georgia" read by TSU rector Carlo Orovelidze at the board meeting of History faculty on 23 March, 1936. In the report Orovelidze harshly criticized Ivan Jvakhishvili’s works; he called him apologist of oppressors class. As a result on December 17, 1936 appeared the resolution of the Central Committee, which was the report "About the Problem of History of Georgia" read by TSU rector Carlo Orovelidze at the board meeting of History faculty on 23 March, 1936. In the report Orovelidze harshly criticized Ivan Jvakhishvili’s works; he called him apologist of oppressors class. As a result on December 17, 1936 appeared the resolution of the Central Committee, which was the report "About the Problem of History of Georgia" read by TSU rector Carlo Orovelidze at the board meeting of History faculty on 23 March, 1936. In the report Orovelidze harshly criticized Ivan Jvakhishvili’s works; he called him apologist of oppressors class. As a result on December 17, 1936 appeared the resolution of the Central Committee, which was the report "About the Problem of History of Georgia" read by TSU rector Carlo Orovelidze at the board meeting of History faculty on 23 March, 1936. In the report Orovelidze harshly criticized Ivan Jvakhishvili’s works; he called him apologist of oppressors class. As a result on December 17, 1936 appeared the resolution of the Central Committee, which was the report "About the Problem of History of Georgia" read by TSU rector Carlo Orovelidze at the board meeting of History faculty on 23 March, 1936. In the report Orovelidze harshly criticized Ivan Jvakhishvili’s works; he called him apologist of oppressors class. As a result on December 17, 1936 appeared the resolution of the Central Committee, which was the report "About the Problem of History of Georgia" read by TSU rector Carlo Orovelidze at the board meeting of History faculty on 23 March, 1936. In the report Orovelidze harshly criticized Ivan Jvakhishvili’s works; he called him apologist of oppressors class. As a result on December 17, 1936 appeared the resolution of the Central Committee, which was the report "About the Problem of History of Georgia" read by TSU rector Carlo Orovelidze at the board meeting of History faculty on 23 March, 1936. In the report Orovelidze harshly criticized Ivan Jvakhishvili’s works; he called him apologist of oppressors class. As a result on December 17, 1936 appeared the resolution of the Central Committee, which was the report "About the Problem of History of Georgia" read by TSU rector Carlo Orovelidze at the board meeting of History faculty on 23 March, 1936. In the report Orovelidze harshly criticized Ivan Jvakhishvili’s works; he called him apologist of oppressors class. As a result on December 17, 1936 appeared the resolution of the Central Committee, which was the report "About the Problem of History of Georgia" read by TSU rector Carlo Orovelidze at the board meeting of History faculty on 23 March, 1936.
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. In 1906, the commissioner 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 forth the construction of a new Gentry Gymnasium. After the executive adopted the decision, the executive committee was entitled to purchase land in order to construct a building for the Gentry school.

Maria Toradze

The Self-sacrifice of Nikol 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 Bebasubeli. The land was located on the outskirts of the city of Vera, on the other side of Varasi Khevi. The purchase price was 21,002 roubles and 15 kopecks. Journal “Moambe” wrote in 1898 in its first issue about the event as follows: “Space for the school, (12) verts is enough, in order to continue construction of the building. The whole amount of as much as 21,002 roubles and 15 kopecks is being collected for construction of the building, Mr. Tskhvedadze is the owner of this sum. The construction of the building is a matter of public cause. There is no doubt that the respected public figure burdened himself with the heavy respon- sibility, his contribution to the public cause, re- lentless labour and close familiarity with the busi- ness is a guarantee that the undertaking should have success. From the above it is clear that all Georgians would support this benemeter and noble deed.” Niko Tskhvedadze collected the major part of the funds from individual persons and from institutions. “If all constant Geor- gians, our generous and patriotic heart does not wax bright with patriotic feelings were involved in the implementation of this cause. A lot of people gave money, farmers, merchants, engineers, Young and elderly, women and men, rich and poor, in every way they could contribute 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. Mdvani, G.S. Gagoshidze, M.D. Kbislamidze, G.E. Skhiradze, S. Bebasubeli, N.A. Kherkheuladze and others as its honorable members. At the very same general meeting the society proposed a special thanks was paid to N. Tskhvedadze. The issue of the purchase of land was also decided. The construction work started in 1899.

In 1906 after the murder of the gymnasium president, a small drugstore was set up on the construction site. The club and the church have double roof and they fill the height of the whole building. All other structures are situated around this central nucleus in symmetrical wings.

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

Daily routine was the following: workers and masters gathered at 6:00 a.m. at the construction place. Working hours were from 8:00 to 8:30, and from 12:00 to 2:30 a.m. was a break for lunch. Workday finished at 7:00 p.m.

In 1905 “Tbilisi Gentry Gymnasium” was re- named “Tbilisi Private Georgian Gymnasium”. Ktskhvadze’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 inscrip- tion - “Tbilisi Private Georgian Gymnasium”. In 1906 after the murder of the gymnasium principal Shio Chitaidze and the raid on the gym- nasium, the army was stationed there (then the gymnasium was located in Selkoun’s house, in present day Sh. Chitadze street). It was impossible to continue educational process in the gym- nasium. For short time several groups sheltered in hene Macbech’s house, Anaostis Bagration- Machtachov’s house. On November 25 all groups started studying in the new building, despite the fact that the building had not finished yet (floor was not laid in every classroom, glass was not put in many windows, there was no heating). On November 26, 1911, it is considered to be the date of the construction of Tbilisi Georgian Gymnasium, the present day Tbilisi State University Engineering College.

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

In 1909 the construction of a sports hall was finished in the upper floor of the new gymnasium. The construction cost constituted 690.000 rupees. The building immediately became an impor- tant city landmark that was often visited by a large number of people in order to be impressed by the wonderful building. The gymnasium has a two hundred and half and hundred and twenty quite spacious rooms; Superb hall, one gym, another assembly hall, museum and a large library which will carry the name of late Stephanie Vano Karposashvili and Coka Kveladze.

Due to financial difficulties, the threat of sell- ing the finished building arose several times. Niko Tskhvedadze was doing his best to try to save the Georgian Gymnasium from sale. Only in 1911 was the decision made to sell the building.

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.

Newspaper “Moambe” 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 Chvanchava, Akaki Tsereteli, Mariam Jambulob- Orbeliani, Niko Tskhvedadze, Isakob Gogebashvili, Etkhe Tashashvili, Simon Tsereteli, Ekvtime Tskhvedadze, representatives of public and gym- nasium took part in the ceremonial.

The Foundation Service was conducted by the first bishop of Tbilisis and supervision of its construction was as- signed to Zachariah Chichinadze. From 1902 Ilia Chavchavadze also became the member of this commission. From 1902 Ilia Chavchavadze also became the member of this commission. Unfortunately, Zachariah Chichinadze did not live to see this great deed. The Zubalashvili brothers have special role in fulfilling the project” wrote Zachariah Chichinadze.

Two facades are the most important: one that of a garden, and the other of Marry street (currently Chavchavadzave 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.

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

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, it still amazes and attracts attention, not only for its height but also for its beauty.

Prepared according to Zurab Gojarashvili’s book “The Luminary of the Century”
Congratulations 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 Galati and Ikalti, it was the major centre to have given a powerful incentive to the evolution of the national potential. Safety 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.

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

"Every Written Letter Is Meaningful"

"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.

It is the invaluable treasure acquired through endurance, effort and patience."

Kirian II, Catholics-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 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..."

Aksaki Chkherkeli
Chairman of Founding Society of University Speech made at the opening of Tbilisi University on 26 January 1918

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

Shalva Nusubidze
Founder of the Georgian University Journal "Kvemi Student" 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, Akgop-Cherkez, Chachch, 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 the 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, Caucasianist.
This is how Arnold Chikobava maintained the need for opening a Department of the Caucasian Languages in 1923.

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