



Analysis Research & Planning for Armenia

ARPA Institute,
NEWSLETTER

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Շնորհալոր Նոր Տարի եւ Սուրբ Ծնունդ

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Newsletter Topics

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experts. The schools have their annual Science Fairs where the best projects are awarded and sent to the County Science Fairs. The best of the County present their projects in the State Science Fairs. Finally, the best of each state as well as every country in the world can present their projects at the annual Intel Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). Both Georgia and Azerbaijan participate in the ISEF, but not Armenia. Mr. Ara Stepanian, a gentleman from Boston notified the ARPA Board and suggested for ARPA to Sponsor this activity. To correct this situation, the ARPA Institute, in cooperation with the Union of School Centers of Armenia (USCA) organized a workshop, where 40 teachers and 40 principals were shown how to organize a successful Science Fair, guide the students for the selection of their topics and select judges to evaluate the projects. They were even made to carry out their own mini-projects and perform experiments, in order to decide what the conclusion of their findings would be. The concept was also proposed to the Minister of Education and Science (MES), who enthusiastically endorsed it and promised to make it happen in every school in Armenia. ARPA Institute hopes to continue to work with USCA and with the MES in order for the process to develop in the right manner.

Distance Learning Seminars For Armenia

ARPA Institute organizes on-line seminars for students and faculty of universities in Armenia. We connect over the internet, and students/faculty gather in a hall using a computer and projector to hear and view the speaker and the slides in an interactive manner. We are always looking for experts in all fields who are willing/ can make high level presentations. Please contact us at info@arpainstitute.org

1. Title: "Network Virtualization"

By: Prof. George Rouskas, N. Carolina State Univ.

To: Yerevan State University (YSU) and the National Polytechnic University of Armenia (NPUA)

Abstract: Network virtualization refers to a broad set of technologies. Commercial solutions have been offered by the industry for years, while more recently the academic community has emphasized virtualization as an enabler for network architecture research, deployment, and experimentation. The entire spectrum of relevant approaches was reviewed with the goal of identifying the underlying commonalities. Also discussed was a set of challenges and research directions that we expect to come to the forefront as network virtualization technologies proliferate.

Dr. George N. Rouskas is a Professor and the Director of Graduate Programs in the Computer Science Department

at North Carolina State University, and an IEEE Fellow. He received a degree in Computer Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Athens, Greece, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science from the College of Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA. His research interests include network architectures and protocols, optical networks, network design and optimization, and performance evaluation. He is co-editor of the book "Next-Generation Internet Architectures and Protocols" (Cambridge University Press, 2011), author of the book "Internet Tiered Services" (Springer, 2009), and co-editor of the book "Traffic Grooming for Optical Networks" (Springer, 2008). He is founding co-editor-in-chief of the Optical Switching and Networking Journal and he has served on the editorial boards of the IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking, IEEE/OSA Journal of Optical Networking, Computer Networks, and Optical Networks. He was the General co-Chair for IEEE ICNP 2014, and he has served as TPC or general chair for several conferences, including ICCCN 2013, ICCCN 2011, the IEEE GLOBECOM 2010 ONS Symposium, BROADNETS 2007, IEEE LANMAN 2004 and 2005, and IFIP NETWORKING 2004. He is the recipient of a 1997 NSF CAREER Award, the 2004 ALCOA Foundation Engineering Research Achievement Award, and the 2003 NCSU Alumni Outstanding Research Award, and he was inducted in the NCSU Academy of Outstanding Teachers in 2004. He serves as the Chair of the IEEE Optical Networking Technical Committee (ONTC) in 2016–2017, and he served as a Distinguished Lecturer for the IEEE Communications Society in 2010–2011.



2. Title: "Consumer and professional service robotics. The challenges and the opportunities."

By: Mr. Grigor Shirakyan

To: YSU, NPUA and AUA

Abstract: In today's increasingly connected world people get a lot of help from personal digital devices that help do work, manage time, communicate, study, and even express creativity. Personal and consumer robotics seem to be stuck in "it's happening in the next 5 years" mode for the past few decades. What are the main obstacles and challenges that should be overcome in order to get the much needed household help? Is it worth investing in this area, and are there any realistic expectations for a "robotics revolution" anytime soon? The challenges and opportunities related to the personal and household robotics in the near future were discussed. The technical aspects of designing intelligent robotic systems were presented and key disciplines and subjects that will prove most beneficial for aspiring roboticists to focus on at school or study on their own were highlighted. Also

examined were specific cases of successful commercial and consumer robots, with references to new sensors, actuators and electronic control components for a quick entry into the world of robotics.

Grigor Shirakyan is a robotics engineer and an entrepreneur. He grew up in Yerevan, graduated from the Yerevan State University, Radio Physics department in 1994 and started his career at the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant (ANPP). At ANPP he headed the Thermal Physics Laboratory and developed the first PC-based monitoring system, which is widely used to visualize real-time data from thousands of sensors deployed inside and around the nuclear reactor and are used to control the plant. Grigor immigrated to the USA in 1999 and worked in a number of startups, some of which he co-founded. Mr. Shirakyan has worked at Microsoft from 2005-2015, the last four years of which were as a member of the Microsoft Robotics Research team, designing intelligent robotic systems and conducting applied research in the areas of sensing, navigation, manipulation, computer vision and machine learning. He has designed novel robotic systems (which have won awards at prestigious robotics events), holds a number of patents and speaks at conferences. Grigor lives with his family in Seattle, WA area, and currently works on building his own robotics startup.



3. Title: “Building a competitive edge through the creation of Strategic Value”

By: Ms. Vicky Panossian

To: YSU and NPUA

Abstract: The global business environment has moved into an era when innovation is our product and creativity is our strategy. In an atmosphere where globalization and commoditization are part of our reality, where products look alike and price is no longer a key differentiator, companies are driven to be creative in providing competitive, customer-focused value. This presentation addressed the following topics: 1) Why companies need to engage in creative management through: Globalization, Innovation and Sustainability. 2) Why an enterprise can no longer compete solely in terms of their traditional ability in creating new products, services, markets, and rapid growth. 3) Why in the information-based, knowledge-intensive economy of the 21st century is it necessary to build a learning organization that is flexible and treats customer behavior and feedback as a critical element of their product and service development. The presentation also discussed the importance for a visionary entrepreneur to understand that creating unique value also includes the strategies of achieving economies of scale parallel to meeting the requirements for sustained competitive advantage. In conclusion, the presentation addressed why

without a creative, strategic marketing plan, at an early stage of technology or product development, any start-up or organization is doomed to be obsessed with a perfect offering that has missed its “compelling event” or “Market Opportunity”.

Vicky Panossian is a creative global B2B technology, product, market and business developer. She has helped market leaders like Intel, IBM, International Rectifier, 3M, BP Chemicals and Power-One, as well as Silicon Valley and foreign start-ups realize rapid growth and generate over a Billion dollars in revenue. She has helped them by transforming their innovative concepts into competitive, value-based solutions, strategic partnerships, and increase in both revenue and Return On Investment. Her approach is creating, communicating and delivering value through planning and implementing competitive business and marketing strategies. This is achieved by collaborating with senior multi-functional and multi-cultural teams and organizations to strategize, conceptualize, execute and monitor programs in diversified markets like NA, EMEA and APAC. More importantly, Vicky was instrumental in developing critical alliances in the USA, Canada, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Europe and China, aligning the technology, the business acumen and the efficiencies of the West with the wisdom, the unique talent and the opportunities of the East. Ms. Panossian is an MBA graduate, with a minor in International Business. She has multilingual capabilities and is highly sensitive to different business and social cultures. She is a published co-author of pioneering technical marketing research and a report on Power-Supply-in-a-Package (PSiP) & Power-Supply-on-a-Chip (PSoC), as well as articles in foreign power semiconductor industry magazines on Value Creation in a Competitive Marketplace, Creative Technology Marketing, Alternative Energy and Green Technology. Ms. Panossian has won several professional awards including National Association of Professional Women, the State of California Woman of the Year (2013), and TECPLAN & Founder’s Achievement.



4. Title: “Investigative Reporting: Why Trump’s Election Matters”

By: Mr. Stephen Kurkjian

To: YSU Department of Journalism

Abstract: 2016 provided elections in England and the United States that nobody predicted. The results – Great Britain withdrawing from the European Union and Donald Trump becoming the 45th president of the United States – will have consequences that will be felt for the next century. In both countries, the media failed miserably to understand the seismic upheaval that was to take place, that a long misunderstood group of people would have

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their say. Why? In a great measure because the tools that traditional media (newspapers, TV networks and websites) depended on – public polling – failed to capture the discontent of the electorate. Armenia, too, faces an election in the coming months and as in England and the United States, the public is hopeful that it can make a difference. Can the media in Armenia learn from recent mistakes and use social media to capture the hopes and dreams of its electorate? The discussion addressed the abovementioned issues and explained the main approaches to good investigative reporting. It also presented the role of modern media and the information saturation issues.

Stephen Kurkjian is one of the most acclaimed investigative reporters in the United States. During his 40-year career for the Boston Globe he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize on three occasions as a member of the celebrated Spotlight Team, which he helped establish early in his career. Kurkjian served as chief of The Globe's Washington Bureau for several years during the Reagan and Bush Administrations. The son of the survivor of the Armenian Genocide, he has researched and written of that horrific act and its lasting effect on the Armenian people. Last summer, he participated in a program sponsored by the Media Initiatives Center and taught investigative reporting skills to a group of young journalists in Yerevan.

ARPA Institute is now accepting applications for the 2017 Invention Competition
Please visit <http://www.arpainstitute.org> for details

ԱՐՓԱ Ինստիտուտը այժմ կ'ընդունի նորարարութեան յայտեր 2017

ԱՐՓԱ Հիմնարկի նորարարության մրցույթ 2016 մասնակիցների ցանկ

The annual ARPA Institute Invention Competition is for young scientists and university level students in Armenia designed to encourage innovation in science, engineering, mathematics, technology, and creative invention, while stimulating their problem-solving abilities.

This year (2016) there were only 3 participants to the ARPA Institute Invention Competition for Young Scientists and University Students in Armenia. As a result, unfortunately, the Board of Directors of the ARPA Institute had to cancel the competition.

The three proposals were as follows:

«Ունակային չափիչ»
Davit Nicoghosyan

“Fabrication Method for Silicon Solar Cell with Antireflection Surface”
Arthur Ayvazyan, Minas Lakhoyan

“Life Energy”
V. Aghdalyan, V. Sahakyan, O. Avetisyan

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Donations to the ARPA Institute in 2016

Mr. Gregory Mazmanian	\$500	Ms. Anahid Orlando Shirinian	\$100	Dr. Dikran Dalian	\$50
GoodShop Search Engine	\$208.9	Mr. Abraham Soghomonian	\$100	Mr. Harold DeMirjian	\$50
Dr. Hagop Panossian *	\$250	Dr. Kajazn Toumanian	\$100	Ms. Nadia Kuyumdjian *	\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Vahan & Ani Garboushian *	\$200	Ms. Elise D. Yacoubian	\$100	Mr. Jora Manoucherian	\$50
Dr. & Mrs. Kapo & Zepure Danadian	\$100	Ms. Gaizag & Dzovig Zeitlian	\$100	Mr. Richard Ohanian	\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Hrair & Zaroug Kabakian	\$100	Dr. & Mrs. Vartkes & Sandy Tomassian *	\$95.15	Mr. Harutiun Surmenian	\$50

* On the occasion of Dikran and Arpy Dalian's 50th wedding anniversary

*Donating to ARPA Institute Takes Very Little Effort
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ARPA Institute Lecture Series and Panel Discussions During 2016

ARPA Institute organizes lectures and panel discussions on various topics related to Armenia or Armenians at Merdinian School in Sherman Oaks, CA. *If you plan to visit LA and are willing to make a presentation, please contact us at info@arpainstitute.org*

Կլոր Սեդանի Շուրջ Խորհրդակցություն

«Հայերեն Լեզուին Հետ Կապուած Ըհմնախնդիրները»

Արա Գազանճեան Սփիւռքի դպրոցներու մէջ հայերէն լեզուի հետ կապուած Ըհմնախնդիրները: Արևմտահայերէնի որակագրկում: Նպատակը հիմա եղած է ինքնապահպանում: Լեզուն պէտք է նորոգել և հարստացնել: Լեզուն պէտք է ինքզինք նորոգէ: Հայ նոր գրողներ չկան: Հայերէն խօսակցութիւնը դարձած է ոչ հայերէն: Լեզուի կամ մշակոյթի հարց ունինք: Թերևս պէտք է կեդրոնանանք մշակոյթի վրայ:

Շուշան Կարապետեան Պահպանել ճիշդ չէ: Լեզուն կենդանի, փոփոխական և ճկուն է: Հաղորդակցութեան միջոց է որ պէտք է օգտագործել ամէնօրիա պէտքեր հոգալու, արտայայտելու համար: Լեզուն դարձած է նպատակ և ոչ թէ

միջոց: Լեզուն դարձած է զոհ: Շարունակականացման համար տարուած աշխատանքները ժխտական ազդեցութիւն ունին: Խօսիլ հայերէն, ոչ թէ որովհետև պէտք է խօսիլ այլ ուզելով: Պահանջելու փոխարէն պէտք է գործել և համոզել պատանիներուն որ իրենց օգտակար է հայերէն խօսիլը:

Յակոբ Կուլուճեան Հայերէնի միջաշխարհային և համաշխարհային խնդիրներն ու վերջին տարիներուն պատահած այլազան դէպքերը ազդած են հայութեան, և այնպէս ալ հայերէն լեզուին վրայ: Միջին արևելքի կացութեան փոփոխութիւնները բնականաբար կազդէն ընդհանուր սփիւռքի կացութեան և լեզուի պահպանման վրայ: Վճռական զանգուած պէտք է: Հողայնութիւնը չկայ բայց այլ նոր միջոցներ պէտք է օգտագործել լեզուի զորացման և պահպանման համար: Սերունդներու յաջորդականութեան պատճառով լեզուն պիտի տկարանայ: Պէտք է աշխատին համաշխարհայնացման դէմ թէ հետ: Ճարտարարուեստականացումը տարած է մեզ դեպի օտարացում, դէպի անհատականացման: Կապերը խզուած են կամ տկարացած: Մեր ինքնութիւնը վտանգուած է: Շարժունութիւնը մեր ժողովուրդին դարձած է մշակոյթային: Հայերը միշտ «ուր հաց հոն կաց» մտածած են: Ժողովուրդները ամբոխային տրամաբանութեան կը հաւատան: Հոգևոր հացի մտայնութիւն պէտք է ստեղծել: Բարգավաճ կեանքի որոնումը միշտ

պիտի մնայ: Սակայն, պէտք է համոզել որ բարգավաճումին արգելք չէ հայերէն խօսիլը: Հայերէն գիրք կարդալու նուազում կայ անընդհատ: Գոյատևումի վտանգը սերունդներու հետ կախուած է: Հիմնական, կորիզային կարևորութեան մասին պէտք է համոզել բոլոր նոր սերունդի ներկայացուցիչներուն: Դպրոցներու զուգահեռ ծրագիրներ պէտք է կազմել, գիրք կարդալ կամ ընթերցանութիւն կատարել որևէ ձևով: Զարթօնքը ստեղծուեցաւ մի քանի հարիւր մասնակիցով: Պէտք է մտածենք ինչպէ՞ս կարելի դարձնել լեզուն այնպէս գործածական որ օգտագործելը ըլլայ նպաստաւոր: Կարդալ կարենալը միայն բաւարար չէ: Պէտք է կարենալ գործածական դարձնել զայն, ինչպէս որ պէտք է վարուիլ լեզուին հետ: Ռազմավարութիւնը ինչ պէտք է ըլլայ: Թուայնական յաղորդակցութեան մասին պէտք է մտածել: Ինչպիսի՞ միջոցներ և ծրագիրներ պէտք են: Հրատարակչութիւնը (իրական և կամ էլեկտրոնիկ) կարևոր է: Մամուլը ունի խնդիրներ, որոնց մասին պէտք է մտածել: Ղեկավարութեան մօտ հարցի կեդրոնականացման և լրջութեան մասին պատկերացումը: Լեզուի խորշաւորումը, բարձր տիրոջներ կանհետանան: Նախագիծներ կարելի է, գիրք կարդալու և կամ այլ ձևերով: Անթիլիասի ձեռնարկած ծրագիրը պաշտպանութեան մասին, ոչինչ եղաւ: Առաջնորդարանի կողմէ ծրագիր մը կազմուեցաւ և որոշ ծրագրեր կազմուեցան: Լեզուն այժմէականացնելու զանազան գիտաժողովներ եղան և շատ մը առաջարկներ կատարուեցան:

Հարցումներ՝

- Ա)** Լեզուի աղքատացում- Շինծու բառերով հարստացած է:
- Բ)** Հետազոտութիւններ կան հայ երեխաներու վրայ: Ուսումնասիրութիւններ պէտք են, և մանաւանդ Հայաստանցիներու մօտ աւելի լուրջ լեզուի պակաս կայ: Լուծումի գիտակցութեան պակաս կայ:
- Գ)** Մեռած լեզուի հարցը: Պատկանելիութիւն- Օտար լեզուով թարգմանել նոր սերունդին համար ճիշդ չէ:
- Ե)** Լեզուի երկու ճիւղերու հարցերը նման են:
- Զ)** Լեզուն և հողը: Լեզուն պէտք չէ կապել հողի հետ: Ինքնութիւնը և լեզուն հողէ անկախ կրնան գոյատևել: Նոր փորձարկութիւն մըն է առանց հողի լեզու մը:

Կարծիքներ՝

- Ա)** Պէտք է դրամ տրամադրուի լեզուն զարգացնելու համար: Լեզուն միջոց է միայն: Գործածական կարգ մը նիւթերու մասին հեշտ չէ: Մտաւորականութեան մասնակցութեան պակասը:
- Բ)** Ղեկավարութեան և յատատութիւններու պակաս:
- Գ)** Հետաքրքրութիւն ստեղծել երիտասարդութեան մէջ որ հպարտ զգան:
- Դ)** Արևելահայրենի ուծացման մասին: Հայերէն իմացողը երկու տարբերակն ալ կը հասկնան: Լծակները լեզուի պէտք է ըլլան պետական: Պետութիւնը պէտք է ստանձնէ լեզուի մաքրութեան և զարգացման հարցը:
- Ե)** Ինքնութեան մասնիկ է նաև եկեղեցին և կրօնքը:

- Զ)** Լեզուի ուժեղացման գործունը պետութիւնն է: Առաջարկ ներկայացնել պետութեան որ քայլեր առնուին:
- Է)** Ուղղագրութեան միացում և լեզուի մաքրում:
- Ը)** Փորձենք բոլոր բարբառները հասկնալ:
- Թ)** Լեզուն պէտք է մօտայիք ըլլայ: Յաղորդակցութեան միջոցները արտասահմանի մէջ անգլերէն է և երեխաները այդ կը տեսնեն: Գիրքեր և տեսանիւթեր պէտք է ըլլայ:
- ժ)** Անգլուխ ազգ դարձած ենք, դեկավարութիւնը միջին արևելքի են, որոնք կրնային պահպանել լեզուն եթէ ճիգ թափէին: Ղեկավար պատրաստելու դպրոց պէտք է:
- ժա)** Լեզուի գլխաւոր գործունը ինքնաճանաչման և ինքնագիտակցութեան հարցն է: Հակադրութիւն պէտք չէ դնել օտար լեզու գործածելը դրական պէտք է ըլլայ:
- ժբ)** Գլխաւոր պատճառը տնտեսական է: Նոր դպրոցներու համար դրամ պէտք է: Դպրոցէն տուն պէտք է տանիլ հայերէնը: Մանկապատանեկան գրականութիւն և գիտակցութիւն պէտք է:
- ժգ)** Պատրաստուած ուսուցիչներ պէտք են:
- ժդ)** Մեսրոպեան դասական ուղղագրութիւնը: Բազմալեզու անձ մը աւելի զորաւոր մտածողութիւն ունի: Մեսրոպեան ուխտ:
- ժե)** Լեզուի վրայ հաւատք և բծախնդրութիւնը կը պակսի: Լեզուամտածողութիւնը կը զօրացնէ միտքը:
- ժզ)** Հայերէնը պէտք է տեսականօրէն ներկայացնել և համեմատել այլ լեզուներու:
- ժէ)** Ընդգրկել և համոզել այն հայերուն որոնք հեռացած են լեզուէն:
- ժը)** Ընտանիքը կազդէ հայերէնը խօսակցական լեզու դարձնել:
- ժթ)** Կարելի է կրթաթոշակի միջոցով զարգացնել հայերէնի զարգացումը:
- ժժ)** Լեզուի մաքրութեան հարցը ցած և բարձր մակարդակի մասին: Մարդիկ կը ցատկէն ցածէն բարձրին: Բնական ձևը այն է որ լեզուն դառնայ խելացի:
- ժի)** Լեզուի տարբերակները բնական են, ինչ որ իրենց հարազատ է: Լեզուն պէտք է լրացնել միայն նոր բառերու հաւելումով և ոչ թէ միայն գրական լեզու գործածելով: Հայերէնով ինչ որ պէտք է ընել, պէտք է հայերէնը հաճելի դարձնել:
- ի)** Գործի յաջողութեան համար դրամ պէտք է: Գիտութեան կանառ պէտք է և արդէն սկսած է ՀՀ մէջ: Լրիւ մաքուր լեզու անկարելի է: Հեռատեսիլ և էլեկտրոնի միջոցները պէտք է օգտագործել:
- իա)** Երիտասարդները շահագրգռել հայկական բաներով: Լաւ ուսումնասիրուած գիրքեր պէտք է պատրաստել:
- իբ)** Ընկերային կայքէջերը անգլերէն են: Իրար հասկնալու համար տարբեր բարբառներ գործածողները կը խօսին անգլերէն: Հետաքրքրութիւն պէտք է ստեղծել որևէ միջոց գործածելով:

UCLA-ARPA Joint Colloquium

a. Van & Bitlis between Western Armenia and Northern Kurdistan – Memory, Collective Violence and Collectivity, by David Leupold

Abstract: Collective violence, memory and national collectivity in the Lake Van region was explored, a geography tentatively comprising the former Bitlis and Van vilayet. This region is set in a threefold-contested geography: officially located within the territorial borders of Turkey, it marks the intersection point of a recollected Western Armenia and an imagined Northern Kurdistan. Utilizing the biographical-narrative interview (acc. to Schütz), accounts of both the currently residing and those who were expelled during the genocide of 1915 (Armenians, Assyrians and Yezidis) were analyzed. Extensive number of interviews were conducted from Armenia (58), Turkey (52) and Georgia (3) in Armenian, Turkish, Kurdish, Georgian and Russian [1]. In Armenia, compiled were accounts of 46 Armenians and 13 Yezidis from the Zuqurî tribe in four provinces: Aragatsotn, Armavir, Kotayk and Ararat. In Georgia, of 3 Assyrians from Van-Gadalawa in Tbilisi-Gukia. In the Lake Van region, of 43 Sunni Kurds, 3 Alevi Kurds and 6 Crypto-Armenians. The basic mnemonic patterns instrumental in making sense of the region's troublesome history were presented: from inter-religiously segregated cohabitation during the Ottoman period over contestation of imperial collectivity towards the irrevocable collapse of the archaic millet system. Particular importance was attached to the role of remembering and silencing/denying acts of collective violence in the formation of both national and non-national collectives as well as territorial perceptions. [1] For Russian and Georgian I was assisted by an interpreter.

David Leupold received a B.A. in Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies from Otto-Friedrich University, Bamberg, and a M.A. in Comparative Social Sciences from Humboldt University, Berlin, and Middle East Technical University, Ankara. In his Master thesis, which has been published partially as an essay, he explored multilingualism and memory in the context of a Turkophone Armenian family from Cilicia. Currently he is a second year PhD student at the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences. His interests include collective violence, politics of remembering and forgetting and memory as a form of local resistance. Leupold works as a freelance author at The Social Science Post and does analysis of contemporary Armenian, Persian, Kurdish and Turkish literature.

b. Constructing a Nation: Identity Markers of Armenians According to Mshak Periodical (1872-1892), by Marieta Bazinyan

Abstract: The formation of national identity is a complex process, and in order to have a good understanding of processes relating to debates about the content of national identity in contemporary Armenian society, an analysis of early stage Armenian national identity formation is very important. Paradoxically, very few studies have explored how the XIX-century Armenian print media shaped the discourse on the Armenian identity. Provided was an analysis of identity markers of Armenians as formulated by liberal Armenian Mshak (Cultivator) periodical published in Tbilisi during 1872-1892. The study concentrated on the 1872-1892 timespan. After the death of the periodical's first editor, Grigor Artsruni in 1892, the periodical published very little information related to the issue of national identity due to the lack of a permanent editor in first years after Artsruni's death and the imperial politics of censorship. The study of Mshak's liberal ideology's perspective of nation building process revealed an interesting trend of vigorous attempts undertaken by Mshak to redefine the Armenian national identity. According to Mshak, a nation rests upon tribal relationships, kinship, language and homeland. The role of language and homeland are more emphasized.

Marieta Bazinyan received her B.A. in Arabic Studies from Yerevan State University in 2014. Currently she is a second year MA student in the Department of Oriental Studies at YSU. In 2013 she cofounded middleorient.com bilingual online platform, which aims to become a bridge between scholars and students of Arabic, Islamic, and Middle Eastern studies in Armenia and worldwide. Bazinyan writes articles about different ideological production in Middle East and her research interests include Ideologies, Nationalism, Medieval Islamic political thought, Mytho-political aspects of Islam, Contemporary Islamic movements and trends.

c. The differential Success of Rural Armenian Families in the Transition to a Market Economy as a Result of their Social Helping Networks, by Gary Glass Jr.

Abstract: A large body of research indicates that the diversification of social networks in post Soviet Armenia provided a means for Armenian families to preserve their national identity during multiple occupations throughout history. Although the economic importance of social networks is often overlooked, they have become an essential component of economic support in rural communities during the economic transition in Armenia. Based on extensive archival research and three years of ongoing field-work in rural Armenia, evidence that rural networks of kin used to preserve identity during historic

occupations of Armenia are used as a means to create economic opportunity in the transition to a market economy. Findings from surveys and focus groups (2015) of household networks and sources of income in two remote, subsistence farming villages were compared with two villages who have access to specialized agriculture or heavy industry in the Vayots Dzor and Syunik regions of Armenia. The findings of the research contribute to the understanding of the value of social networks as a determinant of the differential success of rural Armenian families following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The findings of this study add to the limited body of research evaluating social networks as determinants of economic success in rural Armenia.

Gary Glass Jr. received his BA in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2005. He served in the United States Peace Corps in Armenia from 2007-2009 and Panzhuhua China from 2009-2011. In 2013, he received an MS in Rural Sociology, Analytical Processes and will complete a PhD in Sustainable Development from the University of Missouri in May 2016. He has lectured extensively at universities throughout Armenia and the United States on the subject of gender equality with particular attention to the status of women in Armenia.

d. The First Chalcolithic Period Burials in Armenia, by Levon Aghikyan

Abstract: Archaeological investigations of the last decade have made significant contributions towards the study of the **Chalcolithic period (Copper Age)** in Armenia, especially its middle and final phases with the discovery of numerous archaeological sites dating between 4800 – 3400 BC. The Chalcolithic period dates between 5200 - 3400 BC and represents the first use of copper in the region. Chalcolithic tombs, which were unknown in Armenia until recently, were analyzed. Such finds are rare throughout the entire region – 1 in Georgia, less than a dozen in Azerbaijan - the earliest ones date to ca. 4000 - 3700 BC. Scientific investigations conducted between 2007 and 2011 at the burial ground of Aknalich, located in the Ararat Plain uncovered the first known Chalcolithic period tombs in Armenia. Each tomb contained a single burial with few accompanying burial elements. Bioarchaeological studies of the human remains indicate that ancient inhabitants of the Ararat plain practiced artificial deformation and trepanation (drilling of a hole) of the cranium. This is the first evidence of prehistoric cranial artificial modification in Armenia and the first Chalcolithic in the region.

Levon Aghikyan received his B.A. in Bioarchaeology from the Department of Cultural Studies of Erevan State University in 2011 and his M.A. in the Department of Archaeology and Ethnography of Erevan State University in 2013. In 2010-2011 he worked as a Laboratory Assistant

in Erevan State University, 2011-2012 as a Senior Laboratory Assistant in Erevan History Museum, and since 2011 till now as a Senior Laboratory Assistant in Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of National Academy of Armenia. Also since 2014 he is a member of the Association for Sustainable Human Development in Armenia.

“Material Destruction/Confiscation of the Armenians: Plunder of Wealth through Abandoned Properties Laws During the Armenian Genocide” by Umit Kurt

Abstract: Collective dispossession, including plunder and spoliation, is only one of the many crimes that accompany and even fortify genocidal policies. The Ottoman-Turkish state-orchestrated plunder of Armenian property immediately impoverished its victims; it was simultaneously a condition for and a consequence of the genocide. Expropriation and pillaging are important aspects of the political economy of genocide. Denying Armenians their movable and immovable properties in the twentieth century literally cut them off from any possibility of future attachment to the land. Despite the widespread incidence of private plunder and corruption, there is no doubt that the seizure of Armenian property was primarily a state-directed process and was closely linked to the development of the political economy of the Armenian Genocide. A series of laws, decrees, and complex bureaucratic mechanisms were devised during, and even after, the Ottoman-Turkish Republican periods concerning the administration of the belongings left behind by deported and/or massacred Armenians. The aim of this talk was to analyze Abandoned Properties Laws, which became the most important means for the removal of Armenian economic existence and the erasure of any trace of Armenians from Anatolia.

Umit Kurt is a PhD Candidate at Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program in the History Department of Clark University and completing his dissertation. He has written extensively on confiscation of Armenian properties, Armenian Genocide, early modern Turkish nationalism, and the Armenians of Aintab. His articles are published in the Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Nations and Nationalism, the Journal of Genocide Research, the Journal of Armenian Studies, the Journal of International Genocide Studies, Armenian Weekly and Turkish Studies. He is the author of *the Great, hopeless Turkish race: fundamentals of Turkish nationalism in the Turkish homeland 1911-1916* (Istanbul: Iletisim Publishing House, 2012), editor of *Revolt and Destruction: Construction of the state from Ottoman Empire to Turkish Republic and collective violence* (Istanbul: Tarih Vakfi Publishing



House, 2015) and also the author, with Taner Akçam, of *The spirit of the laws: the plunder of wealth in the Armenian Genocide* (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2015). He taught history at Sabanci and Boğaziçi universities in Istanbul. He is currently a visiting research scholar in the Fresno State University Armenian Studies Program.

“CELLULOID EXILES & MATINEE IDOLS: The Armenian Genocide and Diaspora on Film” by Eric Nazarian

Abstract: The Armenian Genocide was one of the early 20th century’s first crimes against humanity that would be documented photographically by image-makers within the borders of the waning Ottoman Empire, and later in Hollywood. This presentation highlights key historical parallels between the genesis of photographic and motion picture technology, its critical role in the visual documentation and presentation of the Armenian Genocide, and the after-effects across the 20th century in mainstream media and Diaspora communities worldwide. Between 1895 and 1915, the motion picture industry bloomed across Europe and the United States, ushering in a revolutionary new era of image making that would lead to the birth of Hollywood and the world film industry. This period also witnessed the decline of the Ottoman Empire in tandem with the beginning of the 20th century’s First World War. The rapidly advancing evolution of motion picture technology spread across the United States and Europe as a new generation of image-makers started documenting the world visually. During this period, one survivor, Aurora Mardiganian from Kharpert would survive the Genocide and flee to New York with the aid of the Near East Relief. Her autobiography was turned into the feature film, *Ravished Armenia* (Auction of Souls) that became the first silent film about the Armenian Genocide in Hollywood. The film’s commercial success in 1919 drew increasing attention to the deportations and massacres of the Armenians as well as a means of exploiting tragedy for entertainment value. *Celluloid Exiles & Matinee Idols* explores the early images and first mainstream movie about Armenians and the immediate and long-term influence of cinema on the public consciousness and perception of Armenians during the First World War and generations later as depicted in cinema and pop culture.

Eric Nazarian, a Screenwriter-Director-Producer, was born in Armenia and raised in Los Angeles. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Film Production from the University of Southern California’s School of Cinematic Arts. The *Blue Hour*, his first feature film, world premiered at the 55th San Sebastian International Film Festival, winning several



awards on the international film festival circuit. In 2008, Eric received the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences® Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting for his screenplay, *Giants*. In 2010, he made *Bolis*, a short film about a descendant of a Genocide survivor in Istanbul as part of the EU’s Capital of Culture Program. Nazarian is working on the film adaptation of *The Sandcastle Girls*, Chris Bohjalian’s critically acclaimed bestselling novel. He has lectured on the origins of cinema and the Armenian Genocide in campuses across the U.S. and Europe. He is a member of the Writers Guild of America West and a Fellow of the USC Institute of Armenian Studies.

“Greening Armenia: The Case for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Sustainable Development in the Republic of Armenia” by Mikael Matossian

Abstract: The current energy industry of the Republic of Armenia is largely driven by the utilization of non-renewable resources, primarily natural gas and uranium fuel. Given the lack of resources naturally occurring within Armenia’s borders, the Armenian state has turned to foreign entities to satisfy energy demands. Foreign dominance in the industry, along with a lack of incentives for clean energy (defined as energy efficiency practices and renewable energy technologies in this study), and a relative lack of trained energy engineers has hindered robust development of Armenia’s energy resources. Despite this, there is a considerable amount of potential in energy savings and generation from both energy efficiency and renewable energy resources such as building retrofits, solar water heating, solar photovoltaic, and hydroelectric, respectively. The benefits of utilizing such clean energy processes in Armenia include (1) less greenhouse gas emissions that result from the use of traditional energy sources, (2) new energy industry jobs for Armenian citizens, and (3) improved national energy security. The current state of the Armenian energy industry at large was analyzed and the potential of clean energy within the country’s borders was explored from a scientific perspective. The most scientifically feasible and beneficial clean energy options for Armenia to currently pursue were presented as (1) energy efficiency building retrofits, (2) small hydroelectric plants, and (3) solar water heaters, eventually followed by solar photovoltaic panels.

Mikael Matossian graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2015 with a bachelor of science in environmental science, concentrating in environmental engineering. He is currently serving as a CivicSpark AmeriCorps fellow for the City of Santa Monica’s Office of Sustainability & the Environment. Upon completing the fellowship, Mikael plans on pursuing a master’s degree in energy systems. His main research



interests include energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies applied to the Republic of Armenia.

“War of Truth: Reality Altered Forever By Modern Storytelling Tools” by Roger Kupelian

Abstract: “Artists use lies to tell the truth. Yes, I created a lie. But because you believed it, you found something true about yourself.”— Alan Moore, V for Vendetta

Is all news storytelling? Is the New Media to be taken as entertainment vs. empirical truth? Does art lie to tell a truth? In fact, life experience, surroundings and cognitive abilities shape what is accepted as truth. There is a difference between a transcendent truth and the complete truth about a particular event. Those that create entertainment about historic events know this too well, and news sources seem to embody this approach. Azerbaijan’s blitzkrieg upon Armenian held positions in the Caucasus was coupled with the simultaneous blitz of propaganda upon Western Media Outlets, causing confusion worldwide. Calling any reporting ‘objective’ seems too far a stretch even in the internet age. Little has changed. Dark Forest in the Mountains, the 1994 war-zone documentary about the war in Nagorno-Karabakh was produced in response to the conflict being underreported and misrepresented by the Western media. Dark Forest has been seen by hundreds of thousands worldwide. Using a combination of Visual Effects techniques, reenactment, and actual reportage, its animated introduction was frequently upgraded to better visualize the history of the region and give the needed context behind the war. This presentation will focus on the challenge of telling the story of ignored and often misunderstood cultures, such as Armenians, within the context of Western Entertainment media. The award-winning East of Byzantium graphic novel series and upcoming documentary will also be presented with an insider’s look at unique approach and creation techniques. The tools we have today have liberated the filmmaker but distribution outlets, with their own agendas, have imposed their own rules of public consumption. Passion and perseverance must be coupled with support strategy if Armenia’s story is to be told.

Roger Kupelian has been working in the indie film biz since 1992 and the Digital Effects industry since 1995. He is well versed in many forms of visual media, having contributed everything from storyboards production illustrations and concepts to final shots for major film projects. He has also specialized in creating digital environments and structures too expensive or simply impossible to shoot on location, everything from the surface of Mars to the mountains of Mordor, from the volcanic inferno of Mt. Doom to World War Two’s Iwo Jima. In addition to his visual effects work for major



feature films, as well as television programs and commercials, Kupelian has directed special projects, including music videos for Serj Tankian. His illustrated work and researched articles have appeared in a number of publications and online. He has also composed and delivered entire shots and supervised composites, and worked with art directors to design cinematic sequences. His Lord of the Rings work resulted in a nomination for ‘Best Matte Painter’ at the 2002 Visual Effects Society awards as well as a subsequent nomination (with the team at Zoic) for Best Created Environment for “Flash Forward”. His film credits include the Academy award winning The Lord of the Rings Trilogy, Flags of Our Fathers, Charlie Wilson’s War, Alice in Wonderland, Hop, HUGO, Oblivion, among many others. His work also extends to VFX for televised episodic series and high-end commercials. Raised in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and as a chronic world-traveler, Kupelian brings his unique cultural backgrounds and influences to his work. After a stint as a High School Art instructor, Kupelian started as a storyboard artist and production illustrator/designer for a Hollywood effects company. This eventually led to digital matte painting and compositing at various other visual effects houses and his subsequent sojourn to New Zealand for Peter Jackson’s original Lord of the Rings Trilogy. His accomplishments include published articles, short stories, and an award-winning war-zone documentary translated to three different languages and televised internationally. His artwork has been published numerous times and was featured in many of the [Lord of the Rings art books](#) – even as part of a stamp collection for the [New Zealand postal service](#). Kupelian has also directed music videos, including “[Honking Antelope](#)” for Serj Tankian (of System of a Down) and has collaborated with Tankian by providing illustrations for “[Glaring through Oblivion](#)” distributed by Harper Collins. His latest directing project is the docutainment feature EAST OF BYZANTIUM: WAR GODS AND WARRIOR SAINTS, based on two volumes of his Graphic Novel Series of the same name.

“Like a Tree Planted by the Waters: The Deep Roots of Armenians in Jerusalem” by Roberta Ervine

Abstract: To understand the Armenian presence in Jerusalem today — the oldest continuously functioning Armenian enclave outside the Armenian homeland — it helps to have an understanding of its roots in the past. The development of the Jerusalem Armenian community spanning two millennia and counting has been an organic process. The community has weathered the vicissitudes of war and political upheaval, seen pilgrimage and population numbers rise and fall dramatically, and experienced periods of high wealth as well as dire financial loss. Its real estate holdings have expanded or shrunk depending on the time period, often for reasons completely beyond the

Armenians' control. In short, the history of Jerusalem's Armenians is the stormy tale of how they and their monastic leadership have ridden out the tempests of centuries, under the protective aegis of both the St. James for whom their monastic center is named. This presentation offered a composite view of the Jerusalem Armenian community's illustrious and difficult past, followed by comments on its equally difficult, indeed precarious, present situation.

Roberta Ervine was the Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at Fresno State for the spring semester, 2016. She is a graduate of Columbia University's Armenian Studies Program, where she was a student of Prof. Nina Garsoïan. Her doctoral research was carried out in Jerusalem under the supervision of Abp. Norayr Bogharian, curator of manuscripts for the Monastery of St. James. After receiving her doctorate, she continued to study with Abp. Bogharian until his death in 1996. Simultaneously, she intensively studied the Armenian holy places with His Grace Bishop Guregh Kapikian, Jerusalem's Armenian Overseer of the Status Quo. Roberta taught Classical Armenian and Armenian History in the Srbot's T'argmanch'ats' School of Jerusalem's Armenian Patriarchate from 1981-1995. From 1995-2001 she was senior lecturer in Armenian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and taught holy places history at various other Jerusalem institutions. Since 2001 she has been Professor of Armenian Studies at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in Armonk, New York.



“Biomedical Research in Armenia: Enthusiasm and Professionalism in the Institute of Molecular Biology” by Arsen Arakelian

Abstract: The scientific community of Armenia has suffered during the last 25 years. Budgetary cuts, war and brain drain have significantly impacted the research and development sector. However, there still are enthusiasts that try to do their best to keep the reputation of Armenian science high. The Institute of Molecular Biology of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Armenia is one such organization, where high-quality research is carried out. The presentation focused on the research of mechanisms driving the development of diseases in humans and animals. Another important study area is population genetics, where the Armenian genome is analyzed from DNA samples collected from the general population using a pathogenomics approach. Also presented was the quality of the research reached using the large international collaborative network, which successfully brings forth funding and the publication of papers in well-accepted international journals. The presentation covered the main projects currently carried

out in the Institute, the most interesting results obtained by the researchers, as well as the collaboration with ARPA Institute.

Arsen Arakelian, PhD, is the director of the Institute of Molecular Biology of the NAS of Armenia since 2014. He started to work in the Institute as a second year graduate student in the Yerevan State University. He received his PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology in 2004. Arsen has over 70 published research papers in international peer-reviewed journals. His main research interests are in bioinformatics and computational biology. Moreover, he has more than ten years of “wet-lab” experience.



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“The Making of a Grand Narrative of the Armenian Diaspora” by Talar Chahinian

Abstract: In the years immediately following World War II, what was once referred to during the years of post-genocide dispersion as թրքահայութիւն [Turkish Armenians], ցրուածութիւն [the dispersed], գաղութահայութիւն [community Armenians], գաղթահայութիւն [migrant Armenians], and արտասահմանի հայութիւն [Armenians abroad] became solidified as սփիւռք [diaspora], and it came to imagine itself as a transnationally organized homogeneous entity. This talk focused on the period of transition and examined the making of diaspora's grand narrative, founded on the notion of national cultural production in exile. It was argued that the articulation of diaspora's narrative was occasioned by two rival conferences: the Second Congress of the Soviet Armenian Writers' Union, held in Yerevan in 1946 for a select group of diaspora writers, and a reactionary conference organized by the Writers' Association of Syria and Lebanon, held in Shtora, Lebanon in 1948. These rival conferences caused diaspora intellectuals to realize the threat facing Western Armenian language in exile, and incidentally, position Beirut, and more broadly the Middle East, as the hub for the

centralization and standardization efforts of Western Armenian language and literature.

Talar Chahinian holds a Ph.D. In Comparative Literature from UCLA and lectures in the Department of Comparative World Literature at California State University, Long Beach. Her research and teaching interests include Modern Armenian Literature, Transnational Studies, Politics and Aesthetics, Translation, and Digital Humanities. She contributes regularly to the online journal, Critics' Forum and is the Assistant Editor of the Armenian Review.



“NOAH’S ARK: Exact Location on Ararat” by Varouj Amirkhanian

Abstract: There is tremendous amount of historical accounts, scientific facts and evidence that points to the true resting location of the Biblical Ark of Noah. With extensive field research work for the past 7 years Ararat717, a non-profit organization, in collaboration with BSM Research has been able to identify the exact location of The Real Ark of Noah near the summit of MASIS. (1) The rediscovery points to the location of the ship at the NE face of Mt. Ararat at 15,500 feet elevation resting on a rock ledge (imbricate fault) at the Exact GE Coordinates of 39° 42' 33.07 N 44° 18' 1.26 E. (2) We have a clear line-of-sight (LOS ~ 700 meters) of the ship from the summit of MASIS. (3) We have been successful in taking photos of the Starboard Side and Back Side of the ship for the years 2011 and 2015. Our goal is to physically access the fractured ship to determine the extent of damage and create full awareness about the most significant heritage of the world for historical and scientific reclamation and preservation.

Varouj Amirkhanian received a B.A. in Physics and a B.S. in Engineering. He is an entrepreneur, inventor and an Executive Officer with experience in biotechnology and medical device industry. Varoujan has extensive technical R&D and Operations background with over 30 years of experience with leading companies, such as Qiagen, Beckman Coulter, Pfizer Schneider Laser Division, Premier Lasers, and Baxter Healthcare as Lead R&D Engineer/Scientist, designing and developing medical lasers, diagnostics devices and analytical instruments. He has published numerous technical papers and holds over 30 US & foreign patents. In 2000 Varoujan Co-Founded BioCal Technology, later renamed eGene, a publicly traded company on NASDAQ, acquired in 2007 by Qiagen. Varoujan was Director and EVP of R&D at eGene. He is Director and Business Development Manager at BiOptic, a Taiwan-based Biotechnology Company. Varoujan is also Founder and President of the ARARAT717, a non-profit Organization (www.ararat717.org), involved with Noah's



Ark Research work, where he organizes Expeditions to Western Armenia surveying Mt. Ararat.

“Talking ‘Things Armenian’ Beyond the Pillars of Hercules: *Plus Ultra* A Discourse” by Seta Dadoyan

Abstract: ‘*Plus Ultra*’ (further beyond) is the reversal of ‘*Non Plus Ultra*’ (nothing further beyond), which was a motto allegedly carved on the Pillars of Hercules (the two rocks on both sides of the Strait of Gibraltar). It warned everyone from crossing into the Atlantic Ocean and the unknown. The methodology, outlook, philosophy of history, and thematic structure of Seta Dadoyan’s works, and in particular the bilingual book mentioned above, in turn mark a bold exit into the broader ‘ocean’ of critical thinking. Written on the occasion of the Centenary of the Genocide and at the threshold of the next era, the book is an existential questioning and underlines the necessity and demand for similar and much bigger projects of analysis and critique on pan-national scale. The focus is on all the vital issues that concern the condition and the progress of all Armenians everywhere and at all times. The initiative has its own ‘morality’ as opposed to the ‘immorality’ of lethargic and/or reactionary attitudes and actions on all levels and aspects of the Armenian condition. The objective is to generate and popularize new knowledge and understanding, which will/must be life and course changing factors to “those, for whom being Armenian is being”, as per the dedication of the book.

Seta Dadoyan is Doctor of Sciences in Philosophy, the first woman to obtain this degree in Armenian philosophy. She is also a painter. From 1986 to 2005, she was professor of cultural studies, philosophy, art, history of technology and professional ethics at the American University of Beirut. Previously she taught at Haigazian University (1981-1986) and the Lebanese-American University (1967). During the spring terms of 2002 and 2006, she was invited as the Ordjanian Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies at Middle East and Asian languages and Cultures of Columbia University in New York. From 2007 to 2010 she taught at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New Rochelle, New York, and at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago in 2010. In 2011 she was invited as visiting professor at Yerevan State University to teach at the departments of History and Oriental Studies. In 1999 she was awarded the Medal of David Invictus (Tavit Anhaght) by the Philosophical Academy of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, and in 2015 the Medal of Mesrob Mashdots by His Holiness Catholicos Aram I of the Great House of Cilicia. Her research focuses on medieval and modern Armenian social-political and intellectual cultures primarily in their interactive aspects



within the Near Eastern world and with Islam in particular. Her work has placed Armenian studies at the center of Near/Middle Eastern studies and raised awareness of the role and significance of Armenians in the region. Dadoyan writes in Armenian and English. In addition to many lectures at conferences, universities and institutions, she has authored over fifty extensive papers in scholarly journals, nine books, and edited-co-authored two volumes: *Armenian Painting in Lebanon* (1984), *Pages of West-Armenian Philosophy* (1987), *John of Erznka– Sources of his ‘Views from the Writings of Islamic Philosophers’* (1991), *The Armenian Catholicosate from Cilicia to Antelias* (Beirut, 2003), *The Fatimid Armenians: Cultural and Political Interactions in the Near East* (Brill, 1997). Her magnum opus is her trilogy, *The Armenians in the Medieval Islamic World Fourth-Fourteenth Centuries: Paradigms of Cultural-Political Interactions* (New Brunswick, NJ, USA & London, UK: Transaction Publishers, 2011-2013): Vol. I (2011)- *The Arab Period in Armīnyah- 7th – 11th Centuries*; Vol. II (2012)- *Armenian Realpolitik in the Islamic World and Diverging Paradigms and the Case of Cilicia-11th – 14th Centuries*; Vol. III - *Medieval Cosmopolitanism and Images of Islam -13th -14th Centuries*; 2015 - *The Armenian Condition in Hindsight and Foresight-A Discourse/2015 - Հայ Վիճակը Յետահայեցութեամբ և Նախահայեցութեամբ-Վերլուծում*.

“Armenian Communities of the Northeastern Mediterranean: Musa Dagh; Dort-Yol; Kessab” by Richard G. Hovannisian

Abstract: The presentation mainly focused on the historic, economic, cultural, educational and political developments among the Armenians in Musa Dagh, Dort Yol and Kessab. It also presented the thriving Armenian communities of Beylan and Antioch and the onetime Armenian villages in the Ruj Valley and those near Latakia. Dramatic episodes in Armenian history and the heroism of the rugged and sturdy people who lived and defended these communities were explored, which, in the case of Kessab and a single village in Musa Dagh, continue to endure there. The presentation also examined the fraudulent transfer of the Sanjak of Alexandretta to Turkey in 1939 and the three-month occupation of the area by the al-Nusra front in 2014.

Richard G. Hovannisian is Professor Emeritus of Armenian and Near Eastern History at UCLA, President’s Fellow at Chapman University, and Adjunct Professor of History at USC to work with the Shoah Foundation on testimonies of survivors of the Armenian Genocide. A native of Tulare, California, Hovannisian received his B.A. and M.A. in history from



the University of California, Berkeley, and Ph.D. in history from UCLA. A member of the UCLA faculty since 1962, he organized both the undergraduate and graduate programs in Armenian history and served as the Associate Director of UCLA’s Center for Near Eastern Studies for two decades. Professor Hovannisian is a Guggenheim Fellow, a founder and six-time president of the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS), and a member of a number of editorial boards, scholarly organizations, and civic organizations, including the Armenian Monument Council, of which he was the President during the years of the memorial’s construction and dedication in Montebello in the 1960s. He has given more than 2,500 university and community lectures in 48 countries and has participated in numerous teacher workshops and international forums and media events on the Armenian Genocide and other issues related to Armenian, Near Eastern, and Russian/Soviet affairs. Richard Hovannisian has published more than 30 volumes on Armenian History and culture and seven other books on Near Eastern history, society, and culture. In addition, he has edited and contributed to fourteen volumes in the UCLA conference series, “Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces”.

Նորարարութիւն, գիտարարութիւն եւ Ձեռներեցութիւն - Սեմինար

Շատեր կը հաւատան որ գիտութիւնը անհրաժեշտ է Նորարարութեան եւ գիտարարութեան համար, իսկ Նորարարութիւնն ու գիտարարութիւնը անհրաժեշտ են արտադրութեան համար: Ծիշո՞ք է, սակայն տասնամեակներ պետք են մինչեւ գիտութեան բերած նպաստին արգասիքը երեւնան: Տնտեսական զարգացման ամենակարեւոր ազդակները գործարանային արտադրութեան զարգացումն ու ընդարձակումն են, որոնց հետ զուգահեռ երկրագործութեան զարկ տալը:

Սակայն եւ այնպէս, միայն գիտութեան զարգացմամբ եւ Նորարարութեամբ կարելի չէ տնտեսական աճ արձանագրել: Շատ լաւ օրինակներ կան Ռուսական իրականութեան մէջ: 1954-ին Nikolai Basov եւ Alexander Prokhorov ստեղծեցին լազերային ճառագայթները: Սակայն այդպէս ալ կարելի չեղաւ Ռուսիոյ մէջ այդ գիւտը վերածել Նորարարութեան եւ արտադրանքի: Ուրիշ խոսքով, գիտեր հնարելը բաւարար չէն տնտեսական զարգացման համար: Պետք է պատրաստել ստեղծագործ կամ ձեռներեց մարդիկ, entrepreneur անձեր որոնք գիւտը կրնան վերածել արտադրանքի եւ շուկայական մրցունակ յաջողութեան: Այլ խոսքով, պետք է յաղթահարել գիտութեան եւ Նորարարութեան միջեւ կանգնած պատուարը, այլ ոչ թէ հետազօտութիւնն ու Նորարարութիւնը անջատել համալսարաններէն եւ արտադրական համակարգէն: Գիւտ մը Նորարարական միջոցներով պետք

Է այնպիսի արտադրանքի վերածել որ օգտակարություն եւ օգնություն բերեն ժողովուրդին: Միայն թուային տեխնոլոգիաներով կարելի չէ երկրի մը տնտեսությունը զարգացնել:

Տեխնոլոգիա հասկացողությունը այն մոտեցումներու եւ գործելակերպերու ուսումնասիրությունն է որոնցմով լաւագոյնս կարելի է կառուցանել-սարքել եւ կամ ստեղծել բաներ, իսկ գիտությունը այն մասնագիտականօրէն կատարուած փորձն է հասկնալու եւ բացատրելու ամէն ինչ աշխարհի վրայ: Տեխնոլոգիան մարդկութեան չափ հին է, իսկ գիտությունը կազմաւորուեցաւ մարդկային քաղաքակրթութեան հետ միասին: Երկարամեայ տնտեսական զարգացում կարելի է ստանալ միայն զարգացնելով եւ ընդարձակելով տեխնոլոգիաներու գիտությունը-անոնց ծանօթացումը եւ օգտագործումը: Յետեւեալներն են պայմանները նորարարութեան մթնոլորտի ստեղծման եւ քաջալերման համար՝ ճիշդ կրթություն, տեղեկատուութիւն, եւ գիտութեան փոխանցում, մտածուած կառավարման օրէնքներով եւ մոտեցումներով, տուրքերու հարմարություններով, ճարտարարուեստի-ինտուստրիալ, տեխնոլոգիական եւ հետազօտութիւններու-նորարարութիւններու լաւ ինֆրակառոյցներ, աշխատող մտային գոյքի համակարգով, ճանաչման եւ պարգեւատրման յատուկ միջոցներով, ճիշդ մշակոյթի որդեգրման, վերապատրաստուած եւ մասնագիտացուած աշխատակազմի եւ մանաւանդ ճիշդ գործի մթնոլորտով որը կը քաջալերէ ստեղծագործությունը եւ Էնթրէփրէնտորական ոգին: Անշուշտ այս բոլորի իրագործման կարելոր պայմաններէն մէկն է ֆինանսական ռեսուրսներն ու գումարները:

Հստակ է որ ստեղծագործ մարդիկ իրենց երբեմն արտառոցություններով կը դժուարացնեն հարցերը, մանաւանդ պատասխանատուներուն հետ կապուած: Այդ պատճառով այնպիսի մոտեցումներ եւ գործելակերպեր պէտք է որդեգրել որ կը նպաստէ վերոյիշեալ պայմաններու ստեղծման: Օրինակ՝ օգնել, խոչընդոտելու փոխարէն, ընկերություններուն եւ Էնթրէփրէնտորներուն ազատութիւն փորձարկելու եւ ապահովցնել ստեղծագործներուն եւ նորարարներուն նշանակալի առաւելություններ եւ պարգեւներ: Նաեւ ցոյց տալ դրական կեցուածք նոյնիսկ ձախողություններու եւ ռիսկերու պարագային: Ամենակարեւորը, քաջալերել ստեղծագործողներուն եւ նորարարներուն գործակցությունը Էնթրէփրէնտորներու հետ որպէսզի միասնաբար ստեղծեն նոր արտադրանքներ եւ ապրանքներ, որոնց միջոցով տնտեսական առաւելություն կարելի է ստանալ: Հայաստան հարուստ է նորարարներով եւ ստեղծագործ անձերով, որոնք սակայն ժառանգած են որոշ մոտեցումներ եւ գործելակերպեր եւ ատոնք շատ հաճախ արգելք կը հանդիսանան յառաջդիմութեան: Ուստի,

պէտք է փոխել հինգած մոտեցումները, գործելակերպերըն ու մտածելակերպերը: Պէտք է վերապատրաստել եւ դաստիարակել գիտական եւ տեխնոլոգիական գործերու մէջ աշխատող բոլոր անձերը, զարգացնելով անոնց մէջ գիտարարարութիւն եւ նորարարութեան նոր մոտեցումներն ու բարբերը: Այն կարծիքը որ գաղափար մը թուղթի վրայ դնելով եւ տեսական փաստարկումներ կատարելով կատարուի նորարարութիւն պէտք է հիմնահատակ փոխուի: Գիւտ մը կրնայ շատ լաւ ըլլալ, սակայն եթէ չփորձարկուի բազում անգամներ եւ փաստուի որ ան կաշխատի եւ կը կատարէ այն բոլորը որոնց համար ստեղծուած է, եւ թէ իր նմաններէն տարբեր է իր առաւելություններով, գիւտ չի համարուիր:

Ինչ են մարտահրաւերները քսան մէկերորդ դարու նոր սերունդին, որոնք պէտք է պատրաստել դիմակայելու զանոնք:

Այագայի ամենահրատապ հարցերէն մէկն է ուժանիւթի (Էներկիայի) արտադրութեան նոր ձեւեր ստեղծելը: Երկրորդը՝ երկրին ստացուածքներն ու ստորգետնեայ հարստությունները իմաստութեամբ եւ ծրագրուած ձեւով օգտագործելն է: Երրորդը՝ ոչ պակաս կարեւոր՝ ուսեստեղծնի եւ ջուրի ճիշտ կերպով մատակարարումն է: Աղբի եւ թափոններու կազմակերպումը եւս կարեւոր խնդիրներէն մէկն է: Սակայն եւ այնպէս, ամենակարեւոր խնդիրը դրուած մեր առջեւ նոր սերունդին ապագայի համար պատրաստումն ու կրթելն է: Եկող տասնամեակներուն, բժշկությունն ու բժշկագիտությունը այնպիսի նոր ուղղություններով պիտի զարգանայ որ այժմ անբուժելի նկատուած հիւանդություններ պիտի կենստիկայի եւ կենսաբանական տեխնոլոգիաներու օգտագործումով բուժելի ըլլան: Դարձեալ կարեւոր բնագաւառներէն է կապի եւ յարաբերութեան նորանոր զարգացումները, որոնք նոր մոտեցումներու առիթ պիտի տան եւ նոր գործիքներու եւ գիտատեխնոլոգիական առաւելություններ պիտի ընծայեն մարդկութեան: Ռօպօթներու եւ ինքնավար աշխատող գործիքներու եւ մեքենաներու, ինչպէս նաեւ օդային պարիկներու նորանոր յառաջդիմությունները, միկրոէլէկտրոնային գործիքներու եւ սարքերու օր ըստ օրէն զարգացումն ու բերած նպաստները պիտի նոր կեանքի եւ ապրելակերպի ձեւեր եւ մոտեցումներ ստեղծեն, որոնց համար պէտք է նոր սերունդը պատրաստ ըլլայ եւ մասնակից դառնայ այդ բոլոր նորարարություններուն եւ գիտատեխնոլոգիական տուեալներուն: Տակաւին շատ մը ուրիշ կարեւոր մարտահրաւերներ կան եկող սերունդներուն համար, ինչպիսիքն են՝ երթեւեկութեան, երկրի ճիշդ ուղղութեամբ զարգացման, անցեալի պատմութեան եւ յուշարձաններու պահպանութեան, գիտութեան հեռաւար ուսուցման միջոցներու, բնակարանային, օդերեւաբանական, եւ այլն:

Վերոյիշեալ մարտահրաւերներուն պատրաստ սերունդ ունենալու համար ինչ է դերը համալսարաններուն, կառավարութեան եւ ժողովուրդին: Արդե՞ք ՅՅ բուհերը պատրաստ են դիմագրաւելու ապագայի մարտահրաւերները եւ պետք եղած գիտութիւնն ու փորձարական տուեալները փոխանցելու նոր սերունդին:

Այս ուղղութեամբ օգտակար ըլլալու նպատակով ԱՐՓԱ Հիմնարկը կազմակերպեց Սեմինար «Նորարարութիւն, գիտարարութիւն եւ ձեռներեցութիւն» վերնագրով: Տեղի ունեցաւ Հոկտեմբեր 2-ին, ՏԻՃԻ-ԹԷՔի շրջանակներուն եւ Սերկընդեան Ինստիտուտի շէնքի երրորդ հարկի սրահը: Գլխաւոր խօսողներն էին, ԱՐՓԱ-ի վարչական՝ Դոկթ. Հրաչուհի Պօղոսեան: Ան ներկայացուց հիմնական սկիզբ եւ որուն յաջորդեց Նելլի Ներսեսյանը՝ Մոլեկիլար Կենսաբանութեան Ինստիտուտի գիտաշխատող, որուն ներկայացուցած նոր ակորդիթմը, ճշգրտութեամբ Թեյնմերի երկրութիւնը ստուգելու միջոց, առաջին մրցանակակիրն էր 2015-ի ԱՐՓԱ-ի Նորարարութեան մրցումին: Ներկայ երիտասարները հարցումներով ցոյց տուին իրենց սորուելու փափաքը եւ հետաքրքրութիւնը:

ARPA Institute 25th Anniversary Conference

June 24, 2017

General Topic: Armenians and Armenia in the 21st Century: A Strategy for Long-Term Development

Call for Papers

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its founding, the ARPA Institute is pleased to invite experts to submit proposals/papers on topics within the following general theme:

Development narratives for Armenia are largely contingent upon the evolving and broader regional context as well as on inward-looking state-society relations. The challenge is the fundamental inquiry into a strategy for long-term development in political, social, economic, and technological dimensions. The objective of the conference is to explore the key components of development for Armenia. The significance of an endogenous development strategy is emphasized, as an essential approach for Armenia to survive and prosper. Mainstream development strategies, including civil service reform, investments, technological and infrastructural improvements, and democratization in general, have largely been akin to endogenous and inward-oriented models. As such, the general framework/theme of the conference necessarily entails socio-economic and technological progress in the country.

The concept of development ordinarily comprises economic, political, cultural, technological, and social activities. It embraces diverse paths to progress and incorporates different aspects of human life. It goes beyond economic development and aims at better social conditions of Armenians. Also, the objective is to articulate a development methodology for Armenia that may provide opportunities for the creative realization of its citizens and expansion of individual potentials.

The focus on development evokes the introduction and promotion of an atmosphere in which individual innovative potential can grow and political life can be safeguarded. The conference suggests the continuous improvement of technology and the creative capabilities of Armenians as an indication of progress and achievement in the country. In this perspective and with an expanded role of the Diaspora, development efforts in Armenia appeal to socio-political and technological instigations from within.

In summary, the panels in the conference will focus on political, socio-economic, and technological dimensions of development for Armenia.

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Trip Report on ARPA Activities in Armenia By Hagop Panossian

Every September I travel to Armenia to take care of ARPA Institute business. The following Trip Report summarizes the important discussions and meetings:

September 10, 2016

1. Meeting with Dr. Alfred Avakian on a new Blood Bank in Yerevan: had a long meeting with Dr. Alfred Avakian and his lead advisor, Dr. Daniel Aghazarian regarding a potential blood bank in his hospital in the Davdashen district of Yerevan, Armenia. He is building a really impressive and modern hospital, which will be completed and operational early next year. Currently he does not have room in his hospital where a blood bank can be set up. However, we need the approximate dimensions for a small blood bank so that he may be able to make special arrangements to allocate room.

September 11, 2016

1. Trip to the Davoush Region of Armenia: I had a long 12-hour trip to the Davoush region of Armenia to visit the city of Ijevan and the two border villages of Choratan and Chinary, with populations of 1200 each. I discussed the concept of Armenian National Science and Innovation Competition with the Primate of the Davoush region, Archbishop Bakrad Galsdanyan (the former Primate of Canada). I presented to him the new ARPA Institute initiative of helping create small businesses in Armenia. Similarly, I met with the Mayors of Choratan, Mr. Varouj Baghmanian, and of Chinary, Mr. Samvel Soghoyan, and presented the above-mentioned two concepts to them. They were all very enthusiastic and promised to participate. Arch. Bakrad will be speaking with the Educational Director of the Davoush's region and we will



Mr. Samvel Soghoyan, Chinary Mayor; Mr. Varouj Baghmanian, Choratan Mayor; Ms. Lucine Ohanian, AMAA representative; Dr. Hagop Panossian, ARPA President

meet with him in October sometime. I also met with the Principal of the Artur Udumayan school in Choratan, Mr. Vazgen Zargaryan (which has 120 students from KG to 12th grade) and told him about the science fair concept. He seemed to be highly appreciative of such an approach and competition. He was aware of the DASARAN website for all schools in Armenia and said that the teachers do use it. However, he mentioned that it is difficult for the parents and students to use it for reasons related to Internet issues and availability of computers in the village. The road to both villages is not even paved yet and we had to travel with a 4Wheel drive to get to both villages. The Azeri military posts on the top of the mountains on the eastern side of the villages could be seen as we drove and is dangerous. Some people have been shot at and even killed. The Mayor's house, where we had khorovadz and a nice dinner, does not even have a bathroom. There is a small hut in the front yard, with a hole towards the ground.

The requirements for a business plan, which Hrachoohi Boghosian has compiled, needs to be finalized and placed on our website for people to read and prepare their proposals accordingly. An exceptional lady, Mrs. Lucine Ohanian was the person who took us to these wonderfully beautiful places by the Armenian Missionary Association of America's vehicle. Lucine is the coordinator of all government affairs for the AMAA and does a great deal of traveling to these regions. She is very familiar with the people and their needs. She expressed willingness to help us in any way she can to achieve both of these projects.

September 12, 2016

1. Meeting with Rector of the Polytechnic University: I had a 1.5-hour meeting with Mr. Maroukhyan and Mr. Areg Grigoryan (VP for technical and educational issues). We discussed the Gas Chromatograph (GC) purchased by ARPA, and visited the GC Lab; a young scientist in charge, Andranik, showed it to us and explained how it works. He seemed to know how to use it. He will send me the type of filter that is saturated. Apparently it is not the humidity filter but the (Azod?) filter. In any case, we will try to order those filters. We also talked about the Cleanroom; they will arrange a meeting with Prof. Joseph Panossian and Prof. Gagik Shmavonian to discuss their plans to see if they have a well-thought-out use for it. Mr. Maroukhyan does not think it will be used sufficiently. As for the Energy Efficiency Lab, they have re-established teaching about energy efficiency and already have special arrangements with a German university to provide them with course material and even equipment. They have an outline of the subjects to be covered, which they will forward to me. Distance Learning was also talked about and they are very happy to continue with the program. They have used our Distance Learning program as a discriminating factor to apply to the World Bank for a



Gas Chromatograph Lab with Prof. Maroukhyan and the scientist in charge, Andranik Arakelyan

grant to start the energy efficiency program. All in all, both gentlemen appreciated the technical and material assistance ARPA is providing the university.

2. Meeting with Director/owner of DASARAN, Mr. Suren Aloyan:

A meeting was held with Mr. Suren Aloyan and his staff, Ms. Rima Sargsyan and Artur Babayan, to discuss how the ANSIC project will/may be implemented and how to arrange a training seminar for teachers on organizing a successful school science fair. Suren made a detailed presentation of the capabilities of DASARAN. It has four major components: 1. Grade book, where teachers place their evaluations/grades. 2. Diary, where teachers, students and even parents place notes and statements on their progress/issues. 3. Teachers' work environment, where teachers describe their working conditions and summarize their observations and needs/tasks. 4. Management tool for principals, where school principals



Prof. Vostanik Maroukhyan, Polytechnic Rector; Dr. Areg Grigoryan, Polytechnic Vice Rector; Dr. Hagop Panossian

can use all available tools to better manage schools. Each of the four functions has separate and different passwords and, according to their group, can only see their own sites, or some can see all sites. The data collected is made available to the Ministry of Education and Science.

3. Meeting with the Director of the UITE, Karen Vardanyan:

A meeting was held with Karen to discuss the ARPA Institute Innovation and Invention Forum, to be held on October 2, 2016 at the Mergelyan Institute. Karen indicated that they will send out the invitations to attend in a week or so, with the announcement for the DIGITEC Expo. He was also briefed on the new initiatives of the Armenian National Science and Innovation Competition (ANSIC) and the Small Business Plan. He was very supportive of both and agreed to connect to their robotics program participants and inform them about it. Karen also asked for assistance from ARPA in providing technical support to their new initiatives to create modern defense related technologies.

September 14, 2016

1. Meeting with Dr. Artashes Javadyan, Director of the National Bureau of Expertise (NBE) of Armenia:

A team of three members of the NBE, Artashes Javadyan, Ms. Anna Hovannisyan and Mr. Poghos Voskanyan presented to me the needs of the NBE Scientific Research center. They would like to establish a DNA database for their forensic activities and carry out research in developing new methods and applications from such studies. They indicated that their center is used as a hub for medical students from the Mkhitar Heratsy Medical University of Armenia, where graduate students carry out research to learn forensic methodologies of identification.

2. Meeting with the Vice Rector of the Yerevan State University:

Dr. Ruben Markosyan and two of his deputies were presented with the difficulties of getting participants in the ARPA Institute annual Invention Competition. Their response was the lack of enthusiasm amongst the students and faculty. They promised to distribute the flier for the 2017 Invention Competition. Also discussed was the Distance Learning Program. They enthusiastically endorsed the program and were thankful for the several on-line seminars given during the past academic year. We then visited the Innovative Solutions and Technology Center, established recently on the top floor of the Humanities building of the YSU and co-sponsored by IBM, USAID, the GoA and EIF of Armenia. It is a super modern facility with several computer labs and meeting rooms. The Director of the Center, Ms. Ruzanna, encouraged ARPA to join hands and help achieve their goals.

September 28, 2016

1. Discussions on a book “Russia’s policy on Armenia through the years”: I had a meeting with David Davidian and Tigran Sahakyan. The latter has written several books on various topics related to Armenia and Armenians. Of special interest are his books about the genocide co-conspirators and the role Russia and Germany had played. David proposed for ARPA to help in funding the research on the policy that Russia has followed throughout the centuries.

September 29, 2016

1. 50th Anniversary of the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB): Attended the IMB 50th Anniversary celebrations, where guests from various institutions in Armenia were invited and the staff and scientists of the IMB were present. I thanked the Director of the Institute for working with ARPA and developing new programs to advance research in genomics. I congratulated the staff and the Scientists of IMB on this auspicious occasion and wished them continued progress and success.

September 30, 2016

1. DIGITECH EXPO: attended the expo and met a few new startup company representatives. Once again, the Polytechnic had a central area where students were showcasing the Armenian National Engineering Laboratory equipment and showing some experiments they were working on. It was being presented to the President of Armenia by Aram Salatian of National Instruments. The latter company has manufactured the instrumentation. The students were not aware of the ARPA Institute Invention Competition, for which I notified both the Rector and the vice Rector of the university; they promised to give them each a flier.

2. Meeting with Dr. Amur Margaryan: Amur presented his innovative approaches to measuring laser pulses down to 1 pico-second resolution. According to him, the current technology’s best resolution is 100 picosecond. His approach is a combination of several techniques that leads to such accuracy. Amur’s explanations were very impressive and he cited a few areas of application that this approach could be used. He wants to manufacture a prototype of the device in Armenia and then find ways of manufacturing additional application-related devices. He needs a laser synthesizer that will cost around \$2,500 if made in Armenia, whereas it costs \$12,000 if purchased abroad.

3. Meeting with DASARAN staff: Held a meeting at the DASARAN office in the Mergelyan Cluster and discussed their estimated budget for organizing science fairs in Armenia. Their estimates had three items for management for 9 months. I explained to them that the activity takes around 4 months, starting in December and ending in

March. Moreover, I insisted that the project be organized locally by each school and not by our team in order for it to succeed. The schools need to take ownership of the project; otherwise, it has no chance of success. They agreed. So, the three items will be reduced to one, where they will occasionally monitor the progress of the participating schools. I also asked them to work on a professional website that will contain complete information about organizing a science fair, guiding students to work on projects and guiding judges to evaluate the projects. Moreover, DASARAN (Suren Aloyan, Director, and three staff members) will only serve as a conduit to inform schools, teachers and principals about the science fair related issues; they only need to organize the teacher training classes. They agreed to organize three sessions of around 30 teachers each, where I will discuss the organizational issues of science fairs and train them so that they can go and organize their school science fairs on their own. As for the award ceremonies that they had also budgeted for, I told them that it is not our job to organize award ceremonies, but would be willing to help the Ministry of Education and Science to do so. Moreover, we will even assist in finding donor companies/organizations to cover any costs.

4. Meeting with the ARPA Team-Armenia: Maro Aghazarian, our Executive Director in Armenia, invited the ARPA Armenia-team for a nice dinner at her house. Present were Nazareth Seferian, Madlene Minassian, Alexey (Maro’s husband), Daniel Aghazarian (Maro’s father) and myself. We had a lovely dinner and discussed some issues related to ARPA activities in Armenia. Maro suggested to find someone to replace her as Executive Director since she has two jobs now and does not have enough time to devote for ARPA. Madlene and Nazo will try talking with people to find someone.

October 2, 2016

1. ARPA Institute Innovation, Invention and Entrepreneurship Seminar: The seminar was held at the Mergelyan Institute. The Mergelyan Institute and the Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE) administrations had organized the seminar very well and provided excellent support for its successful implementation. The attendance was good considering it was ARPA’s first such seminar and during the DIGITEC Expo. I welcomed those present and made introductory remarks about ARPA and its activities, which was followed by Hrachoohi Boghosian who made a detailed presentation on what innovation and invention are and how they are related to entrepreneurship. Then, Lilit Nersesyan of the Institute of Molecular Biology of the NAS of Armenia presented her invention of the algorithm that accurately calculates/estimates the length of telomere - found on the tips of human chromosomes - from sequencing data, which



The ARPA "Innovation, Invention and Entrepreneurship" Forum at DIGITEC Expo

had won first prize of \$2,000 in the 2015 ARPA institute Invention Competition.

2. Meeting with the Head of NOYAN TAPAN, Tigran Haroutiunyan: Maro Aghazarian and I met with Tigran upon his request and discussed cooperation potentials. He especially wanted to talk about their new Inventors' Club, whereby around 50 "inventors" in Armenia hold regular meetings to help develop their inventions into products. One such product presented was the exact same development of a new catalyst about which we had received inquiries for help. We were then interviewed for the NOYAN TAPAN Internet TV program; Maro and I presented the activities of ARPA in Armenia. Tigran promised to take us to their labs and show us their work.

3. Meeting with the Head of Hematology Center, Dr. Smbat Daghbashyan: A meeting was held with Dr. Daghbashyan and the same blood bank idea was proposed to him asking his opinion on what is appropriate. He stated that there aren't enough voluntary donors in Armenia and that they have to purchase blood from people to satisfy their needs. Their center serves all of Armenia. He thought that establishing a blood bank in Ijevan is the most cost effective and useful approach. We will visit the Hematology center and travel to Ijevan to study the situation and make a decision.

October 3, 2016

1. Meeting with Polytechnic Administration and Professors: A meeting was held with Professors Joseph Panossian and Gagik Shmavonian, with the Rector of the Polytechnic, Prof. Vostanik Maroukhyan, and Pro-Rector Areg Grigoryan to discuss the construction of a "Cleanroom" in the Polytechnic. The idea of constructing a cleanroom had been proposed by Prof. Panossian last year to carry out his research on developing new thin-film

"Diamond-Like Carbon" sheets. The matter was examined and the conclusion was that there is not enough potential use for such a room and that we should evaluate the needs of the university and accordingly decide on what area to work on. Nano-technology was proposed as an important broad area that could also benefit the defense industry in Armenia. There will be another, wider representation meeting to discuss the issues and make a decision.

2. Meeting with the Head/Owner of Yerevan Medical Center, Dr. Daron Donoyan: The proposed blood bank by Global Healing International was presented to Dr. Donoyan. He stated that his hospital does not require that much blood; so, he suggested talking with the head of the Hematology Center, Dr. Smbat Daghbashyan, who would know where in Armenia a blood bank is needed.

3. Visit of the Alikhanyan Institute of Physics with Amur Margaryan: The Alikhanyan Physics Institute has a research center with around 300 workers who do advanced research in all areas of physics. Amur works in optics and has created an optical system that is able to detect 10 picosecond short duration laser pulses with a very high time resolution. He showed me his laboratory and the impressive work he carries out. His invention can be applied in electron microscopy, stimulated emission depletion (STED) microscopy, and other applications. He asked if ARPA can provide \$2,500 funding to manufacture a signal synthesizer that he needs for his research.

October 5, 2016

1. Meeting with Professor Victor Ohanyan on Textbooks in Armenia: A group of mathematicians from Paris, France, had asked ARPA to support a task of translating textbooks in probability, statistics, analysis, etc., from French into Armenian. Professor Ohanyan was referred as the person to contact in Armenia. He teaches probability and statistics both at the YSU and the AUA. I met with him and he showed me around a dozen textbooks, which were proposed to be translated. I asked him if there is a need for such textbooks in Armenian. His response was "may be". I asked whether these subjects should be taught in English, since all international schools teach them in English. His response was that it will definitely be more appropriate. He arranged a meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics of the YSU to discuss the issue.

2. Meeting with Professor Aram Hajian: Aram is the Dean of Engineering and Computer Sciences at AUA. He introduced me to their new Engineering and Science and Bioinformatics undergraduate programs, which will start in 2017 and will lead to a Bachelor degree. He also thanked ARPA for the on-line seminars and other activities and suggested to provide more assistance to the university. I also was introduced to his father, Professor Emeritus,

mathematician Dr. Berj Hajian, who recently retired from Northeastern University.

3. Meeting with Professor Armen Der Kiureghian: I had a nice meeting and discussion on his new initiatives regarding the new undergraduate programs at AUA, which will also include a third one on strategic planning and management degree. He also talked about the financial situation of AUA and the need for more assistance from ARPA. I promised to at least continue the on-line Distance Learning Seminars and try to help in recruiting new students from abroad. He gave me a tour of the new Innovation and Creativity Center, the new addition to the library as well as the novelties in the university regarding modern facilities for students.

4. Meeting with Dr. Arsen Arakelyan: A meeting was held with Hovagim Zakharyan, the head of the new virus research center and with the Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology, Dr. Arsen Arakelyan. Hovagim explained to me their research activities in African Swine Flu and their new findings on a very effective (90%) medicine that is extracted from chamomile and/or oregano. Arsen was asked to support the ARPA project of Breast Cancer research, initiated by Dr. Mkhitar Moradian, which he agreed to do. He will be traveling to Los Angeles and during his visit he will meet with Mkhitar and discuss the potential for cooperation. He also mentioned that the invoice that was shipped with the laboratory instruments - to arrive at the IMB soon - should match the one that they had requested. We will work on that.

October 6, 2016

1. Meeting with Amur Margaryan: Amur had a proposal to make on commercializing his invention of picosecond pulse measuring device. I asked if he owns the patent. He indicated that he owns part of the patent with the Jefferson Lab. However, he indicated that he has a new invention in addition to what is in the patent that he himself has created. I told him he should get an Armenian patent first and then try an international one. I also asked him how much of the invention is owned by the Physics Institute. He was not aware of it but will look into that.

October 7, 2016

1. Meeting with Haematology Center Staff: I had a meeting with the staff of the Haematology Center of Armenia, Dr. Smbat Daghbashyan, Director; Dr. Marine Kamalyan, head of quality control; Sarkis Hovhannissyan, Deputy Director; and Anna Savoyan, head of donor registry. We discussed the Global Healing initiative for setting up a blood bank in Armenia. The staff suggested renovating the blood bank of the center and modernizing it. However, they indicated that if there is to be a new blood bank, then it should be set it up in Ijevan, in the Davoush region of the north east of Armenia, where there

is no blood bank. They were very supportive and promised to help in any way they can. They were also very thankful to Global Healing International for their tremendous work in developing the blood bank in Giumri.

2. Meeting with Hayk Sargsyan: A meeting was held at the electrical circuit manufacturing plant near the Hrazdan river to discuss the possibility of manufacturing an electrical signal synthesizer to complete the tests of Amur's device. Hayk took all the data needed to get an estimate and will get back with Amur for the cost estimate to completion. Amur and Simon were also present.

October 10, 2016

1. Visit to the National Bureau of Expertise (NBE) of the NAS of Armenia: A visit was made to the NBE, where they showed me their capabilities and their laboratories. They have modern equipment to carry out numerous tests and evaluations of materials, situations and conditions to determine the probable causes and culprits of death, theft and other phenomenon for the GoA. They are essentially the forensic experts for Armenia. Two 5-story buildings are under their jurisdiction and they have numerous experts working for them. They are asking for assistance from ARPA to start their DNA testing laboratory. I suggested to look into purchasing the reagents that they need to do the testing from abroad, and to try to get it much cheaper than what the representative of the Advance Biosystems in Yerevan offers. I also suggested working on joint proposals to the US agencies, as their work is related to international criminal activities. Moreover, I suggested to try to get funds from the Science Committee in Armenia, proposing a project jointly with MBI; I promised to talk to Dr. Samvel Harutunyan and ask him to consider their proposal as first priority.

2. Visit to the National Archeological Excavations Center of Armenia: Hagop Simonian, Gregory Areshian and Zaven Majikian were present in an exhibit of ancient artifacts that were recently excavated from tombs in "Karmir Blour". Mr. Simonian indicated that these articles are an indication of civilizations from the time of the Urartians and before. He asked if ARPA can help in having samples of carbonized remnants be carbon dated to accurately define the age of the artifacts. An amount of around \$5,000 will be necessary to have the tests performed in European and American facilities in order to be able to publish articles and show the world that Armenians were the descendants of Urartians. They proposed to ask the BOD of ARPA to consider sponsoring the task; in return, ARPA will be cited in the article as the sponsoring organization.

October 11, 2016

1. Meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics of the YSU of Armenia: A meeting

was held with the dean of the YSU “Mech-Mat” department, Dr. Arthur Sahakyan and Dr. Victor Ohanyan to discuss the issue of translating statistics textbooks from French. This idea, which was from Dr. Yuri Kutoyants from Paris, France, was not found to be of high priority. They were expecting funds from a European funding agency and that is why they had first agreed to do it. When the funding did not materialize, they changed their minds.

2. Meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Journalism, YSU: A meeting was held with Dean Naghash Martirosyan and Vice Dean Menemeshyan to discuss ways and means to help them by introducing them to international journalists. It was suggested to have on-line seminars through the ARPA Distance Learning Program.

October 12, 2016

1. Meeting with the representatives of Technology Transfer Association: Karen Karapetyan and Mikael Abovyan were met to discuss their ideas of cooperation between ARPA and their organization. They were very interested in the development of a nano-technology consortium that will include universities and companies that carry out any research in that area. They also talked about their associations with Russian conglomerates and asked if there is any possibility of creating joint ventures with US companies and their organization. They presented material that is ceramic-based and shines in complete darkness. We then visited the defense industries exhibit at the Mergelyan Institute. The booths were mainly Russian companies and there were some East Europeans as well. The Armenian booths showed quite basic technologies.

2. Meeting with the Director of the Union of School Centers (USC): Member of Parliament and Director of the union, Ruzanna Muradyan was met and presented with the ARPA activities, and especially the idea of starting science fairs at schools in Armenia. She was very impressed with the ARPA activities and said that the USC would like to do what ARPA is already doing. She was highly enthusiastic about the Science Fair idea and right away wanted to embark on organizing a teacher training session. She called their office and asked to prepare for a more formal meeting there. We went to their office on Dikran Medz and discussed the science fair with their staff, who were also highly positive about it. Orders were given to call principals and science teachers from at least 30 top schools in Armenia and organize a session of training on Friday, October 14. She also asked if there could be an MOU signed so that the cooperation of the union with ARPA can be formalized.

October 13, 2016

1. Attended the conference of Hrachya Ajaryan: The Institute of Languages of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia had organized a conference on the

works and tradition of H. Ajaryan. There were around 20 papers on various aspects of the Armenian language, its grammatical features, influence from other languages, etc. Average attendance was 60.

2. Meeting with Dr. Levon Yepiskoposyan: Levon wanted to ask ARPA to publicize his research efforts in getting DNA samples from people who are formerly of western Armenian origin, especially from the area of Cilicia and Kharpert, etc. This is a joint Population Genetics project with UCLA and the plan is to get samples from numerous people from the former Armenian highlands and determine their genetic “haplogroups” to compare with eastern Armenians.

3. Meeting with Serop Khachatryan: Serop is a philosophy expert/teacher at the YSU and mainly teaches philosophy of history. He was very interested in the ARPA Institute presentations and especially in what ARPA presents to the public in the form of lectures or panel discussions. He was highly interested in Seta Dadoyan’s new book and wanted to see how he can get a copy.

October 14, 2016

1. Training School Teachers on How to Organize Science Fairs: The Union of School Clusters (USC) in Armenia invited teachers and principals from forty of the “best” schools in Armenia for them to learn how to organize science fairs. The training was held in school no. 129 on Dikran Medz Ave. I made an introduction about school science fair objectives, benefits and importance for the future generations of Armenia after Ms. Ruzanna Muradyan, the Director of USC, made some introductory remarks. There were a few questions and a lot of praise and enthusiasm, especially from the principals. Then, a full seminar was presented to the teachers, discussing the various steps to plan, organize, start, and implement a successful science fair. Moreover, they were taught how to select and guide judges in preparing them to serve as



Training teachers and Principals how to organize school science fairs in Yerevan by Hagop Panossian

judges of each student project. Especially stressed was how to guide the students in their selection of a topic, planning, organizing, experimenting, researching the topic, collecting data and presenting their projects and findings. Following the seminar they were divided into 8 groups and given instructions on how to design and fold a paper airplane and how to make a science project out of it. Each group had an objective, such as designing for the longest flight time, the longest distance travelled or the fastest moving airplane. They then experimented, collected data and followed the scientific method (the main objective of a science project). This will give them an idea of what a project should entail. They had quite a few questions and I tried to respond to all of them. The teachers seemed to be ready to start their own school science fairs.

2. Meeting with Archbishop Bagrat Galstyan, the Primate of Davoush: Discussed were the needs of the Davoush region of Armenia, especially the border villages and towns. He suggested to help create businesses/jobs in the region to keep people from emigrating. He also suggested adopting special programs to help kids get better education. He was very supportive of science fairs in his region and wanted me to meet with the region's educational committee chairman.

3. Meeting with Minister of Education and Science of Armenia: A meeting was held at the Ministry of Education and Science and present were Honorable Levon Mkrtychyan, Minister, Karen Mnatsakanyan, Deputy Minister, Hrachoohi Boghosian and myself. At first we met with Mr. Mnatsakanyan and presented to him the ARPA activities and the new initiatives of science fairs at schools in Armenia and of providing funding to deserving individuals who present a good, well-thought-out business plan. He was highly impressed with ARPA activities and

stated that ARPA is the unique organization that works to advance science and technology in Armenia. Then the Minister arrived and we presented the ARPA activities in Armenia and introduced the new science fair initiative, as well as the financing program. He liked the science fair project and the Invention Competition so much that he requested separate proposals for each one of them and promised to fully support and adopt the first for all schools in Armenia and to publicize the latter all over Armenia. He also praised our efforts in the ARPA programs of Distance Learning, cooperation with the Institute of Molecular Biology, the Polytechnic and the Yerevan State University. In addition, we told him about the new idea of forming a consortium on "Nano-Technology" that encompasses different organizations and universities (which work in related areas). He suggested writing a separate proposal for the latter project as well. He was so impressed with the work that ARPA does in Armenia that he proposed to sign an agreement with the Ministry in order to formalize relations and work more closely with ARPA.

October 15, 2016

1. Meeting at the "Masis" Center: A meeting was held at the Masis center for repository of genocide related archives on 20 Baghramyan Ave. in Yerevan. This center is created by a group of concerned researchers to save all data related to the Armenian Genocide. Discussed were their activities in collecting over 600,000 archival materials from numerous countries, libraries and individuals, and their methods of digitizing and storing them, and for making them available to researchers in the field. Present were Meroujan Karapetyan, Hovik Gisoghyan, Raymond Gevorkian and Hrair Minassian.

October 17, 2016

1. Meeting with David Babikyan: David is the main DNA researcher who works with Tamara Sargsyan in Yerevan; he wanted to discuss the new initiative proposed by Mkhitar Moradian on DNA breast cancer research. He indicated that the results of the recent tests of 20 DNA samples show positive mutations in the 7 samples, which apparently is a good indication. They will complete the 50 samples and then determine if there is ground for a simple test to identify cancerous activity in Armenian women. The center that is owned by Tamara now serves as a liaison for the Medical University of Armenia, and through that channel Tamara and David have been able to get funding. They have acquired a next-generation sequencer.

2. Meeting with Ashot Manucharyan, Raymond Gevorkian, Meroujan Karapetyan, Hovik Soghikyan and Gregory Areshian: Manucharyan has an idea to form a "global Armenian nation" in order to work effectively and save Armenia from a major catastrophe. His vision is to create a "complete nation" consisting of all diaspora



Honorable Levon Mkrtychyan, Minister of Education; Karen Mnatsakanyan, Deputy Minister; and ARPA board members Hrachoohi Boghosian and Hagop Panossian

Armenians, Armenia and Artsakh. Different ideas expressed by Areshian, Gevorkian and Karapetyan tried to explain how a “utopian” concept can sometimes materialize into reality. I suggested to start with the scientific community in Armenia, collect names of “real” scientists and cosigners of this concept to form clusters, which could eventually lead to a meeting to discuss ways and means of implementing it. As with any project, a well-thought-out plan and proposal are needed; so, this should be their priority before presenting the idea to people.

October 18, 2016

1. Meeting with Head of Science Committee in Armenia: The meeting was centered around ARPA activities and proposed projects. Present were Dr. Samvel Harutunyan, Head of the Committee on Science, Vardan Sahakyan, Deputy Head, Karen Karapetyan and Mikael Abovyan, representatives of Technology Transfer Association. They were presented with the ARPA activities in Armenia and the new initiatives, which they were very supportive of. They were also proposed to form a consortium-like entity on nano-technology research in Armenia, which would encompass all research centers, institutes, and universities that conduct any form of nanotechnology-related activities. A working relationship was proposed to be formulated so that cooperation between the sites can be more productive. Moreover, they were asked to assess the capabilities and scientific activities related to the subject and present an outline of potential scientific directions in which some application-oriented projects can be developed. Also, they were asked to formulate a strategic plan, whereby a clear vision is composed to concentrate efforts on specific directions in the technology.

2. Visit to the Mkhitar Sepasdatsy School in Malatia-Yerevan: The school principal, Ashot Bellman, and his deputy were met and they were introduced with the concept of school science fairs. They liked the concept and wanted some information on it. They were provided the necessary information as requested.

October 19, 2016

1. Visit to the Parliament of Armenia: I met with Parliament Deputy Ms. Ruzanna Muradyan in her office in the Parliament of Armenia and discussed her proposed cooperation with their organization, the Union of School Center regarding development of educational programs for teachers. She took me to the office of the Co-Chair of the Parliament, Ms. Hermineh Naghdalyan, where Ms. Garine Poghosyan, the co-Chair of the Education Committee of the Parliament was also present. I presented to them the new initiative of the science fairs in Armenia, as well as other ARPA activities and they were both very impressed and promised to support our activities in Armenia.



Ms. Garine Poghosyan, co-Chair of the Education Committee of the Parliament; Hon. Hermineh Naghdalyan, co-Chair of the Parliament; Ms. Ruzanna Muradyan, Parliament Deputy; and Dr. Hagop Panossian, ARPA President

2. Interview with H1 TV of Armenia: A TV program called “Chagerdner” invited me for an interview. Mr. Vatche Pakhdanyan was the interviewer and his questions were mainly personal; however, I tried to always introduce something about ARPA activities in my responses. The interview lasted around half an hour and will be aired in early November 2016.

3. Meeting with Armen Martirosyan: Armen was introduced to me by one of our Armenia representatives, Madlene Minassian, during TedX Yerevan at the Tumo Center. He is a medical doctor working in genetics, archeology and diagnostics in Yerevan. His enthusiasm about ARPA activities was amazingly positive and he wanted to join our team and try to help advance science and technology in Armenia. He fully endorsed our initiatives and would like to work with us. Since Maro Aghazarian, our Executive Director in Armenia, has two jobs and cannot serve as efficiently, I think we should have Armen serve as the Co-Executive Director with Maro.

October 20, 2016

1. Meeting with Director of Development Fund (DFA) for Armenia: Garen Mkrtsian serves as Director of DFA, which is funded through the World Bank and the GoA to try to help advance business development in Armenia. He was presented with the new ARPA initiative about providing funds for small businesses for individuals who present solid business plans to ARPA. The plan is to provide funds with no interest and ask for repayment once the business becomes profitable. His response was that if there is no proper monitoring and guidance it may not work. Moreover, he suggested joining other organizations with similar interests and maximizing the potential for success.

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