

SUMMARY OF EMORY UNIVERSITY'S  
PARTNERSHIP  
WITH  
THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA  
1989-1992

Prepared by Tom Bertrand

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**A. Emory's philosophy in the TSU exchange :**

At the inception of the exchange program in 1989, Emory University had several aims:

(1) to build a lasting bridge between the two academic communities and to make a long-term impact on the quality of education, science, and medical practice in the Republic of Georgia;

(2) to provide opportunities leading to graduate degrees for a few outstanding young Georgians who are capable of taking advantage of Emory's strengths in selected areas of graduate education (a major criterion of selection has been the individual's commitment to return home after education to work on development of their nation); and

(3) to create opportunities for selected faculty members and graduate students from Emory to incorporate the culture and history of Georgia into their own scholarly fields of reference, by connecting with appropriate specialists in the Republic of Georgia.

Emory considers its partnership to be with the entire academic community of Tbilisi, meaning the Tbilisi State University and the various specialized institutes of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, including the Institute of Medicine.

**B. Summary of Past Activities:**

The exchange program was signed in the spring of 1989 after University Secretary Tom Bertrand, acting on behalf of Emory President James Laney, visited Tbilisi during TSU's 70th Anniversary Celebration in October 1988. This first official contact between the two institutions was encouraged by Emory's political science professor Ellen Mickiewicz who had visited Tbilisi in the course of her research in the summer of 1988.

During December 1989, TSU Rector Nodar Amaglobeli and international relations director Zurab Zhvania spent a week in Atlanta and met with various officials and scholars in the university (including President Laney) and the Carter Center (including former President Carter). Mr. Bertrand served as host of this visit.

In the spring of 1990, the prominent Georgian philosopher, Merab Mamardashvili (now deceased), a corresponding fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, lectured in the philosophy department at Emory under the sponsorship of the Kettering Foundation. This visit

was arranged between Tom Bertrand and Dr. Steven Strickland, Emory alumnus and president of the National Peace Foundation. Dr. Strickland, whose late wife Tamara was of Georgian ancestry, has subsequently materially assisted several Emory visitors from the Republic of Georgia and has frequently opened his home to them in Washington. While pursuing the work of his foundation, Dr. Strickland also visited Tbilisi State University in 1991, conveying greetings from Emory University.

Also in the spring of 1990, Emory trustee Laura Hardman took her entire family to Tbilisi on a two-week Friendship Force exchange and while there was received as an Emory representative by the rector of Tbilisi State University. Her husband, Dr. John Hardman, M.D., who also visited Tbilisi at that time, is now Director of the Carter Center of Emory University.

In the summer and again in the fall of 1990, Dr. Lynn Newman, chair of Emory's music department, travelled to Tbilisi to participate in the Georgian Summer Language Institute and undertake extensive research on medieval Georgian music. Because of her language skills, research interests and friendship with Eduard Shevardnadze's daughter Manana, she has subsequently played an important role in building linkages with Georgia and advising young Georgians studying in Atlanta. (Note: in 1993, Dr. Newman married Tom Bertrand, who had become president of Brevard College in North Carolina).

In January 1991, with the encouragement of Dr. Newman and Mr. Bertrand, a Tbilisi University undergraduate student, Tamuna Mosashvili, entered Emory College as a Woodruff Scholar, thereby becoming the first student from the Soviet Union to enroll as a full-time degree student at an American university. She will graduate from Emory with a degree in anthropology in May 1994. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eduard Shevardnadze; her mother is a music historian who heads the Georgian Film Institute.

In the spring of 1991, a course in Georgian history and culture was offered in Emory College by a team of professors from Emory (History Department Chairman Kermit McKenzie and Music Department Chairman Lynn Newman) and from Tbilisi State University (Professors Levan Alexidze, Alex Rondeli and Ketevan Cholokashvili). The Georgian professors among them spent approximately two and one-half months at Emory and made numerous connections with members of the faculty of Emory College and the School of Law. Since that time, Alexidze has become senior vice-rector of TSU and a chief advisor to Eduard Shevardnadze. As chairman of the new department of international relations at TSU, Rondeli is designing a new curriculum for training Georgia's future statesmen and diplomats.

Also in the spring of 1991, Emory's classics department chairman Peter Bing traveled to Tbilisi to develop contacts in the academic community and to prepare the ground for a future exhibit of Georgian artifacts in the Emory University Museum.

In May 1991 Eduard Shevardnadze, the former foreign minister of the Soviet Union and the grandfather of an Emory student, delivered the commencement address at Emory University. As a member of the Carter Center's International Negotiation Network, he subsequently participated via satellite in an INN consultation on solving intra-regional conflicts held in Atlanta in March 1992. Since his visit to Emory he has been popularly elected as the head of state for the

Republic of Georgia.

In the fall of 1991, a Tbilisi State University undergraduate, Vladimir Gurgenidze, entered the graduate program in the Emory Business School and was taken under supervision by Emory's outstanding international finance professor Jeff Rosensweig. He subsequently won a coveted summer internship with The Coca-Cola Company in London. He will complete his studies in May 1993.

In the fall of 1991 and again in the summer of 1992, Tom Bertrand spent part of his sabbatical as a visiting professor of law and higher education and as consultant at Tbilisi State University. Bertrand was representing the National Peace Foundation in addition to Emory University during these terms. He returned to Tbilisi in September-October 1992 for the National Peace Foundation to observe the Georgian elections and to prepare a report on how the Foundation and the Association of Professional Schools of Diplomacy in the United States can assist Georgia prepare its diplomats in the future. He gave an address at the Georgian Academy of Sciences following the parliamentary elections. He is also preparing and translating an anthology of contemporary Georgian poetry. During his visit he initiated further discussions concerning a Georgian exhibit in the Emory Museum and arranged for invitations for Emory professors Thomas Burns (history) and David Cook (film) to visit Tbilisi in the spring and summer of 1993.

In the fall of 1992 a team of medical professionals from the Emory School of Medicine and Grady Memorial Hospital, including Drs. Susan Buchter, Roger Foster and Kenneth Walker, visited Tbilisi to select a hospital site for a long-term partnership between the Emory School of Medicine/Grady Memorial Hospital and the Institute of Medicine in Tbilisi. Acting on their recommendations, Emory's dean of medicine, Jeffrey Houpt, and the director of the American Association of Public Hospitals visited Tbilisi to sign the official agreement with the Georgian Minister of Health. In December 1992, a ten-member team of Emory medical specialists will spend two weeks in Tbilisi preparing an in-depth evaluation of the medical care and clinical training at Second City Hospital of Tbilisi. This evaluation will serve as the basis for a ten-year collaboration. Dean Houpt plans to return to Tbilisi in the Spring of 1993.

Also in the fall of 1992, Andro Kacharava, a young cardiologist from Tbilisi, began an intensive cardiology residency at the Emory School of Medicine. In January 1993 Tea Kekelidze, a cell biologist from Tbilisi State University, begins a PhD program at Emory under the supervision of biochemistry department chairman Donald McCormick, and Ketevan Makharashvili enters Emory College as a transfer student. Other Georgians are being considered for graduate fellowships by the departments of art history and philosophy and in the graduate school of business administration.

### C. Current Activities

1. The following students from the Republic of Georgia are enrolled at Emory (as of Spring semester 1993):
  - Tamuna Mosashvili, now in the third year of a four year academic program in Emory

College. She holds a Woodruff Scholarship, Emory's premier undergraduate scholarship. (Note: Tamuna graduated with honors in Anthropology in May 1994 and is now seeking entrance to Law School -- she is living in the Bertrand home in Atlanta. Her husband, Dato Shengelia, just graduated with a Masters in Law in Taxation from Emory Law School.)

- Vladimir Gurgenidze, now in second year of a two year graduate Master of Business Administration degree. His fellowship, covering tuition and fees, is provided by the School of Business Administration. (Note: Lado graduated with honors and is now working in an investment bank in Moscow, later going to London with the same bank.)
- Andro Kacharava, taking advanced medical residencies in cardiology and cardiac surgery at Emory, beginning October 1992. All costs of residency are being covered by the division of cardiology of the Emory School of Medicine. Emory's Ken Walker, who heads the long-term effort by Emory Medical School to improve the quality of health care in the Georgian Republic, reports that Dr. Kacharava has already made a sterling impression on those who work with him at Emory. Ken sees potential for molding him over the next several years into a medical educator capable of helping change the face of medicine in the Caucasus region. (Note: Andro is still in the Medical School.)
- Tea Kekelidze, will begin work toward a PhD in Biochemistry beginning January 1993. Her program will require two or three year beyond her current level of research work with Academician Lomsadze. Her graduate stipend will be provided by the Department of Biochemistry in the Emory School of Medicine. (Note: she has published several significant research papers in collaboration with Don McCormick. She is the daughter of Academician Nodar Kekelidze of Tbilisi State University, head of what was once one of the great nuclear research labs in the U.S.S.R.)
- Ketevan Makharashvili will enter Emory College as a transfer student in January 1992. (Note: she graduated in May 1995.)

Several other promising recent graduates of Tbilisi State University are currently being considered for admission to various graduate programs at Emory for the fall of 1993. (Note: at least two other Georgians have graduated with MBA's from Emory and at least a dozen Georgian physicians have worked at the medical school since 1992).

## 2. Long-term Partnership between Emory School of Medicine/ Grady Memorial Hospital and the Institute of Medicine/Second City Hospital in Tbilisi.

This partnership is the initial undertaking of an ambitious long term program under the auspices of the United States Agency for International Development and the American International Health Alliance. The Emory/Grady partnership will be one of fifteen to be instituted between major American hospitals and institutions in the republics of the former Soviet Union under a 10-year, \$15 million grant from USAID. Emory's long-term intent is to make a significant impact on the quality of medical care, education and research in the Republic of Georgia. Emory's own investment is to provide top-flight consultants to travel to Georgia to analyze and

make recommendations. During September and October 1992 two small Emory/Grady evaluation teams spent time in Tbilisi and another ten-man team, consisting of heads of key clinical departments at Emory, will travel to Tbilisi in November to undertake an in-depth analysis of the hospital). In addition, Emory will make available opportunities for health care workers in Georgia to come to Emory for specialized training and education. (Note: Ken Walker can update you on the vast expansion of this partnership).

#### D. Recommendations for future of exchange:

##### 1. General recommendation:

I recommend that the exchange be continued at the current modest level, which entails no direct overhead expenditures by the Emory university administration, but instead relies on the initiative of faculty members and departments that have direct interests in the Georgian Republic. These exchanges are best carried forward by those who are or who wish to be personally invested in that area of the world. Professor David Cook of Emory's cinema department has been interested in the influential Georgian film industry for several years, has incorporated Georgian films into his recent courses, and has been invited to lecture in Tbilisi in the spring of 1993. Similarly, Professor Thomas Burns of the department of history has been invited to lecture in Tbilisi and to explore the records there of the Roman frontier in Georgia. Professor Lynn Newman of the music department may wish to continue her earlier research in Georgian music. Professor Max Miller of the Theology School has expressed an interest in the archeology and architecture of the early Christian era in Georgia. Various members of the Soviet, Post-Soviet and Eastern European Studies Program at Emory may also wish to take advantage of opportunities to pursue research or lecture in Tbilisi. These invitations can be arranged through the Tbilisi State University director of international affairs, Zurab Zhvania. I recommend that Dr. and Mrs. Laney take up their standing invitation to visit Tbilisi sometime in the next several years.

##### 2. Future exhibit of Georgian artifacts in Emory Museum of Art & Archeology.

This project should be pursued vigorously. In October 1992, Tom Bertrand renewed the conversation with the Georgian State Museum begun by him in 1988 and continued two years ago during the visit to Tbilisi of Emory classics professor Peter Bing. The ground has now been prepared for Emory to become the first American museum to mount a major exhibit from the Caucasus. [There was a major exhibition in Paris in the early 1980's. Another significant exhibit of archeological artifacts tracing Georgia's history up to the medieval period will open next fall in Saarbrücken, which is Tbilisi's sister city in Germany, and then will travel to several other German cities.] The time is ripe for a visit to Tbilisi by Max Anderson or one of his deputies to view the holdings of the Tbilisi collections and follow up on Bertrand's recent talks with the key people in Tbilisi. Because the sending of their cultural treasures abroad is a topic of controversy in Georgia, I emphasize the importance of an early visit to Tbilisi in order to capitalize on their current willingness to deal with Emory and Atlanta.

### 3. Selection of two Emory undergraduates to spend a year at Tbilisi State University.

TSU is prepared to host several Emory students in Tbilisi, covering all educational and living expenses there, with the exception of round-trip air fare. This is a splendid opportunity for resourceful young men and women who are good in languages and have an interest in specializing in post-soviet Euro-Asia, to begin a career in either the foreign service, international journalism or scholarship. Because of the goodwill toward Emory that now exists in Tbilisi, these Emory students would be well received and would be in on the ground floor of the tiny but growing American presence in Tbilisi. The American embassy was the first foreign embassy to open in Georgia -- it has been joined by Germany, Iran and Turkey and will soon have embassies from other European countries. Yet there are few Europeans or Americans trained in Caucasian issues, much less the Georgian language. Two exceptionally bright and attractive young Americans, one from Williams and one from Colby College, have spent time in Tbilisi over the past several years studying Georgian and Russian. After a junior year and a summer spent in Tbilisi, the first of these, Lisa Koestner, graduated from Williams in May and has since then served as the executive assistant to the new American Ambassador in Tbilisi. A year younger, Brian O'Halloran will graduate from Colby this next May and will then take Lisa's place at the embassy when she goes off to graduate school. By choosing first-rate Emory undergraduates, of the calibre of the Bobby

Jones scholars, Emory could have a similar impact in the evolving American presence in Tbilisi. Tbilisi State University would welcome them, and I am sure the American Ambassador in Tbilisi would welcome their presence and talents as well. I suggest that two students be selected because of the support they would give to one another there in Tbilisi. Next fall there will be six or seven American undergraduates (from Harvard and Williams and Texas) at Tbilisi State University, together with a similar number of German students. TSU would be prepared to receive the Emory students as soon as Spring 1993.