

Analysis Research & Planning for Armenia

ARPA Institute,
NEWSLETTER

ԱՐՓԱ ՀԻՄՆԱՐԿ
ԼՐԱԲԵՐ

December 2011, Vol. 18 Դեկտեմբեր 2011, Թ 18

Address: 18106 Miranda St., Tarzana, CA 91356, Tel: 818-453-0618

Սեպտեմբեր 2011-ին Հայաստան-Սփիւռք համաժողովին հետևեալ առաջարկները ներկայացուեցան ԱՐՓԱ Ինստիտուտի կողմէ: Ես ալ իմ կարգին կը շնորհաւորեմ Սփիւռքի Նախարարութեան այս մեծ կազմակերպչական աշխատանքին և կարևոր նախաձեռնութեան համար:

Իմ կարծիքով, այսպիսի համաժողովները, եթէ միայն գոհանան մեր դասական և մեծ կազմակերպութիւններու ներկայացուցիչներուն ճառերով և արտայայտութիւններով, բարար գործնական արդիւնք չենք ունենար: Սակայն, աւելի արդիւնաւետ կրնային ըլլալ այսպիսի համաժողովները, եթէ ներառնէիք նաև մասնագետներ, որոնք բարձր հասկացողութիւն ունին թէ՛ Սփիւռքի կազմակերպութիւններուն, կառոյցներուն և գործնական աշխատանքներուն մասին և նաև մեր երկրի և ժողովրդային հարաբերութիւններուն մասին, որոնք գիտական մոտեցումներով կ'ուսումնասիրեն ամեն տարբեր Սփիւռքի հատուածները և կառոյցները և շինիչ առաջարկութիւններ կրնան ներկայացնել գիտական մակարդակով: Մէկ այլ նկատողութիւն. ես կը նկատեմ որ ընդհանրապէս մեր այսպիսի հարաբերութիւններուն մէջ կարծես պակաս են բարձր գիտական պատրաստութիւն ունեցող մասնագիտական կազմակերպութիւնները և անձնաւորութիւնները: Մենք պէտք չէ կերորոնանանք միայն դասական կազմակերպութիւններու ներկայացուցիչներուն հրաւիրելով և գոհանանք իրենց ներկայացուցած առաջարկութիւններով: Իրենք, շատ մը պարագաներում, մասնագիտական պատրաստութիւն

չունին և պիտի միայն ներկայացնեն իրենց սովորական տեսակետները, այսինքն՝ մասնաւոր նորութիւն պիտի չկարողանան առաջարկել: Որովհետև, եթէ անոնք ունենային որևէ նորութիւն, արդէն իրենց կազմակերպութիւնները կը կարողանային վերանորոգել և ավելի արդիականացնել: Ուրեմն պէտք է մեր մոտեցումը այնպէս փոխենք, որ մեր այնքան հսկայական մասնագիտական ներուժը, որ հայերս ունինք աշխարհի չորս կողմը, աւելի արդիւնաւետ կերպով օգտագործենք: Երկրորդ, ունինք նաև այլ հսկայական հատուածներ, որոնք այստեղ կարծես ներկայացուած չեն, մասնաւոր, օրինակի համար Լոս Անջելեսի պարագային կան բազմահազար Հայաստանէն արտագաղթած հայրենակիցներ, որոնք ոչ մէկ տեղ ներկայացուած չեն, նոյնիսկ Լոս Անջելեսի ոչ մէկ կազմակերպութեան մէջ չեն ներկայացուած և նույնպէս այստեղ ալ չեն ներկայացուած: Մենք Սփիւռք ըսելով պէտք է հասկնանք ամբողջ Սփիւռքը: Պէտք է փորձենք նաև միջոցներ գտնել արդիական, հարաբերական համակարգեր և մոտեցումներ օգտագործելու, կամ այլ ստեղծագործ ձևերով, մտածենք մասնագետներու հետ միասին խորհրդակցելով, փորձենք այդ չներկայացուած մեծ հատուածը նաև ներկայացնել: Պէտք է նաև ուշադրութիւն դարձնել մեծահարուստ հայերուն: Իրենց հատուկ հրաւերով բերել ՀՀ, ծանօթացնել իրենց այստեղի կարելիութիւններն ու կարողականութիւնը և զիրենք սիրաշահելով, փորձել իրենցմէ ներդրումներ իրագործել, ինչպատ ՀՀ տնտեսական զարգացման: Ծնորհակալութիւն:

Trip Report on ARPA Activities in Armenia

By Hagop Panossian

November 10, 2011

During my trip to Armenia from September to November, I had the opportunity to meet with the President of Armenia, Mr. Serge Sargsyan; the prime Minister, Mr. Tigran Sargsyan; the Minister of Diaspora, Mrs. Hranoush Hakobyan; the Deputy Minister of Culture, Mrs. Arev Samuelyan; the Head of the State Science Committee of Armenia, Dr. Samvel Harutunyan; the President of the State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA), Dr. Ara Avetisyan; the President of the Yerevan State University of Armenia (YSU), Dr. Aram Simonyan; The President of the American University of Armenia (AUA), Dr. Bruce Bogosian; the Deans of SEUA; several university officials and professors; heads of associations; and others.

On the first day of my trip, I called Ara Avetisyan, the new President of SEUA and congratulated him for his new position. On the following two days, I attended the Mussa Ler annual celebrations at the Mussa Ler Monument. In the following, you will find the summary of my meetings:

September 19-20: I attended the Diaspora Conference, having been invited as the representative of the ARPA Institute. The conference was very well attended (over 500 people) by numerous Diasporan and Armenia organizations. All of the dignitaries of Armenia (President Sargsyan, several Ministers, the Catholicos of All Armenians, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of Cilicia, His Holiness Aram I) and dignitaries of the Diasporan Organizations, etc. I had a chance to meet with the President and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Diaspora. During the conference, I suggested that including and inviting experts from the Diaspora and from Armenia, who can contribute towards better relations between Armenia and the Diaspora, would be more productive than listening to all the speeches by the classical leaders of the Diaspora and Armenia.



Dr. H. Panossian w/ Pres. Serge Sargsyan of Armenia



September 21: I attended the fantastic celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the independence of Armenia with great joy and satisfaction. All the fanfare and the spectacular marches of our soldiers were so exhilarating; something to remember for the rest of my life.



September 22: I met with Dr. Armine Ishkhanian at 11:00 am, who is a professor at the London School of Economics, and discussed with her the ARPA Institute 20th Anniversary Celebration Conference, to be held in May of 2012. She was very excited and showed willingness to present a paper. At 3:00 pm, I briefly stopped by Mr. Vartan Oskanyan's Civilitas Foundation. At 7:00 pm, I had a dinner meeting with Dr. Bruce Boghosian, President of AUA and discussed the ARPA Institute Distance Learning Program and ways and means in which we can cooperate and have AUA benefit from it.

September 23: At 2:00 pm, I had a meeting with members of the Association of Technology Transfer, Dr. Mikael Abovyan, Serge Abovyan and Karen Karapetyan, who presented a medical diagnostics software prepared for iPhone applications. They asked for help from ARPA to try

to market the software. The information was transferred to our medical software expert, Jora Manoucherian for review and comments.

September 24: At 11:00 am, discussions were held with the head of the State Science Committee, Dr. Samvel Harutunyan and TTA head, Dr. Mikael Abovyan, on the DNA Center of Excellence project, which was initiated last year, with plans to implement a modern DNA Center of Excellence in Armenia. They were told that ARPA has already received a well written proposal from the Center for Medical Research in Armenia, a private laboratory which has very competent researchers and scientists knowledgeable in DNA, and that the rest of the centers that work on DNA should send a unified proposal from the Government's side. We agreed to organize a general meeting of all the stakeholders and discuss the matter with them.

September 26: I visited Dr. Nara Kushkyan, the Director of the Erebuni and Nairi Hospitals in Yerevan, and Armen Parsadanyan, her IT expert, at the Nairi Medical Center and discussed with them the Distance Learning program, through which ARPA will help Dr. Akira of UCLA and the specialist of Cochlear implants of the Armenian International Medical Fund to train specialists in Erebuni Hospital via video-conferencing devices. Dr. Nara Kushkyan agreed to set up an optical line dedicated for video conferencing and to provide tools and equipment to test the system in the near future. At 6:00 pm, I delivered a lecture at AUA entitled "ARPA Institute for a strong Armenia", during which I stressed the need for cooperation between the Academia, Industry, and the Government, as well as the experts in the Diaspora to help develop a strong economic base in Armenia.

September 27: At 12:45 pm, I visited Dr. Karlen Grigoryan, Dr. Alexander Yesayan and Dr. Nelli Hovhannisyan, the Ecology Department of the Biology Faculty of the YSU. The latter showed me their DNA lab,

**Drs. Hovhannisyan, Panossian, Grigoryan & Yesayan
at the Ecology Dept. of YSU**



which she had created all by herself through grants, proposals and hard work. I asked her to join in on the DNA Center of Excellence project.

Meeting with DNA Experts in Yerevan on Modern DNA Center of Excellence in Armenia



September 28: I met with the International Women's Association representatives, who distributed the 100 units of Diabetes testing devices and strips donated by Dr. Kapriel Danadian of New York. They were thankful for the donation and said that the units were all distributed in the border regions of Armenia.

September 29: I joined the AUA group, which traveled through the northern territories of Armenia, Gyumri, Artig and Harij, where we saw the businesses that were supported through the Turpenjian program.

September 30: At 1:30 pm, Abraham Boyajian and myself had a meeting with Dr. Ara Avetisyan of SEUA and discussed with him ways and means of cooperation between SEUA, the Polytechnic Association of California and ARPA on issues facing SEUA. He was very open and ready to work with us. He was given the Memorandum of Understanding between ARPA and SEUA to review.

October 3: At 12:00 noon, I met with Prof. Sasha Markarov of YSU to discuss cooperation between ARPA and YSU and ways in which the YSU can join in the Distance Learning Program.

October 5: I met with Prof. Oleg Gasbaryan of SEUA EE Dept., who is an expert in control systems. I asked him to help ARPA get the message across to students on our Invention Competition. At 2:00 pm, I met with the staff of the International Education Center, headed by Dr. Samvel Shukuryan, which has a special degree program with the university of Rostock of Germany. They were told about ARPA Institute's Distance Learning Program and were very interested to join in on the program.

October 7: President Sarkozy was on an official visit to Yerevan and hundreds of thousands of people were in the French square in Yerevan. He donated a statue by a famous sculpture from France and stated clearly that France will fight for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Ottoman Empire in 1915.



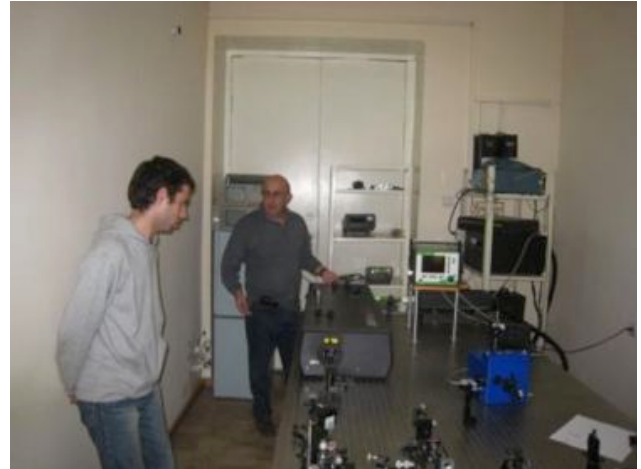
President Sarkozy's Visit to Yerevan

October 10-11: I was invited to present a lecture on "Innovation, Invention and Commercialization" at the Armtech Congress at the Marriott Armenia Hotel. The presentation was well received and numerous questions and positive comments were made. On October 10, at the evening banquet, I spoke with the Prime Minister, Tigran Sargsyan, and told him that ARPA Institute had sent him an invitation on July 14, to attend the Invention Competition Awards Ceremony, and that we had not received any response yet. He agreed that the event is important and called his assistant and told him to take action. I received a call from his office three days later, informing me that the Prime Minister is busy during the coming weeks and will not be able to attend the awards ceremony, but that they have arranged for the Minister of Education and Science to attend and hand out the awards. I called the Minister's office a few days later to learn that the Minister also will not be able to attend due to heavy workload. As a note, the President of Armenia himself finds time to hand out the awards of the Synopsys company IT competition every year.

October 12: Gnel Nazanyan, an attorney specializing in registering non-governmental organizations, and I went to the Government Registry. They informed us on what needs to be done and I informed the Board members of ARPA for consensus to act on it.

October 13: At 1:30 pm, the YSU Foreign Relations office had organized a lecture to be delivered by me on "Innovation, Invention and Commercialization". However, the hall was locked and no one was there. It was cancelled. At 3:00 pm, I visited a former student of YSU, Aram

Zeytunyan and his advisor, Prof. Levon Mouradian, who had won first place in our Invention Competition in 2009 on a femtosecond laser measuring device they had invented. They showed me the advances they had registered and wanted to see if ARPA can help in commercializing it.



**Former Winner of ARPA Invention Competition
A. Zeytunyan & His Advisor, Dr. Mouradian, in Their
Lab @ YSU**

October 14: At 1:00 pm, I met with Vladimir Sahakyan of the NAS of Armenia, head of the IT Institute and discussed with him the possibility of using the ASNET network of the Academy for connecting with all the state universities of Yerevan. He explained to me that the internet connection and the systems they have are adequate for our Distance Learning program. At 3:00 pm, I met with Karen Karapetyan and Samuel Harutunyan of the State Science Committee and discussed the steps needed to organize a unified approach to the proposal process, whereby all centers involved in DNA will participate in writing a good proposal. A meeting will be invited of all stakeholders and will be informed that the State Science Committee will head the effort of making the DNA Center of Excellence a reality and that the project will also be presented to the Prime Minister to get his support as well.

October 15: At 1:00 pm, Dr. Oleg Gasbaryan took me to Astromaps, a company which works with the Government in making military devices and is headed by Dr. Yury Yediganyan. They would like help to promote their capabilities for expanded work outside of Armenia. At 2:00 pm, we visited the Electronics Lab headed by Dr. Mher Markosyan. He also would like help to promote their products outside of Armenia.

October 18: At 2:00 pm, I was invited to visit the office of Intellectual Property Rights Council, headed by Sarkis Knyazyan. I was asked to serve on their Board of Directors

and I agreed. They work towards promoting the rights of individuals with intellectual property.

October 19: At 2:00 pm, I had a meeting with the Vice President of SEUA, Prof. Ruben Aghgashyan, to discuss ways and means of determining the interests in various engineering and technology topics by the various departments of SEUA. It was suggested to call a meeting of the Deans and ask them to provide inputs. At 2:30 pm, I presented a lecture to the Masters' and Ph.D. students of the SEUA on "Innovation, Invention and Commercialization". There were around 40 students and professors. The lecture was well received and the students showed a great deal of interest. At 5:30 pm, the H1 TV station of Armenia had an interview with me that was shown three days later. It covered well the invention competition for next year and will, hopefully, serve as a good publicity for more participation by students.

October 20: At 2:30 pm, I had a meeting with the Min. of Diaspora, Mrs. Hranoush Hakobyan, at the Ministry and invited her to attend the ARPA Invention Competition Awards Ceremony. She accepted and called the President of YSU and asked to use their main meeting room for the event, to be held on November 27 at 2:00 pm in YSU. I reported to Mrs. Hakobyan about the ARPA activities and plans for the future. She was impressed.

Minister of Diaspora, Mrs. H. Hakobyan & Dr. H. Panossian



October 21: At 10:30 am, I had a meeting with Prof. V. Maroukhyan and Prof. L. Hovhannisyan and discussed the "Energy Efficiency" lab to be established at SEUA, jointly by the Graduate Students Association of the Polytechnic and ARPA Institute. They informed me that they have already renovated the room on the first floor of their building and it is ready for materials and equipment.

October 22-23: I attended the Conference on Agriculture in Armenia. Based on a statement by an expert agricultural engineer from Lebanon, the farmers of Armenia cannot be competitive if the monopoly on agricultural materials, such as fertilizers, is not removed.

October 24: At 11:00 am, Gnel Nazanyan and I went to

the Registry to clarify a few items related to registering ARPA as an NGO. They suggested to call it Expert ARPA Science & Technology NGO. At 3:00 pm, I had a meeting with the advisor to the Prime Minister, Mr. Ara Ter Martirosyan, and Karen Karapetyan. They informed me that Mr. Martirosyan will present the DNA project to the Prime Minister with Samuel Harutunyan.

October 25: At 11:00 am, I met with the President of YSU, Prof. Aram Simonyan, and discussed with him the ARPA Awards Ceremony.

October 26: At 10:00 am, I presented the lecture on "Innovation, Invention and Commercialization" at the Microsoft Innovation Center. There were about 25 people from the industry and academia. They were all enthusiastic about advancing the processes and knowledge of commercialization in Armenia.

October 27: At 2:00 pm, the auditorium of the "Science Council" of the YSU in the 5th floor of the main building was full of students, professors and guests. Also present



**ARPA Invention Competition Ceremony @ YSU
H. Hakobyan (Diaspora Min.), A. Simonyan (YSU Rector), A. Ter Martirosyan (Advisor to Prime Min.), S. Harutunyan (Chief Sci Com), and H. Panossian at the Podium**



Student Receiving Award

were the Minister of Diaspora, the President of YSU, the head of the State Committee of Armenia, the advisor to the Prime Minister. The certificates to all participants were first given to the students and their advisors, and then the awards to the winning teams were handed out. At the same time the Minister of Diaspora presented her own congratulatory certificates to the winners.

October 28: At 2:30 pm, we had a meeting with all the Deans of the SEUA, organized by Prof. Aghgashyan. The ARPA activities of the past and the plans of the future were presented to them, especially the Invention Competition. They were asked to make a special effort to inform and encourage the students to participate, for the rate of participation from the SEUA was low this year. Moreover, the Deans were asked to each prepare a list of subjects that they and their students will be interested to learn more about. At 4:00 pm, I attended a meeting called by the State Science Committee office and attended by representatives from the Center for Medical Research, the Institute of Molecular Biology, the Institute of Biotechnology, the National Bureau of Expertise in DNA, the YSU (two faculties) and the Technology Transfer Association. A decision was made to write the above-mentioned proposal and to have the participation of all centers. The proposal will be coordinated by Dr. Nelli Hovhannisyanyan and all input have to reach her before November 20, 2011.



Meeting With SEUA Deans on Distance Learning

November 2: I visited the Izmirlian Library of the YSU, to which I had sent two large boxes of scientific books. They had received them and were very thankful for the books. The main librarian, Mr. Ashot Alexanyan, gave me a tour of the library and encouraged the book donations, especially books of specialized topics. At 2:00 pm, I met with Dr. Pavel Avetisyan, the head of the Institute of Antiquities of the NAS of Armenia, to discuss the possibility of organizing a Skype presentation of the e-Archeology program from Syria, since travel from Syria is not practical these days due to the situation in the country. He was very open to that idea. So, it was decided to hold a

video conference on Sunday, November 6 at 2:00 pm.

November 3: I visited the R2E2 office to talk with Tigran Sekoyan regarding the SEUA “Energy Efficiency” lab. He was willing to help provide guidance and even material. I asked him to prepare stands showing materials used for energy savings, with explanations and characteristics and provide a cost estimate. He promised to do so.



Skype Presentation of e-Archeology with P. Avetisyan, Head of Inst. of Antiquities; Ms. A. Samuelyan, Dep. Min. of Archeology, & Her Experts

November 4: I paid a visit to Harutiun Karapetyan at 1:00 pm, the NFSAT office in Zeitun/Yerevan. Discussions were held on possible funding for students who have won in the ARPA Invention Competition. He indicated that currently there is no such budget; however, he said that there will be one next year. At 7:00 pm, I visited the Leadership Center in the Congress Hotel. Samuel Movsesyan is the head of the center. They provide courses on leadership and management.

November 6: At 2:00 pm, we held a Skype video conference with the experts of the Institute of Antiquities (IA) of the NAS of Armenia, and the e-Archeology program was presented by Vicken Abajian from Damascus, Syria. Vicken is the engineer/software expert who is the main developer of the e-Archeology software system. The presentation went very well, except for the intermittent internet problems. Everyone was impressed with the program and Dr. Avetisyan wanted to acquire the system as soon as possible.

November 7: At 6:00 pm, the same Skype video Conference was held at the Ministry of Culture in the presence of the Vice Minister, Mrs. Arev Samuelyan, Dr. Hakob Simonyan, Serge Arakelyan and Artashes Arakelyan, and the head of the IA, Pavel Avetisyan. The briefing went extremely well. The experts all agreed that

this system is highly needed in Armenia. They asked how they can start implementation and it was suggested that Mr. Abajian should be invited to Armenia to start the program.

November 8: At 12:00 noon, a meeting was held with the Minister of Diaspora to discuss ways and means of cooperation. She suggested that ARPA work with her office for all issues related to Armenia. She assigned the head of the N. America Department to be our liaison.



ARPA Board of Directors
L to R: (Top) A. Gharakhani, M. Babian,
H. Aintablian, H. Surmenian, J. Manoucherian,
D. Dalian; (Bot) V. Tomassian, H. Boghosian,
H. DeMirjian, H. Panossian

ARPA Board of Directors and Officers in 2011
H. V. Panossian, Ph.D., President, Technology
A. Gharakhani, Sc.D., V. President, Software/Technology
H. Aintablian, Ph.D., Secretary, Technology
A. H. DeMirdjian, M.S., Treasurer, Energy/Petroleum
M. Tashjian, Ph.D., Health, Executive Director, Armenia
M. Babian, D.D.S., Health
H. Boghosian, Ph.D., Technology
D. Dalian, Ph.D., Technology
R. Kendirjian, M.S., Finance
J. Manoucherian, M.S., Software; Distance Learning Chair
G. Melikyan, Ph.D., Chemical Technology
P. Narguizian, Ph.D., Science/Education
A. Runge, MT (ASCP), Health
A.V. Tomassian, Ph.D., Technology
H. Surmenian, M.S., Technology

ARPA Lectures (Jan. to Dec. 2011) Held at Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School Auditorium, Sherman Oaks, CA.

CLICK ON THE TITLES TO VIEW THE EVENTS ON YOUTUBE

“The future of Armenian-Americans in Politics”, Jan. 28, 2011. **Abstract:** The panel deliberated the implications of imbalanced political representation by Armenian Americans in elective office positions in the US. The community appears to shy away from the classical paradigms to reach its goals and thus fails to be effective in addressing major issues. The evening served as a conduit to discuss and encourage dialogue and evaluations on the organizational dimension of the Armenian American community. Perhaps it is time to change our paradigms and strategies. Charles Darwin once wrote, “It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.” In this modern age, the only constant is change, almost daily changes in technology, continuing changes in political, social and economic environments. Effective leadership requires change and without progressive change, leadership will fail. The ability of any community to be effective, stay current and relevant requires a core competence in knowledge management and adaptation to change. Executives of organizations use information and the knowledge of control systems to formulate strategy; that is, to determine if its opportunities and organizational capabilities and resources are appropriate and in balance. A lack of strategic knowledge about the capabilities of an organization or community and how they match its environment could be detrimental. For the Armenian community to have a stronger stance and more clout in the political arena it needs to have more representation in the public sector and elected offices.

This panel of political experts presented critical thoughts and solutions regarding the issues facing the Armenian American community. What are the kinds of changes that our community needs for effective leadership or common cause? The panel also addressed this question and presented the relative importance of political influence, representation, taking part in the election process, and gaining more seats in public offices throughout the USA.

Maria Armoudian (Moderator) is a fellow at the Center for International Studies at USC, where she is a Ph.D. candidate (ABD) in political science and international relations. She is also the host and producer of the syndicated program, the Insighters and the Scholars' Circle, which airs on KPFK and WPRR, and the author of the

forthcoming *Kill the Messenger: Media's Role in the Fate of the World*. She served as an environmental commissioner for the City of Los Angeles for five years and in the California State Legislator for eight years on a variety of public policy issues, including environmental protection, government oversight, poverty reduction, civil rights and corporate reform. As a journalist, she has been syndicated by both the *New York Times* Syndicate, the *Los Angeles Times* Syndicate and written for publications including *Salon.com*, *Alternet*, the *Los Angeles Daily News, Inc.*, *Daily Variety*, *Billboard*, the *Progressive* and *Business Week*. Maria is also a musician and songwriter. Her CD is titled *Life in the New World*. She has also earned several awards.

Nayiri Nahabedian (Panelist) is an elected Board Member of the Glendale Unified School District. Nayiri was born in Lebanon and moved to Glendale from the Boston area, graduated from Glendale High School and then attended the Glendale Community College. She received her Bachelor's in Psychology and Master's in Social Welfare from the School of Public Policy and Social Research at UCLA. She worked for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services as a Children's Social Worker for five years. Since 2000, Nayiri has been a teaching faculty member at School of Social Work, California State University, Los Angeles. Nahabedian has served in several organizations, as vice-chair of the Commission on the Status of Women for the City of Glendale (2004-2007), co-chair of Community Action Against Bullying (2005-2007), chair of the Forum for Armenian Cultural and Social Studies, co-chair for Californians for a New Century Alliance (2000-2001), and as an executive Board Member for the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley. She also co-founded many community programs and organizations, including the Generation Next Mentorship Program, focused on providing mentorship to at-risk youth in Glendale middle schools.

Ara Najarian (Panelist) is an Attorney who started his law practice in Glendale in 1988 and has served on the Glendale City Council during 2005-Present and is the Current Mayor. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Economics in 1982 from Occidental College and his Law degree in 1985 from the University of Southern California. Ara has served as Past Chair of the Glendale Housing Authority, Glendale Redevelopment Agency, as Mayor of Glendale during 2007-2008, Past Vice-Chair of the Glendale Redevelopment Agency, Chair of the Housing Authority, Glendale Transportation and Parking Commission. He was appointed Vice Chair of the San Fernando Council of Governments, has been Chairman of the Metropolitan Transport Authority Board of Directors

(2009-2010) and on the Glendale Community College Board of Trustees (2003-2005). He is a member of the Glendale Bar Association.

Ardashes "Ardy" Kassakhian (Panelist) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He attended UCLA, completing his B.A. in history. At UCLA, as president of the Armenian Students Association, Kassakhian led the grassroots effort to oppose the establishment of a Turkish studies chair funded by the Republic of Turkey. He served as the Executive Director of Western U.S. offices of the Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region and worked with members of the state legislature and members of the U.S. Congress on policy issues affecting the Armenian American community. He is an alumnus of the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government State and Local Officials Executive Program and the UCLA Center for American Politics and Public Policy Washington, DC program. In 2005, at the age of 27, Kassakhian was elected City Clerk of Glendale, CA. He became the youngest Armenian-American elected to public office. He is married and lives with his wife in Glendale, CA.

Katcho Achadjian (Panelist) was born in Lebanon to Armenian parents. He immigrated to the United States, where through hard work and perseverance he was able to pursue the American Dream. A graduate of both Cuesta Community College and Cal Poly SLO, Katcho has lived on the Central Coast since 1971. He proudly earned his United States Citizenship on December 17th, 1982. A successful business owner since 1978, Katcho employs thirty local workers at his three businesses. A dedicated community volunteer, Katcho has an exemplary record as a public servant to the community donating his time freely to worthwhile causes. He remains committed to giving back to a country and a community that have been so good to him. In his three terms as County Supervisor in San Luis Obispo County, Katcho has fought hard to protect taxpayers, property rights, and public safety while holding down the cost of government. Katcho and his wife Araxie will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary this year. They have a son, Hratch, and a daughter, Nyri.

"Anania Shirakatsi and the Study of Nature: Revolutionary Science in Seventh-Century Armenia", February 24, 2011. **Abstract:** Anania of Shirak was a visionary scientist who lived during the seventh century in Armenia and revolutionized the practice and pursuit of scientific knowledge. This talk attempted to summarize the scientific work of Shirakatsi and his contributions to the history and nature of science in Armenia. It also explored the revolutionary ideas of Shirakatsi's work pertaining to astronomy, physical geography, meteorology and

mathematics and the controversy his research created with the Armenian Church.

Dr. Paul Narguizian is an Associate Professor of biological sciences and science education at California State University, Los Angeles. Prof. Narguizian joined the faculty of the Cal State L.A. in the summer of 2002, after eight years of teaching elementary/middle school general science and high school biology and chemistry in Los Angeles, CA. During this time, he also completed a Master of Science degree in Cell & Molecular Biology at California State University, Northridge. His research at CSUN involved taking a closer look at the role of cell membrane structures (i.e., amino acids) and cancer. Realizing the dual importance of science content and science pedagogy on being a more effective science educator, he continued his graduate education at the University of Southern California where he received a Doctorate in Science Education. During his tenure at USC, Prof. Narguizian became interested in the Nature and History of Science (i.e., the processes and mechanisms involved in science) and as a result made it the focal point of his dissertation. Dr. Narguizian's university teaching experience prior to CSULA included a position as an Adjunct Professor of science education at California State University, Long Beach. He has research and publication interests in biological evolution education, organisms of the California Channel Islands & Galapagos Islands, and the nature, philosophy and history of science. In May and June, 2007, Dr. Narguizian served as a Visiting Professor of Biological Sciences at the American University of Armenia, Yerevan, Armenia.

“Աղթամարի Սուրբ Խաչ եկեղեցին Պատմութեան ընդմէջէն”, “The Holy Cross Church of Aghtamar Throughout History”, March 24, 2011. **Ամփոփ քաղուպք** Ընդառաջելով վերջին պատմաքաղաքական զարգացումներուն Աղթամարի Սբ. Խաչ եկեղեցւոյ առնչութեամբ, դասախոսութիւնը հասկնալորէն անդրադառցաւ ճարտարապետական, կրօնական և մշակոյթային արժէքին և մանաւանդ կեդրոնացաւ պատմաքաղաքականութիւն վրայ, շեշտելով մի քանի կարևոր և սակայն ցարդ անհայտ մնացած կետեր: Հակառակ դարերու ընթացքին հայ ժողովուրդի ոչ բարենպաստ պայմաններուն, Աղթամարի Սբ. Խաչ եկեղեցին պահեց իր հզօր ազդեցութիւնը և կնիքը հայոց պատմութեան մէջ ու դեռ մինչև օրս յաղթահասակ կանգնած է Մասիսի դիմաց: Յոյսով ենք որ այսպիսի զարգացումներով յառաջիկային Կարսի Սբ. Առաքելոց և Վասպուրականի Վարագայ վանքը, ինչպէս նաև Անիի մայր տաճարը նոյն բախտին պիտի արժանանան: Սակայն այս և նման զարգացումները մեզ բոլորս կը դնէ լուրջ պատմական հրամայականի առջև, տէր կանգնելու մեր պատմական հարստութիւններուն ու արժէքներուն:

Նաև լաւատեղեակ պէտք է ըլլանք մեր ժողովուրդի կերտած փառապանց կոթողներու պատմութեան և միշտ հետապնդենք մեր իրավունքները շեշտը դնելով մեր պահանջատիրութեան վրայ:

Bedros Tomassian was born in 1954 in Iraqi city of Basra. He received his elementary and secondary education in the United Armenian National School of Baghdad. He graduated from the University of Baghdad, College of Engineering in 1976 with a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering. He is a self-taught historian and specializes in the history of the peoples of Mesopotamia and the Armenian Highlands. Bedros has lectured in the center of the “Armenian Youth Association of Baghdad (AYAB)” from 1980 till 1997, when he moved to Jordan. During 1997-98 he lectured on Armenian history in the Homenetmen center of Amman. He moved to Glendale, California in 1999. Since 2000 he has organized lectures on Armenian history in the Armenian Youth Association of California (AYAC), has appeared on TV on numerous occasions and has lectured extensively on Armenian history to various Armenian organizations. He has authored a series of articles entitled “Today in the Past”, which has appeared in the AYAB Newsletter in Baghdad, in the St. Tadeos Armenian Monthly of Jordan, Masis Weekly of Los Angeles and in the AYAC Newsletter "Lradoo". His first book entitled “The Armenian Highlands and Mesopotamia” was published in Armenia in 2006. He is currently working on his second book, which is the continuation of the first. Bedros Tomassian is the vice president of Vasbouragan Society, Los Angeles Branch.

“The Armenian Refugee Camp at Port Said, Egypt in 1915”, “Փօրթ Սալիտի Հայկական Գաղթակայանը 1915-ին”, April 14, 2011. **Abstract:** One of the least examined aspects of the Armenian Genocide is the refugee camp in Port Said, Egypt. Although concentration camps existed in greater Syria for the final liquidation of Armenian deportees, the “Tent City” of Port Said was the only safe haven for Armenian survivors in the Near East, while the atrocities and forced marches were still taking place. More specifically, the camp was established in mid-September 1915 to accommodate the Musa Dagh Armenians, who had resisted the genocide and fought the Turkish army for forty days before being transported to Egypt aboard French warships and one British aircraft carrier. French and British efforts to relocate them to a Mediterranean island, a north African colony, or even Russian (Eastern) Armenia notwithstanding, the refugees stayed in the camp for four years through the fall of 1919. This lecture, delivered in Armenian, shed light on the details of the camp's establishment until the end of 1915. As such, it touched upon the following issues: camp setup and administration, first reactions on the part of the Egyptian Armenians, other

locals, and foreigners by way of the press, relief measures, and visitations, food, health, industries, church, school, and cultural activity.

Vahram Shemmassian holds a Ph.D. in History from UCLA. He is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Armenian Studies Program at the California State University, Northridge. His areas of study are the Armenians of Musa Dagh and survivors of the Armenian Genocide. He is the leading authority on Musa Dagh. In the summer of 2010 he received the “William Saroyan Medal” from the Minister of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia, Mrs. Hranoush Hakopyan, for his contributions to the field, as well as the dissemination of Armenian culture in the Diaspora in general.

“The Theme of Genocide in Armenian-American Literature”, April 28, 2011. **Abstract:** The Armenian Genocide had a major impact on the themes expressed in twentieth century Armenian-American literature, among which are “The Absence of the Father”, “The Family”, and themes of a general nature. The Genocide, which began in 1915 and continued until 1923, nearly caused the physical and intellectual extinction of the Armenian people. Those not destroyed in the Western Armenian part of the historic Armenian homeland were dispersed. The representation of the Genocide in Armenian-American literature leads to a shift in an understanding of Armenian identity for Armenian-Americans. The protagonist(s) in each of the novels of late twentieth century authors has undergone a pronounced shift in ethnic identity, assuming a symbolic Armenianness. This paper gave an overview of Armenian-American literature and briefly discussed some of the works of Armenian-American authors who have inscribed the theme of the Genocide in their texts.

Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian



Dr. Barlow Der Mugrdechian is the Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program and Director of the Center for Armenian Studies at Fresno State University. He was appointed to the position in August of 2008. In 1985, he was hired at California State University, Fresno to teach Armenian language, literature, and culture courses through the Armenian Studies Program. For the past twenty four years he has taught courses in Armenian language, history, literature, culture, art, church and a variety of other topics on Armenia and the Armenians. He received his M.A. and C. Philosophy degrees from UCLA, where he majored in Armenian Language and Literature through the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures. In September of 2010, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos and Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Church, bestowed upon Der Mugrdechian the St. Nerses Shnorhali (the Graceful) medal and encyclical. This was for service to the Armenian Church. Der Mugrdechian edited the new volume, **“Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian”** (Mazda Press, 2008). In December of 2000, Der Mugrdechian was given an honorary Doctorate Degree from Yerevan State University.

“Gomidas Vartabed: His Life, Works, Rare Archival Documents, And Photos”, May 6, 2011. **Abstract:** Visual/ interactive presentations were made on the great Armenian composer Gomidas Vartabed, his life in letters, music, archival documents and memories of contemporaries. Nearly 500 photographs, 100 video clips as well as 550 musical pieces are included in the multimedia DVD-ROM, produced in Armenia. In addition, two World Summit Award winning titles dedicated to Aram Khachaturian and the Armenian Genocide were demonstrated. The latter was produced in 2005 and includes 500 photographs, documents, eyewitness accounts and an interactive timeline. Khachaturian’s life and works were mentioned through his letters, archival documents, memories of contemporaries, over 400 photographs, video materials, as well as 35 musical fragments. Both DVDs were recognized for innovation by the World Summit Award 2005 Grand Jury as the world’s best cultural multimedia products of 2005.

Garegin Chukaszyan has experience in governmental, business, civil society and academic sectors. Currently, he is a member of the Bureau of the Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMC) of Council of Europe, member of the High-level Panel of Advisers of the UN Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID) and a member of Presidential IT Development Support Council of Armenia, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. He is co-founder and executive director of ITF (Information Technologies Foundation), Yerevan. ITF has

organized the Global e-Content Summit and the Pan European Forum on Human Rights in the Information Society in October, 2006 in Yerevan, as well as three All-Armenian e-Content contests (2005-2008). He has been active in multimedia productions for the last 15 years, managing outstanding projects including the first Web casting of the World Chess Olympiad in 1996 and the World Summit Award winning titles in 2005. G. Chukaszyan is also co-founder and the President of Information Technologies Education JSC, Yerevan.

“Հայաստանի Գիտութեան Ոլորտը և Փոփոխման Առաջարկներ”, May 23, 2011. **Ամփոփ քաղուպք** Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան ոլորտը բարելաւելու և հնարաւորին չափ արագ մոտեցնելու համար միջազգային չափանիշներուն պէտք են համապատասխան կառույցներ և համակարգի հիմնական օպտիմալացում: Նաև պէտք են իրապաշտ մրցունակութեան եզրեր ստեղծել և այս ոլորտին յատկացնող: Ներկայիս համաշխարհային տնտեսութիւնը, մանաւանդ զարգացած երկիրներու պարագային, գիտելիքակենք և առարկայնացում մոտեցումներով օժտուած համակարգերով կը յառաջանան: ՀՀ համար գիտելիքակենք տնտեսութեան կարևորութիւնը կրկնակիօրէն պէտք է կարևորել, իր աշխարհաքաղաքական իրավիճակին և փոխադրամիջոցներու լայն հնարաւորութիւններու պակասին պատճառով: Սոյն դասախոսութեամբ արծարծուեցան ՀՀ կրթութեան և գիտութեան ոլորտներու և ներկայացուեցաւ ԳԱՏԱՀ-ի կառույցը, նպատակները, ծրագիրները և գիտութեան բերած նպաստը ՀՀ:

Dr. Harutyun A. Karapetyan is a Founding President and CEO of the National Foundation of Science and Advanced Technologies (NFSAT) established in 1997. The NFSAT has adopted unbiased merit-based science funding mechanisms to create a stable knowledge based system. Dr. Karapetyan has participated in the scientific reform processes of Armenia. He has strongly advocated the competitive science funding mechanism, especially during 1993-1996, when he was the Chief of Department of Science and Technology Policy of RA, in the Ministry of Economy. During 1996-1997 he served as the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education and Science of RA and further reinforced the competitive funding approach in science. NFSAT was created to serve as a model to reform the fields of science and education in Armenia. His article on “The Project of Reform in Scientific Domain” published by the Armenian Center for National and International Studies raised a great deal of interest in the scientific and governmental community. Dr. Karapetyan is the author of more than 130 scientific publications in international scientific journals and conferences. He has been honored by the President of the RA in 2007 for his scientific articles with the Prize for Science.



Dr. Harutyun A. Karapetyan

“Armenian DNA: Ancient, Unique(?) And Relevant”, July 21, 2011. **Abstract:** The Armenian DNA Project is an important resource for Armenians researching their family history and their deep ancestry through genetic testing. By reaching thousands of years into the past, we aim to understand the genetic makeup and deep genetic history of the Armenian people. In the process, we hope to make sense of the historical impact of population migrations, invasions and expansions. DNA testing also helps people interested in genealogy trace their ancestors and find relatives. This is particularly important considering the variability of Armenian last names and the destruction of many genealogical records of Ottoman Armenians during the Genocide. This lecture started by giving an overview of ancestry research through DNA. It reviewed the DNA results of Armenians tested by the project and by academic researchers. It finished with an exposé of the most important recent findings, which touch upon the following questions: What is an Armenian from a genetic point of view? Is there a typical Armenian genetic group? Are there regional genetic variations amongst Armenians? Are Armenians native to the region or not? If not, where could they have come from... and when? What languages did the ancient Armenians speak? How do Armenians compare genetically to other ethnic, religious and linguistic groups from the region?

Peter Hrechdikian holds a B.A. in Economics and Philosophy from Cornell University and a Masters in Business Administration from Harvard Business School. He is the CEO of the Unifert group, a multinational fertilizer trading and agricultural chemicals distribution company with headquarters in Brussels, Belgium and Beirut, Lebanon. In his spare time he has been deeply

involved with the archeogenetics of Armenian DNA. In September 2009 he and volunteer co-administrators Mark Arslan and Hovann Simonian launched the Armenian DNA Project at Family Tree DNA, which now has more than 500 members. The project works in close cooperation with academic researchers studying Armenian DNA such as Prof. Levon Yepiskoposyan.

“In Search of Armenian Cilicia”, June 23, 2011. (No Youtube Video) **Abstract:** After traveling through much of historic Western Armenia four years ago, Professor Hovannisian journeyed to Caesarea and Cilicia two years later, this time as historian-guide of a tour organized by NAASR. Beginning with the rock-hewn Orthodox cave churches of Cappadocia, the group traveled to Caesarea/Gesaria, Talas, Evereg-Fenese, Chomakhlu, and over the Taurus Mountains to Hadjin, Sis, Adana, Tarsus, Mersin, Selefke, Dortyol, Antioch, Musa Dagh, Killis, Aintab, Zeitun, and Marash. Scenes from these former vibrant centers of Armenian life were shown and discussed by Professor Hovannisian.

Cilicia: During the time of the Crusaders, the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia was established and thrived for almost three centuries. The Seljuk Turkish invasions of Armenia were followed by an exodus of Armenians migrating westward into the Byzantine Empire, and in 1080 Ruben, a relative of the last king of Ani, founded in the heart of the Cilician Taurus a small principality which gradually expanded into the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia. This Christian state, surrounded by Muslim states hostile to its existence, had a stormy history, giving valuable support to the crusaders, and trading with the great commercial cities of Italy. Levon II, Leo the Great (r. 1187-1219), extended the kingdom beyond the Taurus Mountains and established the capital at Sis. He assisted the crusaders, was crowned King and married one of the Lusignans of the crusader kingdom Cyprus. Hetum I (r. 1226-1270) made an alliance with the Mongols, which secured their assistance and the protection of Cilicia from the Memluks of Egypt, until the Mongols themselves converted to Islam. Levon V died in 1342, and John of Lusignan was crowned king as Gostantin IV. He and his successors alienated the native Armenians by attempting to make them conform to the Roman Church until at last, the kingdom, falling prey to internal dissensions, succumbed in 1375 to the attacks of the Egyptian Memluks.

Dr. Richard Hovannisian served as the Associate Director of UCLA’s Center for Near Eastern Studies from 1978 to 1995. He is the first Holder of the AEF Chair since 1986. From 1965 to 1969 he was also Associate Professor of History at Mount Saint Mary’s College in Los Angeles, and has served as a distinguished visiting professor at the

Lecture by Professor Richard Hovannisian



University of California, Berkeley; California State University, Fresno; Florida Atlantic University; and Clark University. Professor Hovannisian is a Guggenheim Fellow and has received many honors for his scholarship, civic activities, and advancement of Armenian studies. He is a founder and six-time president of the Society for Armenian Studies and serves on the editorial boards of five journals and on the boards of directors of ten scholarly and civic organizations. He has given hundreds of lectures and participated in numerous international forums and in the media on Armenian issues. Since the 1970s, Dr. Hovannisian has focused on remembrance and denial of the Armenian Genocide, about which he has spoken in 35 countries, more than 150 colleges and universities, and more than 1000 public lectures and forums on six continents. He has served as a consultant to the California State Board of Education, authoring the chapter on the Armenian Genocide in the State’s Social Studies Model Curriculum on Human Rights and Genocide. Dr. Hovannisian has also served as a consultant to the Facing History and Ourselves Organization, assisted in the preparation of its resource book on the Armenian Genocide, and introduced the subject in numerous Facing History teacher-training institutes and summer workshops. Dr. Hovannisian is the recipient of the Medal of Mesrop Mashtots from His Holiness Karekin II of the Great House of Cilicia in 1982, Medal of Saints Sahak and Mesrop from Catholicos of All Armenians Garegin II in 2001, and Knight of Cilicia from His Holiness Aram I in 2001. In 1990, Richard Hovannisian became the first social scientist living abroad to be elected to the Armenian National Academy of Sciences. He has received honorary doctorate degrees from Yerevan State University (1994) and Artsakh (Karabagh) State University (1997). In May 1998, on the occasion of the eightieth anniversary of the founding of the first Armenian republic, he was awarded the Movses Khorenatsi medal by the Republic of Armenia, and subsequently was awarded with a similar medal from the

Republic of Mountainous Karabagh. Dr. Hovannisian is the author of the four-volume history *The Republic of Armenia* and its forerunner, *Armenia on the Road to Independence*. He has edited and contributed to more than twenty other books, including *The Armenian Image in History and Literature*; *The Armenian Genocide in Perspective*; *The Armenian Genocide*; *Ethics and Politics*; *The Armenian People from Ancient to Modern Times*; *Remembrance and Denial*; *Looking Backward, Moving Forward*; *The Armenian Genocide: Cultural and Ethical Legacies*, and ten volumes on historic Armenian cities and provinces. The most recent, *Armenian Kars and Ani* (released in June), was available for signing, along with other recent titles in the series, *Armenian Constantinople* and *Armenian Pontus and the Black Sea Communities*.

“The HALO Program In Astrakhan”, July 7, 2011.

Abstract: The 1992-94 war between Armenians of Karabagh and Azerbaijan over Artsakh left hundreds of minefields and battlefields littered with unexploded ordnance. Active hostilities ceased 16 years ago but the population of Artsakh continues to suffer. So far these explosive remnants of war have killed or maimed over 300 civilians, which is among the highest per capita civilian casualty rates in the world. Even where the presence of mines and cluster bombs is known, the mines cripple the economy by denying farmers the use of their land. This is one of the reasons that the people of Artsakh remain poor. Where the seeds of war have been sown, nothing grows. The HALO Trust has been working in Artsakh since 1995. HALO’s 210 Armenian demining staff are making steady progress year after year. To date they have destroyed over 60,000 explosive items and returned 59,000 acres of land to productive use. But more remains to be done. For further information you can visit the following website: http://halousa.org/operational_areas/caucaus_balkans/nagorno_karabakh.aspx.

Presentation By Ms. Edwina Lebbie



Edwina Lebbie joined HALO in April 2010 as the Program Coordinator. She supports HALO’s domestic program and the donor development team in the U.S. She has worked on HALO programs in Cambodia, Angola and Nagorno Karabakh, where she became a Level 2 Explosives Ordnance Disposal technician. Ms. Lebbie is a native of Sierra Leone and a graduate of Georgetown University, where she studied History, French and African Politics. She has also studied language, culture and politics in Tanzania and Senegal.

“Armenian Merchants of Isfahan and dissemination of Art Between East and West”, August 11, 2011. **Abstract:**

During the 16th through the 18th centuries, the Armenian merchants in Persia were active not only on the transit route that cut across Armenia but also on many other routes that traversed the Eurasian continent. Together with merchants of the homeland they patronized and inspired the Armenian artists and promoted their works. By disseminating and supporting the Armenian art, they at the same time promoted themselves and commemorated their own names forever and became the ambassadors of culture. They sponsored the production of numerous illuminated manuscripts and helped the Armenian culture by saving them. They exported and imported a great diversity of artifacts, introducing to the Western people the cultural achievements of the Eastern people, and similarly the culture of the Western people to the Eastern people.

Dr. Levon Chookaszian was born in 1952 in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia. He graduated from Yerevan State University in 1974 with a degree in philology and is the author of two monographs. He has published around four hundred articles and reviews for scholarly journals and newspapers and he has prepared numerous entries on Armenian art, painters, sculptors, and architects for the Armenian Soviet Encyclopedia, the Armenian Question Encyclopedia, the Armenian Abridged Encyclopedia, the Saur Allgemeines Künstlerlexikon (Germany, Munchen-Leipzig). He has participated in many international congresses and symposia on the topic of Armenian, Georgian, Persian, and Byzantine art. Dr. Chookaszian and his brother Garegin Chookaszian are the initiators of an Armenian Art Database. Dr. Chookaszian in 1992-1993 was conducting research on 12th through 13th century Armenian illuminated manuscripts found in U.S. museums, galleries, and libraries as a Soros Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and Getty Fellow at the Getty Grant Program (Santa Monica, California). During 1978-1996 he was a Senior Fellow and Professor of Armenian Art at the Center for Armenian Studies in the Yerevan State University. In 1996 he received the grant of UNESCO and established the

UNESCO Chair of Armenian Art History and Art History Department at Yerevan State University. Since then he is the director of the UNESCO Chair of Armenian Art History at Yerevan State University. During 1992-2009 he delivered numerous lectures on Armenian art at the universities, libraries and the museums in Italy (Universities in Bologna and in Ravenna, Siena, Ecole Normale Supérieure in Pisa, Kunsthistorische Institute in Florence), USA (National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, Bellevue Art Museum in Seattle, Columbia University, State University of New York at Albany, Wayne State University at Detroit, Cleveland State, Dearborn, Michigan, Emory University in Atlanta, Berkeley, UCLA, Fresno State, Irvine, Brigham Young University in Provo, University of Utah, Pasadena Public Library, Glendale Public Library), Canada (Concordia University in Montreal), UK (East Anglia University in Norwich), Lebanon (Balamand University near Tripoli and Haigazian University in Beirut), Greece (Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greek-Orthodox Centre), Germany (Halle University in Halle, Lepsiushalle in Potsdam), and France (Aix-en Province University).

“Modern Media and Communication: Getting The Right Message to the Armenians, Non-Armenians & Elected Officials”, September 8, 2011. **Abstract:** As the landscape of journalism, public relations, and Internet-driven social media communications change at an exponential pace, what can the Armenian-Americans do to engage and mobilize one another and our communities? How do we communicate, using the tools of modern communication technology, such as Facebook, Twitter, e-mail, etc., with non-Armenian media, elected officials and other key stakeholders to make tangible progress in breaking out of our silos and connecting to the greater American reality in which we live? How can past lessons in the Armenian-American community help inform what we are doing today and what we need to do to prepare for the future? We are standing before a critical moment in the history of our community and the status quo is inadequate. As a new generation of Armenian-Americans, what must we do to harness our collective potential and how must we evolve?

Panelists: **Peter Musurlian** has toiled as the Station Manager & Senior Producer at The Burbank Channel for 13 years and is an eight-time RTNA Golden Mike winner. His duties involve producing, shooting, writing, editing, and hosting Burbank Magazine, the twice L.A. Emmy-nominated public affairs program. He has been nominated for Emmys four times. A USC J-School alumnus, with graduate degrees from Baylor University, American University and the University of Redlands, Musurlian has reported for television stations in Montana, Texas and

Panelists on Modern Media

**P. Musurlian, M. Armoudian, Z. Armenian
O. Keshishian (Moderator)**



Washington, DC, as well as produced the PBS interview show, John McLaughlin's One on One. In the late 1990s, he reported from Hungary, Croatia & Bosnia, while serving as a U.S. Army television journalist for American Forces Network. His one-man band reports earned him the NATO Medal and an Army Commendation Medal. His independent production company, Globalist Films, has been responsible for many Armenian-themed productions, including the 2006 one-hour documentary, *“The Long Journey from the NFL to Armenia”*.

Maria Armoudian is a fellow at the Center for International Studies at USC, where she is a Ph.D. candidate (ABD) in political science and international relations. She is also the host and producer of the syndicated program, the Insighters and the Scholars' Circle, which airs on KPFK and WPRR, and the author of the forthcoming *Kill the Messenger: Media's Role in the Fate of the World*. She served as an environmental commissioner for the City of Los Angeles for five years and in the California State Legislator for eight years on a variety of public policy issues, including environmental protection, government oversight, poverty reduction, civil rights and corporate reform. As a journalist, she has been syndicated by both the *New York Times* Syndicate, the *Los Angeles Times* Syndicate and written for publications including *Salon.com*, *Alternet*, the *Los Angeles Daily News, Inc.*, *Daily Variety*, *Billboard*, the *Progressive* and *Business Week*. Maria is also a musician and songwriter. Her CD is titled *Life in the New World*. She has also earned several awards.

Zanku Armenian has 24 years of experience leading communications strategies for major corporations and high-profile issue campaigns. He is a senior communications executive in the corporate

communications department of Southern California Edison and manages their smart meter and smart grid communications. Previously, he worked at the Motion Picture Association of America driving communications programs working with member studios and as Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Western Region, based out of Silicon Valley with Brodeur Worldwide, also having established Brodeur's Washington, D.C. office. Armenian has in-depth experience in public affairs and crisis communications, working with major corporations and industry coalitions. In Washington, he was a founding member of Powell Tate, founded by President Jimmy Carter's press secretary Jody Powell and First Lady Nancy Reagan's press secretary Sheila Tate. He also worked at Burson-Marsteller, ABC News, the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, including the office of former Senator and now Vice President Joseph Biden. He is a member of the Glendale Water and Power Commission and has a monthly column in the Los Angeles Times' Glendale News-Press and Burbank Leader newspapers. He has also been very active on media and political issues in the Armenian community. Mr. Armenian is a graduate of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia with a Bachelor of Arts in mass communication and a secondary concentration in government and politics.

Osheen Keshishian was born in Jerusalem and lived in Lebanon until 1956. He graduated from the AGBU Hovaguimian-Manoogian High School and then came to the U.S. He served two years in the U.S. Army as a medic, working in Madigan General Hospital. He graduated from Cal State Los Angeles and the University of La Verne, majoring in Anthropology/American Studies and Counseling. Osheen is a founding editor of Zartonk Sports weekly in Beirut, Lebanon. He served as the editor of El Vaquero, the Glendale Community College newspaper. From 1968 to 1970 he was the editor of Nor Or, the Armenian semi-weekly newspaper. In 1970 he started publishing his own newspaper, The Armenian Observer, which continues until today. Mr. Keshishian's articles have appeared in many newspapers and he has participated in several international symposia on Armenian culture and civilization. He has been on the faculty of Glendale Community College for 27 years, since 1985. He has taught Armenian literature and Civilization at University of La Verne, and other institutions as a part time instructor. Osheen has been invited to the White House three times, meeting with three past presidents of the U.S. In particular, he asked about the Armenian Genocide to President Reagan and the President responded.

“From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean: The Global Trade Networks of Armenian Merchants from New Julfa”, November 17, 2011. **Abstract:** Drawing on a rich trove of documents, including correspondence not seen for 300 years, this study explores the emergence and growth of a remarkable global trade network operated by Armenian silk merchants from a small outpost in the Persian Empire. Based in New Julfa, Isfahan, in what is now Iran, these merchants operated a network of commercial settlements that stretched from London and Amsterdam to Manila and Acapulco. The New Julfan Armenians were the only Eurasian community that was able to operate simultaneously and successfully in all the major and the emerging sea-borne empires—astonishingly without the benefits of an imperial network and state that accompanied and facilitated European mercantile expansion during the same period. This lecture brought to light the trans-imperial cosmopolitan world of the New Julfans. Among other topics, it explored the effects of long distance trade on the organization of community life, the ethos of trust and cooperation that existed among merchants, and the importance of information networks and communication in the operation of early modern mercantile communities.

Dr. Sebouh David Aslanian received his Ph.D. (with distinction) from Columbia University in 2007. He is the Richard Hovannisian Term Chair of Modern Armenian History (established by the Armenian Educational Fund) at the department of history at UCLA. He has taught at the department of History at CSULB as an Assistant Professor in the fall of 2010 after serving a year at Cornell University as a Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral fellow in world history. Aslanian specializes in early modern world and Armenian history and is the author of numerous articles in peer reviewed journals such as the *Journal of World History*, the *Journal of the Social and Economic History of the Orient*, the *Journal of Global History*, and *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*. His book entitled *From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean: The Global Trade Networks of Armenian Merchants from New Julfa, Isfahan, 1605-1747* was recently published by the University of California Press. It was selected by the Committee of the “California World History Library” as the first book to appear in their new series, “Author’s Imprint,” that celebrates and recognizes “exceptional scholarship by first-time authors”. He just won the PEN USA/UC Press prestigious literary prize for “exceptional First Book” PEN USA/UC Press literary prize for "exceptional First book".

ARPA Institute is now accepting applications for the 2012 Invention Competition
Please visit http://www.arpainstitute.org/Invention_Competition.html for details

ԱՐՓԱ Ինստիտուտը այժմ կ'ընդունի նորարարութեան յայտեր 2012 տարուան համար:
Հաճեցէք այցելել մեր կայքէջը. http://www.arpainstitute.org/Invention_Competition.html

ԱՐՓԱ Հիմնարկի նորարարության մրցույթի 2011 մասնակիցների ցանկ

“Novel porous Ni-Zr-based biomaterials for orthopedic applications” Առաջին Տեղ

Ամիրխանյան Նարե,
Ապրետյան Լիլիտ
Ղեկավար՝ Խաչատուր Մանուկյան

«Ադապտիվ Ռոբոտ» Երկրորդ Տեղ

Ղարիբյան Արմեն,
Սանոյան Անդրանիկ

«Սեյսմիկ ազդանշանների գրանցման պիեզո-
էլեկտրական արտելեքտրոններ» Երրորդ Տեղ

Մուրադյան Վահրամ
Ղեկավար՝ Բորիս Մամիկոնյան

«Ֆորմալ Գեյրոնի նոր մոդելը եւ դրա սխեմատիկական
իրականացումը» Զորրորդ Տեղ

Գրիգորյան Վարդան

«SFCO մեթոդով գործող, աննախադեպ լայն հաճա-
խային տիրույթով միկրոֆոն» Զորրորդ Տեղ

Մուրադյան Սերոբ,
Գետրոզյան Գետրոզ
Ղեկավար՝ Սամվել Գետրոզյան

«Նավթամթերքներով Սեւանա լճի ջրահավաք
ավազանի աղտոտման քանակական գնահատում»

Պետրոսյան Վահագն
Ղեկավար՝ Գետրոզ Սիմոնյան

«Իներցիան ընդդեմ ծանրության»
Մնացականյան Էդգար

«Տոնոմետր»
Իլխանի Բարաթաիլ

«Նոր մոտեցումներ գետավազանի մարդածին ծան-
րաբեռնվածության քանակական գնահատման համար»

Փարսադանյան Մարինե,
Հակոբյան Գոհար,
Ղազարյան Հեղինե
Ղեկավար՝ Գետրոզ Փիրումյան
Ղեկավար՝ Գետրոզ Սիմոնյան

«Աղմուկի մոնիտորինգ»
Սիմոնյան Արսեն
Ղեկավար՝ Գետրոզ Փիրումյան

«Մետաղները խոսում են հայերեն»
Սիմոնյան Անահիտ
Ղեկավար՝ Ռոբերտ Ադամյան

«Հոսքաջրերի մաքրումն ակվածելով»
Խաչատրյան Զարուհի
Ղեկավար՝ Արմեն Մարտիրոսյան

«Շրջակա միջավայրում անիոնային ՄԱՆ-երի բացա-
սական ազդեցության նվազեցման հնարավորության
ուսումնասիրություն»

Կարապետյան Շուշանիկ
Ղեկավար՝ Սուրեն Երիցյան

Here's An Easy Way To Support ARPA Institute

ARPA Institute will earn a penny every time you search the Internet, and a percentage of every purchase you make online will go to support our causes if you use **GoodSearch.com** as your search engine and select ARPA Institute as your preferred charity.

You can also use **GoodShop.com** for your online shopping to send 37% of each purchase to ARPA!

Click on <http://www.goodsearch.com> and enter ARPA Institute as the charity of your choice.

**Տեղեկագիր ԱՐՓԱ-ի Արցախի մէջ իրագործուած
«Առողջ Ապրելակերպ և Կեանքի Ոճ-Ա.Ա.ԿՈ» ծրագրին**

Վարդգէս Անիւեան

2011-12-29

Մեծապէս քաջալերուած ըլլալով ԱԱԿՈ ծրագրի Արցախի անցած տարիներու յաջող արդիւնքներէն, նախ Հայաստանի մէջ և յետոյ Արցախի, Ստեփանակերտ և Շուշի քաղաքներու դպրոցներուն 8-րդ դասարաններու աշակերտներուն, այժմ ան կ'իրագործուի Արցախի բոլոր դպրոցներուն մէջ: Մեծ խանդավառութիւն կար այնտեղ, ոչ թէ միայն դպրոցներու տնաշէններուն, ուսուցիչներուն և աշակերտներուն կողմէ, այլ մանաւանդ ծնողներուն, որոնք տեսնելով իրենց զաւակներու վարմունքի բարելաւումը, գրաւոր կերպով կամ հեռաձայնի միջոցով, մեզի կը շնորհաւորէին այսպիսի օգտակար ծրագիր մը գործադրելուն համար: 2010-ին Կրթութեան և Գիտութեան Նախարարութենէն, ուսուցիչներէն, աշակերտներէն ու ծնողներէն գնահատուած ըլլալով, ԱՐՓԱ-ի Երևանի գրասենեակը դիմեցինք որ 600 հաւելեալ ԱԱԿՈ-ի դասագիրքեր ուղարկեն Արցախ: Սոյն դասագիրքերը յանձնուեցան Կրթութեան եւ Գիտութեան Նախարարութեան, որպէսզի այս ծրագիրը դասաւանդուի Արցախի բոլոր դպրոցներուն 8-րդ դասարանի աշակերտներուն: 2011-ի Սեպտեմբերի 21-ին մեծ հաճոյքով վայելեցինք Հայաստանի անկախացման 20-րդ տարեդարձի շքեղ տոնակատարութիւնները, մանաւանդ բանակի տողանցքը Անկախութեան հրապարակին վրայ, որ անմոռանալի յիշատակներ թողուց մեզի հետ:

Արցախի անկախութեան 20-րդ տարեդարձին մեր ներկայացուցիչէն խնդրեցինք որ տեղեկացնէ մեզի ԱՐՓԱ-ի ԱԱԿՈ ծրագրի նորութիւններուն մասին: Ան մեզի ըսաւ որ, ոչ միայն ԱԱԿՈ ծրագիրը կը շարունակուի մեծ յաջողութեամբ, այլն ան արդէն իսկ ընդարձակուած է և կը դասաւանդուի հանրապետութեան բոլոր դպրոցներուն մէջ: Այս շատ ուրախալի և հոգեպարար լուրը ստանալուն անմիջապէս հեռաձայնեցի Փոխ Նախարար Ա. Աստրյանին, որմէ իմացայ, որ ոչ միայն Արցախի բոլոր դպրոցներուն 8-րդ դասարանի աշակերտներուն կը դասաւանդուի ԱԱԿՈ ծրագիրը, այլ նաև հինգ, վեց և եօթերորդ դասարաններուն: Պրն. Աստրյանը ըսաւ, որ այնքան մեծ էր խանդավառութիւնը և գնահատանքը ամէնուն կողմէ, որ պարտադրաբար Արցախի ընթացիկ դպրոցական ծրագրին մէջ մտաւ (Curriculum), և պիտի տրուի

բոլոր դպրոցներու 5-6-7-8 կարգերուն: Ուստի, տարին աւելի քան 30,000 աշակերտներ պիտի օգտուին այս ծրագրի բարիքներէն: Փոխ Նախարարին ըսի որ եթէ կարնոր նոր ծրագիրներու կարիքը կայ և կառավարութիւնը գործադրելու դժուարութիւն ունի, և կամ միջոցները կը պակսին, թող չվարանին դիմելու ԱՐՓԱ-ի վարչութեան և կամ մեզի:



Անիւեանները Արցախի 8-րդ մէկ դասարանի մէջ

The Future of Armenian-Americans in Politics

On January 28, 2011, ARPA Institute held a panel discussion at the Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School in Sherman Oaks, California, featuring elected Armenian officials. The event was part of the monthly lecture series of ARPA Institute. The esteemed panelists were Mr. Ara Najarian, Glendale Mayor; Ms. Nayiri Nahabedian, Glendale School District Board member; Mr. Khatcho Achadjian, California Assemblyman; and Ardashes Kassakhian, Glendale City Clerk. Ms. Maria Armoudian, KPFK host and USC Fellow, moderated the panel.

After the introduction of the panelists and the moderator by industrialist Mr. Zaven Akian, the panelists responded to vital political questions posed by Armoudian pertaining to political engagement, elected office and political issues facing the Armenian American community. Then, the audience asked their own questions. Each panelist advised audience members about the importance of engaging in politics and helping to increase political representation for the Armenian community. Comments from the panelists included the following:

Nayiri Nahabedian

Why should anyone be interested in politics or why should anyone vote? Why should Armenians get involved in politics and participate in voting? The fact is that Armenians do get involved. At least in Glendale, Armenians do participate - they vote by a larger margin



L to R: Mr. Philibosian, Mr. Achadjian, Mr. Najarian, Dr. Dalian, Mr. Kassakhian, Ms. Armoudian, Dr. Panossian, Ms. Nahabedian, Mr. DeMirjjan, Dr. Boghossian, Dr. Aintablian, Mr. Akian, Dr. Melikyan & Dr. Tomassian

than any other group. That is one way to participate. As elected representatives, we do have the opportunity to make a difference on a broader scale. For example, one of the changes I am most proud of is Glendale schools' expulsion policy. When I began serving as a Board Member, our students waited more than 30 days to find out if they would be expelled or return back to their classrooms! These students were completely left out of school and any education for over a month – they fell further and further behind. For me, this was not acceptable. I worked with a fellow Board Member who I knew had similar concerns. We were able to make change possible. Now, students have the opportunity to work with a teacher and keep up with their homework during the process. I have created new Armenian language and culture programs in two schools in Glendale and we are working to expand into other schools. These are the kinds of system gaps an elected person can work to change.

Khatcho Achadjian

Is politics a dirty word? No! If I can do it, why can't you? All it takes is education, reading, self-improvement and community involvement. Someone like me, who came from Lebanon with a deep accent, went into business and got involved in community life through the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club and other community activities, and eventually got into politics by chance. I was approached by the people I worked with and I was elected in the City Council of San Luis Obispo. My heroes were George Deukmejian and people like him. One Deukmejian is not enough. We have a cause to work for - the Armenian Cause. We should be watchful, keep an open mind and pull for each other. The world should recognize the Genocide of 1.5 million Armenians by Turks. You should look for

opportunities. Opportunities to get actively involved in community life, helping people and making a difference through your church, your community organizations, local non-profit groups, internships, etc. Keep your cultural heritage and be a strong advocate of what you believe in.

Ardy Kassakhian

How did I get involved? Armenians have a tendency to shy away from politics due to our past history. Taking an Armenian history class and getting involved in the Armenian Students Associations is what got me involved in Armenian-American issues and eventually politics. As the saying goes, if you are not interested in politics, politics will be interested in you. In Glendale, where 35% of the population is Armenian, in 1997 only 700 people of Armenian descent voted in city council elections. In 1999, Raffi Manoukian ran for city council, and then we approached the city clerk to have the voting ballots translated into Armenian. They refused to do it. So, we ended up working on it for days 24/7 and had it translated and distributed. Over 4000 Armenians voted for Raffi and he won the elections. Back then I made a comment that one day I would translate those ballots. Now we have the ballots translated into all languages including Armenian, Korean and Spanish. Get involved, and work hard to make a difference.

Ara Najarian

I was first introduced to politics through Bob Philibosian, who offered me an opportunity as an intern in the City Attorney's office. There are a lot of various issues in Glendale. As Mayor of Glendale, I get involved in from quality of life to the needs of the disabled, to smoking ordinances and the like. Some of the actions are unpopular, such as campaign contributions. We need to work on things that allow us to hold ourselves at a higher standard. I was taught to be the best I can. We have to set ourselves a notch above others. I am proud to have been a part of the LA City Board of Transportation, where we have developed plans for the future transportation system of Los Angeles, which will effect 12 million people. I am very proud of my achievements in Glendale and would urge the young generation to get involved and pursue careers in politics to help improve the lives of people, and your community. We can't parachute someone in as a candidate. You have to bring a series of candidates up from ground level. There are a host of opportunities to start such a career. This is a journey. Everyone has to start from level one, local committees, organizations, low-level tasks that gets you going and makes your self known to the public. We need to encourage the young people and help them get involved, take part in the community affairs, volunteerism, organized non-profit activities, local and state organizations; even federal organizations and public offices.

Ardy

We need to educate voters on issues, such as why to vote, what changes you can bring about, what your rights are, etc. Educated voters make educated choices and become educated candidates. Politics is a paradox. Collecting campaign funds from the rich and working to help the poor who represent most of the votes is a paradoxical proposition. But that is what most elected official do. Young people should start by volunteering; it is a long process to get into politics and be elected into office.

Khatcho

The way to get elected takes different things. First you need to get yourself prepared. You need education. I got my degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and then entered into business. I started my community involvement with the Chamber of Commerce, then the Rotary Club and then others. Thus, I established some credentials of leadership. Eventually I was invited to speak at the City Council’s banquet and I was amazed at the reaction of people. I then was approached to get into politics. Each of us on the panel

wants to make a positive difference in the lives of individuals and communities. Politics and public office is one way to do that. The key is to prepare others, the younger generation, to take our places. Identifying young people, giving them opportunities to grow - volunteering on campaigns, staffing candidates, joining the Rotary or Kiwanis - and mentoring them through the political process is vital for continuing the work started many years ago to have a seat at the political table. Good, electable candidates are those who have been active in the community, have an urge to help, and get approached to run for office for the right reasons. They want to be of service. It starts with volunteering, working with community organizations and university associations, volunteering on campaigns, etc. It is also important to mention that being elected is not the only way to serve in politics. There are many political staff positions as well – being a legislative aid, field representative and chief of staff are a few examples of working in politics behind the scenes, yet making a big difference.

Please don't forget to make your tax-deductible donation to ARPA Institute.

ARPA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, ID No. 95-4423297.

Please cut and enclose this slip with your donation and send to:

Mr. Harold DeMirjian, ARPA Treasurer
 13100 Addison Street
 Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

Name & Address:

_____ \$50 _____ \$100
 _____ \$500 _____ \$250
 _____ \$1,000 _____ \$5,000 _____ \$10,000

Thank you!
For more information, please click
<http://www.ARPAINstitute.org>

Here's An Easy Way To Help ARPA Institute

ARPA Institute will earn a penny every time you search the Internet, and a percentage of every purchase you make online will go to support our causes if you use **GoodSearch.com** as your search engine and select ARPA Institute as your preferred charity.

You can also use **GoodShop.com** for your online shopping to send 37 percent of each purchase to ARPA!

Click on <http://www.goodsearch.com> and enter ARPA Institute as the charity of your choice.