The visit of Dr. Mark P. Becker, President of Georgia State University (USA) to Azerbaijan University from September 28th to October 2nd 2011:

President Mark Becker, Dean Fenwick Huss and Professor Bijan Fazlollahi visited Azerbaijan University to strengthen their collaboration to transform this university into a world-class educational institution.

The event begun on September 29th, Tuesday, with the meeting between Dr. Becker and Prof. Misir Mardanov, Minister of Education of Azerbaijan Republic. The minister was aware of the past and present activities of GSU in Azerbaijan and had visited GSU himself about 10 years ago. He welcomed the continued assistance of GSU to Azerbaijan University. He promised to resolve the outstanding issues of AU with the Ministry. This included:

1) Permit students that are weak in English to study an additional semester of English.
2) Permit AU to reduce the exam period from 3 weeks to one week to allow the earlier start of the summer semester.
3) Drop the requirement for an exam by the ministry at the completion of BBA studies as GSU will exercise necessary control before issuing certificate.
4) Permit transfer of students from other specialties to business programs.
Afterwards, President Mark Becker, including Dean Fenwick Huss, Prof. Bijan Fazlollahi and Prof. Akif Musayev, met with Mrs. Maleyka Abbaszade, Head of the State Commission on Student Admission. Ms. Maleyka described how students from high school are admitted to the universities. Students take a national exam and are assigned to the universities based on their scores. Recently Masters Students are also admitted the same way. The GSU delegation also requested that GSU to be add to the list of universities receiving students funded by Azerbaijan Government. She said that she will bring up the issue in the next meeting of the committee.

**Visit to Azerbaijan University:**

Dr. Gahramanov, administration of the university and Dr. Mark Becker, President of GSU, signed an agreement between Georgia State University and Azerbaijan University. This agreement is established to expend the 3-year successful collaboration between the GSU and AU in order to enhance curriculum development and establish a student, and faculty and research exchange program. The Student Exchange Program will enable students from one university to take classes at the other university while working towards a degree at the university where he or she is formally enrolled. At the end of the day, President Becker and Dean Huss addressed the faculty and students of the Business School. The students asked many questions that showed command of the language as well as intelligence.

The next day, September 30th, consisted of the visits to the different business organizations, in particular to the headquarters of British Petroleum(Seymour
Khalilov, Nick Verstappen) and Azercell (Ahmed Kerimov, Nigar Huseynzade, Ziba Mustafayeva), leading mobile operator, to discuss with the chief executives possible collaboration on fulfilling their needs for educational services from Azerbaijan University and Georgia State University. Also the delegation had a Round–table discussion with the National Confederation of entrepreneurs Organizations of Azerbaijan Republic (Mammad Musayev, Kamil Aliev, Jhale Hajiyeva and Ilkin Isganderov) on the theme of ‘Business and University Relationship’. Day ended with meeting between Dr. Becker and the chairman of ATA holdings, Dr. Gafar Gurdanov, the founders of Azerbaijan University, to commit their support for the future.

On October 2nd, the last day of the visit, delegation met with over 35 GSU graduates and the graduates of the past GSU affiliated universities (Azerbaijan State Oil Academy and Khazar), as well as faculty members trained in Atlanta over the past 17 years. Later in the day, the delegates also met with the Synergy co. that is responsible to the Board of Directors of ATA holding for management of their investments, thus completing their mission.

In summary; the delegation from GSU visited Azerbaijan University, local companies and government. The visit was highly successful. The visit holds a great importance for both universities and supports the development of relations between GSU, Azerbaijan University and Azerbaijan companies, assisting Business school to become the world class educational institution. GSU will provide a proposal to develop the Azerbaijan University into a world class university in less than a decade.