

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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Armenian Studies Program

Vaporciyan Trust includes support for the Armenian Studies Program

A trust established by Mr. Kirakos (Greg) Vaporciyan with the Armenian Missionary Association of America will provide support annually to the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan and the Cultural Society of Armenians from Istanbul. As expressed by his brother Mr. Harutun Vaporciyan, “Greg was a humble person, hardworking and generous. Helping Armenians and Armenia was very important to him. Soon after the devastating earthquake, Greg had established a trust with the Armenian Missionary Association of America, to be activated after his death, for the purpose of perpetually helping Armenian institutions here and abroad.” A strong supporter of ASP and often present at our public lectures, Greg Vaporciyan passed away February 5, 2011, at the age of 86.

Yarmains Renew their Commitment to Armenian Studies

Richard and Kathryn Yarmain, long time supporters of Armenian studies at U-M, have renewed their commitment to the program on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the first Armenian Studies Chair. The Yarmains have already established an endowment to support research and projects by graduate students in the field, an endowment which has benefitted our increasing number of graduate students for a number of years. The new gift of \$50,000 will be used to support program activities as well.



Armenian Studies Program

Director's Letter



ASP Public Lecture - Prof. Gerard Libaridian

It is with great pride that the University of Michigan and its Armenian studies community celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment on this campus of the first endowed chair in that field, the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History, based in the Department of History. The Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, was officially

launched in 1981, although a number of courses had been taught here since 1974. Finally, this year marks also the near 25th anniversary of the second endowed chair in Armenian studies (1987), the Marie Manoogian Chair in Armenian Language and Literature, now housed in the Department of Near Eastern Studies.

The establishment of these two mutually reinforcing foundational professorships and of a growing series of extracurricular programs made possible the emergence of a most dynamic center in the field of Armenian studies.

These multiple and happy occasions were marked by a number of activities throughout the semester summarized throughout this issue of the newsletter.

This is an important milestone for our program and for the university, a milestone that was marked by the participation of university officials, a large number of faculty and students as well as Mr. Richard Manoogian,

The University of Michigan Celebrates Thirty Years of Armenian Studies on Campus

Khachig Tololyan, Ingrid Peterson, Nora Nercessian, and Gerard Libaridian contributed to this article

From October 13 to 16, 2011, the University of Michigan and the larger community celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History and of the Armenian Studies Program itself. The events, which took place over a four-day period, included a reception and dinner, a special exhibit at the Hatcher Graduate Library, a presentation of Armenian films and a lecture on the subject, and a symposium. The second meeting of the three-year-old project “Report on the State of Armenian Studies” was also held in conjunction with these activities.

Reception

The reception was held on October 13, 2011, in the foyer of the University of Michigan’s Museum of Art. Attending the reception were university administrators, faculty, students and staff; members of the community; and major program donors Richard and Kathryn Yarmain, Alice Haidostian and Cynthia Wilbanks, Ara and Shirley Paul, Martin and Diana Shushanian, Peter Sarkesian and Harry Keoleyan, representing the Robert Ajemian Foundation; and, Harutun and Nadia Vaporciyans. Mr. Arsen Sanjian could not be present as he was not in town. The group of supporters was headed by Mr. Richard Manoogian, President of MASCO Corporation, and Mr. Eugene Gargaro, the Chairman of the Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation. Participating in the event was also a long-time supporter of



Alex (1901-1996) and Marie (1903-1993) Manoogian

the program and a close associate of Mr. Alex Manoogian and Mr. Richard Manoogian, Mr. Edmond Azadian.

Professor Ronald Suny, the first chairholder of the Alex Manoogian Chair and currently Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Social and Political History at the university, acted as master of ceremonies. In his opening remarks, Professor Suny recognized a number of individuals who in different capacities, had been instrumental in the establishment of the first in Armenian studies chair at the university. Among those he focused on specially were Mr. Alex Manoogian, Mrs. Alice Haidostian, Mr. Edmond Azadian, and the late Professor of Slavic Studies Benjamin Stolz.

Professor Suny related the difficult circumstances under which the program was set up and the long years of development, including the endowment of the second chair at the university in 1987, the Marie Manoogian Chair in Armenian Language and Literature, and the sustained support from Mrs. Louise Manoogian Simone and Mr. Richard Manoogian.

University Provost Philip Hanlon, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Donald J Lewis Collegiate Professor of Mathematics, offered his supportive remarks in the following words:

“I am pleased and honored to share this occasion with you. I am particularly delighted that Richard is here to represent the Manoogian family and to accept our gratitude for their kind generosity over decades. Armenian studies and the Armenian Studies Program were shaped by the sustained vision of Louise and Richard and their parents.



Provost Philip Hanlon

U-M Celebrates *Continued from page 3*

For thirty years the Armenian Studies Program has attracted key faculty, leaders in their fields, as well as talented research and visiting fellows, especially of the younger generation. The faculty associated with this project has engaged in a thriving research enterprise and added distinction to this university's scholarly programs in undergraduate and graduate education, and in interdisciplinary and extracurricular programming."

After presenting some of the other significant achievements of the program, Provost Hanlon concluded his remarks by congratulating all involved "for reaching this important milestone and thanking all for their support of this excellent program."

Professor Ronald Suny read the congratulatory letter sent on the occasion by the University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman who could not attend the event because of a meeting of the university's Board of Regents. Her letter read:

"It gives me tremendous pleasure to extend my warm congratulations to the Armenian Studies Program on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. For three decades, the program has welcomed visiting scholars and postdoctoral fellows, hosted international conferences and symposia, explored the arts and culture of Armenia and the Armenian diaspora, and supported student travel and research in Armenia. It has served as an important source of scholarship and materials about Armenia worldwide. All of this activity has attracted students from around the globe who are poised to serve as the next generation of scholars on and in Armenia. None of this would have been possible without the vision and generosity of the Manoogian family and other thoughtful donors. Today, we are well positioned to build on a strong foundation of excellence. Thank you all for your valued contributions to Michigan's Armenian Studies Program."



Professor Ronald Suny



Dean Terrence McDonald

Dean Terrence McDonald was next to address the audience of some 70 attendees. Arthur F Thurnau Professor, Professor of History and Dean, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, McDonald first thanked the director of the Armenian Studies Program and current holder of the Alex Manoogian Chair, Professor Gerard Libaridian, and Ms. Ingrid Peterson, administrator of the Armenian Studies Program, for their leadership and organization of the activities related to the occasion.

The administrator most responsible for the recent expansion of the Armenian Studies Program, Dean McDonald stated:

"From almost nowhere, thirty years ago, the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan has reached a point where we can safely say that what is happening here, in terms of projects and activities, is happening nowhere else. The program's international visibility has been increasing steadily. The dreams of the donors, Alex and Marie Manoogian, Louise Manoogian Simone, and so many others, has been accomplished: we are now training the next generation of Armenian studies scholars, and others are looking at us for new approaches and leadership in the field.

Our best friends are those who push us to do better and to do more: I believe we have delivered on our promise over the past three decades and will continue to do so.

I would like to thank the Manoogian family and so many others who have made this possible. It has been a great pleasure being here to share this moment with you. I am confident we will celebrate another milestone in thirty years."

The last speaker was Mr. Richard Manoogian, representing the Manoogian family.

Richard Manoogian's Remarks on the Occasion of the 30th Anniversary of Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan



Mr. Richard Manoogian

Provost Hanlon
Dean McDonald
Members of the Faculty
Ladies and Gentlemen:

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program, I remember well the motivations and values which led my parents to establish a chair at the U-M.

My father had a basic philosophy of bringing out the best of what his heritage could offer and present it to the younger generation and to the world.

He cherished academic scholarship in Armenian studies. He believed there were treasures in our Armenian heritage to be translated and shared with generations to come.

The establishment of the two chairs in Armenian Studies at the U-M was the culmination of a process which had started early on with my father – becoming one of the pioneering forces in the development of Armenian studies in North America.

In the 1950s and 60s, Armenian Studies was in its infancy and mostly depended on a few scholars who had immigrated from the Middle Eastern countries.

My father was very active in promoting Armenian Studies scholarship, providing both leadership and resources to establish chairs or to offer relevant courses at various university campuses on both the East and West Coasts. Importantly, he realized that closer to home here in Michigan, we had a world class center of learning, ideally suited for the development of a viable Armenian Studies Program. Jimmy Derian and Sonia Harlan were already offering Armenian courses on the U-M campus when a young scholar, Professor Ronald Suny assumed his position as the first holder of the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History. That was followed by another eminent scholar, Professor Kevork Bardakjian who became the holder of the Marie Manoogian Chair for Armenian Language and Literature. Thus, the program garnered momentum and the rest is history.

As in everything else they did in their lives, my parents thought of the basics. In endowing the chairs in Armenian studies at his great university, they articulated three principles. First, this academic program would be founded on teaching: history, language and literature.

Second, that extracurricular activities, including lectures, conferences, and other related activities would explore wider issues, be open to the public, and complement the regular classroom curriculum. My parents did not see a conflict between scholarship and community-oriented activities. In fact, Alex Manoogian asked that an Armenian Studies Program be formally established along with the endowment of the first chair. He imagined that the fruits of the research and scholarship related to the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History would



Armenian Studies 30th Anniversary Reception

Mr. Harry Keoleian, Mrs. Peggy Burns, Prof. Robert Thomson, Mr. Richard Manoogian, Mr. Edmond Azadian, Dr. Stephen Rapp, Mrs. Judith Thomson, Dean Terrence McDonald, Dr. Robert Hewsen, Mr. Marc Mamigonian

Richard Manoogian's Remarks

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be shared with the larger community of scholars and interested laymen.

The third basic objective was connected to the relations between the chairs and the Armenian Studies Program here at the U of M and Armenia itself. My parents believed that the teaching and programmatic activities should encourage our students to become better acquainted with Armenia and Armenians, not only from the past, but in the present day as well.

The University of Michigan Armenian Studies Program has achieved a rare feat in producing an integrated program found nowhere else—undergraduate teaching, pre-doctoral and post-doctoral research, and visiting scholar teaching positions, annual thematic workshops for graduate students worldwide, international conferences, and special projects. My parents would be proud and delighted with the results that have been achieved on all these fronts.

In this 30-year-long process we have found the ideal institution through which these goals and programs could be achieved. President Shapiro was one of the believers who supported and encouraged the program. President Mary Sue Coleman and Dean Terrence McDonald have been equally supportive, and they have won our full confidence about the future of the two chairs.

Credit is also due to Professors Ronald Suny, Stephanie Platz, Kevork Bardakjian and Gerard Libaridian, who became the architects of the success story, which has had a meaningful impact on the general scholarship of Armenian Studies around the world.

I know my parents, who cared about every step in the development of the program, are present with us today, watching with shining eyes the celebration of the dream which they ignited so many years ago.

My sister Louise and I appreciate our family's 30-year partnership with the University of Michigan and all of you who have contributed to the success of the program. We eagerly look forward to many more years of productive scholarship and research in Armenian studies.

Thank you!



Professors Gottfried Hagen and Kathryn Babayan, and Dr. Ara Paul

Celebratory Dinner

The private dinner marking the 30th anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program (ASP) was held on October 13, at the Gandy Dancer Restaurant in Ann Arbor, following the reception that evening. It was attended by U-M officials headed by Dean Terrence McDonald, a number of major benefactors headed by Mr. Richard Manoogian representing the Manoogian family, and donors and representatives of foundations that have established endowments or have made munificent contributions to ASP, as well as by members of the ASP Steering and Executive committees.

Professor Kevork Bardakjian, holder of the Marie Manoogian Chair in Armenian Language and Literature, introduced the guests in attendance individually, and briefly highlighted both their warm relationship and their magnanimous contributions to ASP. Bardakjian expressed profound gratitude for their unflagging support, monetary and moral, for the entire ASP family of faculty, students, and administrators.



Prof. Bob Bagramian, Mrs. Alice Haidostian, and Ms. Ingrid Peterson

Continued from previous page

Special Exhibit: "Armenian Studies & the Libraries of the University of Michigan"

One of the highlights of the weekend was the special exhibit that opened to the academic and general community in the afternoon of October 14, 2011. The event, titled "Armenian Studies and the Libraries of the University of Michigan," took place in the Gallery of the Hatcher Graduate Library at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

A short program consisted of comments by Peggy Daub, curator and outreach librarian at the Special Collections Library; Dr. Pablo Alvarez, outreach librarian and curator, Special Collections Library; and Professor Kevork Bardakjian, Marie Manoogian Chair in Armenian Language and Literature.

The exhibit, spanning centuries and continents, was made possible through the collaboration and rich holdings of a number of collections:

- The Hatcher Graduate Library of U-M in Ann Arbor holds well over 20,000 volumes directly related to Armenian studies, a significant number of rare Armenian books, and a large number of periodicals in hard copy and on microfilm
- The Special Collections Library holds four extraordinary Armenian manuscripts ranging from the 12th to the 17th centuries, the archives of the Hnchakian leader Hambartzoom Arzoumanian, (catalogued and currently available online), the poster/calendar/map collection mainly from diasporan communities, with more than 700 items, catalogued and indexed
- The Armenian Research Center (ARC) at the university of Michigan-Dearborn currently holds 21,454 book in English, Armenian, Turkish and other languages, academic journals, periodical and newspapers, hundreds of CDs and



Samples from Armenian Press Collection

videotapes/DVDs, Armenian Genocide oral histories and almost 20,000 newspaper articles clipped and placed in vertical files.



13th century manuscript from Special Collections

In addition to hard copy books, the Armenian Studies Program collection includes the following:

- Videos, film, CDs
- A full set of audio-recordings of speeches, interviews and presentation by the leaders of the Armenian National Democratic Movement, 1988-1991
- A complete set of "Haiastan," the monthly organ of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenian, 1975-1985
- Audio recordings and transcriptions of extensive interviews with leaders of late Soviet and early independence Armenia, an ongoing project
- The Guleserian-Meneshian family archives recently acquired, and not yet catalogued
- Nine volumes of handwritten notebooks of Sarkis Hergelian (b. in Musa Dagh in 1892 and d. in Yerevan in 1980), which include his memoirs, stories, poems of a fighter who partook of the Defense of Musa Dagh in 1915 and later emigrated to Soviet Armenia, yet to be studied.

The exhibit featured a number of ancient manuscripts now in the Special Collections Library at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The oldest item on display was the Edessa Gospels (Mich. MS 141), which, according to the colophon, was produced at the church of the Mother of God in Edessa (Urfa) in 1161 by a priest named Vasil for a certain Kristapor and his wife, Aygots. A second Gospel book exhibited (Mich. MS 142), possibly from Siwnik, dates from ca. 1400. According to the colophon, a lady called

Special Exhibit: “Armenian Studies & the Libraries of the University of Michigan”

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Ulukhatun commissioned the manuscript for the Church of the Forty Holy Martyrs. The exhibit included a number of rare books, such as the 1630 publication *Dichiaratione più copiosa della dottrina christiana* by Roberto Francesco Romolo Bellarmino (1542-1621), (Rome: Nella stampa della Sagra congregazione de propaganda fide), mostly from the ARC collection.

Items on display from the more modern period included an original *Haytararagir Osmanean Kaysrutean enddimadir tarreru kongrein gumarwats Ewropayi mej* (27-29 Dektemberi, 1907): *Kaghwatskner kongrei oroshumneren* [Declaration of the Congress of Ottoman Opposition Groups that met in Europe December 27-29, 1907. Selections from the resolutions of the Congress]. Publisher: “Droshak,” Geneva, 1907; *Haykakan Baregortsakan Endhanur Miutewn, himnuats 1906in, Kedronateghi-Gahire (Egiptos) 2, Sherif poghots, himnakan kanonagir (Barepokhuats)* [Fundamental by-Laws of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (as amended) founded in 1906, headquartered in Cairo, 2 Sherif Street]. Printed in Cairo, AGBU Press, 1913; and, *Hayastani nakhkin Dashnaktsakanneri hamagumar (stenografik ardzanagrutyunner)* [The Congress of the Former Dashnaktsakans of Armenia {Stenographic Report}]. Printed in Erevan, at Tresti Arajin Tparan, 1924.

The remaining items in the exhibit consisted of periodicals, archival material, posters and special projects. As a group, these reflected and referred to the cultural as well as the political life of Armenians and Armenian communities around the world—Venice, Istanbul, Paris, Cairo, Bulgaria, Boston, Athens and the Middle East.

A full listing of the exhibited items and a video tour of the event is available on the ASP website - www.ii.umich.edu/asp.

“Armenian Films and Lecture”

Culminating a semester of presentations of Armenian films, Manoogian Simone Foundation Visiting Scholar and cultural historian Dr. Artsvi Bakhchinyan of Yerevan offered two classic films: “Tjvjik” (Armen Manaryan director, 1961) and “A Piece of the Sky” (Henrik Malyan director, 1980). The presentation of the films in the evening of October 14 was accompanied by a lecture by Dr. Bakhchinyan titled “A View of Armenian Cinema.”



Dr. Artsvi Bakhchinyan

Symposium: “Armenia in World History, the World in Armenian History”

An exceptionally important aspect of the special weekend was the symposium on Armenia in World History/the World in Armenian History, at which four scholars made presentations that excited and involved the large audience.

- Professor Sebouh Aslanian, the newly designated Richard G. Hovannisian Assistant Professor of Modern Armenian History at the University of California at Los Angeles, discussed “World History’s Challenge to Armenian Studies,” in which he pointed out many of the shortcomings of what he regarded as a more parochial approach to Armenian history and suggested that a wider perspective and an approach to Armenian history in the context of world history could enrich both.
- Professor Stephen Rapp, a scholar trained at U-M who is currently a research fellow at the University of Bern in Switzerland, discussed ways of understanding the earlier periods of Armenian history, those that precede the actual emergence and presence of the nation.



Symposium – Professors Maud Mandel and Ronald Suny, and Mr. Michael Pifer



Symposium - Professor Sebouh Aslanian

- Professor Maud Mandel, a historian of Judaic Studies at Brown, also trained at U-M, who has written an important comparative study of the reactions of the Armenian and Jewish communities of France to their respective genocides, discussed the ways in which a comparative historiography of diaspora identity may best be carried out by scholars.
- Michael Pifer, a doctoral student in comparative literature at the University of Michigan, delivered an impressive and indeed moving analysis of the Crane/Groong motif in Armenian literature and in the traditions adjacent to Armenia.

Video of the symposium is currently available on the ASP website – www.ii.umich.edu/asp.

Workshop on “The State of Armenian Studies”

Between Friday, October 14, and Sunday, October 16, a group of scholars assembled in Ann Arbor to discuss the state of Armenian studies. The meeting is the most significant study and analysis of Armenian studies that has been attempted in the nearly fifty years that such programs have existed. The event was led by Dr. Gerard Libaridian who conceived the event and organized by U-M graduate students Mr. Vahe Sahakian and Mrs. Naira Tumanyan. The event took place on the date of the symbolically important 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History and the formalization of the Armenian Studies Program at U-M.

The assembled scholars included twelve from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, including Drs. Katherine Babayan, Libaridian, Bardakjian and Suny, as well as Dr. Ara Sanjian from the Armenian Center of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and his assistant, Gerald Ottenbreit. In addition, there were eleven scholars such as Professors Peter Cowe and Sebouh Aslanian of UCLA, Sergio La Porta and Barlow Der Mugrdechian of Cal State-Fresno, Robert Thomson (emeritus of Harvard and Oxford), Susan Pattie of University College, London, Maud Mandel of Brown University, a specialist in the Jewish and Armenian diasporas, and Marc Mamigonian of NAASR, among others. Last but not least, the scholars assembled were ably assisted by reports sent from Drs. Dickran Kouymjian (retired from Fresno), Hourı Berberian (Cal State, Long Beach), Lucila Tossounian (Buenos Aires) and Nora Nercessian (Harvard, retired).

One aspect of the analysis focused on how the field of Armenian studies has developed outside Armenia. The discussion was informed by the expertise of Professors Bardakjian and Sanjian about the difficult conditions that exist for scholars of Armenian studies in the homeland. The discussion was made more poignant by the presence of young Armenian scholars originating in the homeland, such as Vahe Sahakyan, Levon Petrosian, Arsen Saparov and Artsvi Bakhchinian, who are training for a Ph.D. in Western universities.



Workshop on the State of Armenian Studies

From left side of table: Prof. Sebouh Aslanian, Prof. Peter Cowe, Dr. Stephen Rapp Jr., Mr. Michael Pifer, Mr. Jeremy Johnson, Dr. Susan Pattie (covered), Prof. Ronald Suny, Prof. Khachig Tölölyan, Prof. Kevork Bardakjian, Mr. Marc Mamigonian, Prof. Sergio LaPorta, Prof. Asbed Kotchikian, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Professors Gerard Libaridian and Robert Thomson (covered)

The Third International Graduate Student Workshop “Armenian Subjects in the Medieval and Early Modern Islamic World”

May 10 – May 11, 2011



Introductory comments:

Kevorg Bardakjian and **Kathryn Babayan**

Papers:

Alison Vacca, Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan: “Religious Polemic in the Early ‘Abbāsīd Period: The Correspondence between Leo III and ‘Umar II”

Claudia Matoda, Department Casa-Città, Second Faculty of Architecture, Politecnico di Torino, Italy: “Armeno-Muslim Cultural Encounters at the Castle of Hromklay”

Lilit Harutyunyan, Department of Arab Countries, Institute of Oriental Studies Yerevan, Armenia: “The Creation of Armenian Catholic Monastery in Bzummar/Zmmar/”

Roman Smbatyan, Department of Iranian Studies, Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia: “Nadir Shah’s Religious Policy towards Armenians”

Michael Pifer, Comparative Literature, University of Michigan: “Speaking Strangeness: Exile and the Formation of Early Modern Persian and Armenian Selves”

Sona Tajirian, Department of Arabic Studies, Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia: “The Image of the Armenian Merchants: Safavid Iran, Ottoman Empire, 16th -18th Centuries”

Vahe Sahakyan, Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan, “Meaning of Azg, “Nation?” in Arakel’s Book of History”

Semi Ertan, Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan: “Urbanity and Politics of Coexistence in Eremya Chelebi Komurcuyan (1637-1694)”

Gayane Ayvazyan, Armenian History, Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia: “The Historiographical Heritage of Yeremia Ygomurchian”

2011-2012 Manoogian Simone Foundation and Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation Fellows

ASP welcomes the following scholars to the 2011-2012 program. We are excited to host such talent and be able to contribute to a more diverse academic community with the participation of the 2011-2012 fellows.

Visiting scholar **Artsvi Bakhchinyan** is a researcher at the Institute of History, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia. His research is focused on Armenian history, film, arts, and biographies of famous historical people. He received his Ph.D. in 1996 from the Institute of Literature of the National Academy of Sciences and has published several valuable books on the historical and cultural heritage of Armenians and their relations with other countries, and more than 400 articles and translations in Armenian, Russian, and English about art, literature, and Armenian diaspora. He is a member and vice president of the Armenian branch of FIPRESCI (International Federation of Film Critics) and has been teaching a summer course of Armenian Language and Culture at the University of Venice since 2005. While at U-M, Dr. Bakhchinyan taught a course on the history of Armenian theater and cinema and led discussions in a number of film screenings throughout the semester.

Post-doctoral fellow **Levon Petrosyan** received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Paris and Ph.D. in Theology from St. Sergius Orthodox Theological Institute of Paris in 2008 and 2006 respectively. In 2010, his Ph.D. dissertation titled “Grégoire de Narek. Commentaire sur le Cantique des cantiques” (“Gregory of Narek. Commentary on the Song of Songs”) was published in Rome. His areas of research interest include Armenian literature, history of Armenia and the Armenian Church, and intercultural and interreligious dialog. Dr. Petrosyan will teach a course in winter 2012 on Armenian Christianity.

Post-doctoral fellow **Arsen Saparov’s** research focuses on post Soviet developments, conflictual relations, territorial disputes in the South Caucasus, and problems of secession and autonomy. He received his Ph.D. in International Relations from the London School of Economics in 2007 and subsequently spent two years conducting post-doctoral research at CERCEC (Centre D’études des mondes russe, caucasien et Centre-Europeen).

Saparov published a number of articles in English, French, and Russian academic journals and is currently working

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Postdoctoral fellows, Doctors Levon Petrosyan and Arsen Saparov

on his first book, *Why Autonomy? The Bolsheviks and the Creation of Ethnic Autonomies in the South Caucasus: 1918-1936*.

Pre-doctoral researcher **Turgut Tuncel** will be with us through the 2011-2012 academic year. Mr. Tuncel is from Turkey and is currently writing his doctoral dissertation at the University of Trento, Italy on perceptions of “homeland” among Armenians in Armenia and abroad.

ASP Graduate Students

Richard Antaramian is a Ph.D. candidate in the history department. As a winner of a Fulbright-Hays fellowship, he spent the 2009-2010 year studying in Armenia and working on his dissertation, which focuses on the history of social and political relations in 19th century Ottoman or Western Armenia. He continued his research in London and Istanbul during 2010-2011, and is currently writing his dissertation. Richard is a recipient of an ASP Ajemian Memorial Student Travel Award.

Etienne Charriere is a third-year Comparative Literature Ph.D. student from Geneva, Switzerland. He is currently working on Greek and Armenian prose fiction in the late Ottoman Empire. Etienne’s appreciation for language is evident in his knowledge of Armenian, English, French, German, Greek, Portuguese, and Spanish. Etienne has been designated as a Manoogian Simone Foundation Graduate Student Fellow.

Dzovinar Derderian is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. She will focus on 19th- and early 20th-century Ottoman history and the relations between Kurds and Armenians. She has a bachelor’s degree from Tufts University and a master’s degree in Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies

from Georgetown University. She spent the summer in the Turkish Language and Culture program at Bogazici University in Istanbul to advance her Turkish language skills, for which she received funding from the American Research Institute of Turkey. Dzovinar has been designated as a Manoogian Simone Foundation Graduate Student Fellow.

Semi Ertan is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. Semi was selected as one of the 2009 Turkish Cultural Fellows for his paper, “Urban Cosmopolitan Coexistence in 17th Century Istanbul/Constantinople through the Intellectual Life of Eremya Chelebi Komurcuyan.” He is the recipient of an ASP/Ajemian Memorial Student Travel Award.

Jeremy Johnson undertook dissertation research for the 2010-2011 academic year in the archives of the Transcaucasian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic in Tbilisi. In the spring of 2010 he completed preliminary examinations for the interdepartmental program in anthropology and history. Jeremy has been designated as a Manoogian Simone Foundation Graduate Student Fellow, and he is the recipient of an ASP/Arsen K. Sanjian Fellowship.

Michael Pifer is beginning his fourth-year of doctoral studies in the Department of Comparative Literature. He passed his preliminary exams and finished his coursework during the 2010-2011 academic year. His research focuses on medieval Armenian and Persian poetics. He is the recipient of an ASP Ajemian Memorial Student Travel Award.

Vahe Sahakyan is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Near Eastern Studies and a Manoogian Simone Foundation Graduate Student Fellow specializing on problems of national identity. His research focuses on the transmission of Armenian identity in the Armenian diaspora. He passed his preliminary exams this fall. He is the recipient of an ASP Arsen K. Sanjian Fellowship.

Naira Tumanyan is a second-year M.A. student in Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies at U-M. Her academic interests include social and political developments in the South Caucasus with a particular focus on comparative studies of democracy and political legitimacy issues in the region. She has been a recipient of a two-year Manoogian Simone Fellowship and an ASP Ajemian Memorial Student Travel Award.

Allison Vacca is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. She passed her preliminary exams in the fall and advanced to candidacy. She focuses on the Arab period in Armenian history in both literature and art. She is the recipient of an ASP Agnes H. and R. A. Yarmain Summer Research Fellowship.

2010-2011 Calendar of Events

Fall Semester 2010

- Sept. 27** Public Lecture, “Deep Mountain: Why Don’t Turks Feel Anything?” **Ece Temelkuran**, Turkish journalist and Author
- Oct. 11** Public Lecture, “Arshile Gorky: Identity, Genocide, and the Making of Modern Armenia,” **Kim Theriault**, Assistant Professor of Art History, Theory, and Criticism, Dominican University
- Nov. 1** Public Lecture, “A Mixed-Methods Study of Technology Adoption in the Republic of Armenia: Why Mobile Phones but Not Personal Computers and Internet?” **Katy Pearce**, doctoral candidate in communication, University of California, Santa Barbara
- Nov. 15** Public Lecture, “Cultivating Nationhood in Imperial Russia: The Periodical Press and the Formation of a Modern Armenian Identity,” **Lisa Khachaturian**, Author
- Dec. 6** Public Lecture, “And Then A Hero Comes Along: Istanbulite Armenian Re-fashioning Turkishness, 1918-1923,” **Lerna Ekmekcioglu**, Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow



ASP public lecture, Dr. Lerna Ekmekcioglu

Winter Semester 2011

- Jan. 10** Public Lecture, “The Caucasus: Old Conflict and New Geopolitical Design,” **Sergey Markedonov**, Visiting Fellow at Center for Strategic and International Studies (Russia and Eurasia Program) Washington, DC
- Jan. 24** Public Lecture, “German Penetration into the Ottoman Empire through Baghdad Railway,” **Eyyep Murat Ozyuksel**, Manoogian Simone Foundation Visiting Scholar
- Feb. 7** Public Lecture, “Revolutionaries after the Revolution: Politics under the Ottoman Constitution,” **Dikran Kaligian**, historian and managing editor of *Armenian Review*
- Mar. 14** Public Lecture, “History, Novel, Historical Novel; The Contemporary Historical Novel in Armenia,” **Vahram Danielyan**, Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow
- Mar. 21** Dr. Berj H. Haidostian Annual Distinguished Lecture, “Looking Beyond the ‘Reset’: U.S.- Russian Relations and Their Implications for the Caucasus,” **Fiona Hill**, Senior Fellow & Director, Center on the US & Europe, The Brookings Institution. Co-sponsor: Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
- April 11** Annual Holocaust and Armenian Genocide Commemoration
- May 9-11** Third Annual International Graduate Student Workshop “Armenian Subjects in the Medieval and Early Modern Islamic World oration”
- May 13-15** International Conference, “Imperial Nation: Tsarist Russia and the Peoples of Empire.” Co-sponsor: ASP



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR

Armenian Studies Program

Public Lecture

Co-sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies

“Deep Mountain: Why Don’t Turks Feel Anything?”

In her recent book, *Deep Mountain: Across the Turkish-Armenian Divide*, Ece Temelkuran explores the history and discussions surrounding the Armenian Genocide in Armenia, Turkey, France, and the United States.

“Ece Temelkuran is brilliant and beautiful – but, above all, brave. You have to be brave if you’re a Turkish journalist covering Armenia, with genocide, cynicism, and truth shredded over 95 years. Temelkuran writes about Yerevan and Ankara and mutual incomprehension, but she could be writing about Cyprus, Kashmir, Korea, Israel, anywhere that is locked in a timeswap of malign remembrance.”

Peter Preston, *The Guardian*

ECE TEMELKURAN
JOURNALIST & AUTHOR

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2010
4:00 PM
INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE 1400
1000 South University
Ann Arbor, MI
48106-1106



Senior political columnist for Turkey’s leading quality daily, *Dishmetek*, and contributor to *Le Monde Diplomatique*, Temelkuran writes about Kurdish issues, political Islam, political prisoners, and Armenian issues. She graduated in 1995 from the University of Ankara in the Faculty of Law and started her career as a reporter on *Canalyst* in 1993.

Temelkuran has published widely and won numerous awards for her work, including the Pen for Peace Award, and Turkish Journalist of the Year. In spring 2008, she was awarded the President of Thought prize by the Human Rights Association of Istanbul for her courageous articles and essays.

Armenian Studies Program | 10813, University, Suite 3031 | Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1106 | 734-763-0622 | www.a.spschick.org

2011-2012 Calendar of Events

Fall Semester 2011

- Sept. 13** Film, "Pepo" (Hamo Beknazaryan, director; 1936)
- Sept. 20** Film, "The Color of the Pomegranate" (Sergey Parajanov, director; 1968)
- Oct. 11** Film, The Seasons of the Year" (Artavazd Peleshyan, director; 1975)
- Oct. 14** Exhibit, Special Collections, "Armenian Studies & the Libraries of the University of Michigan," Hatcher Graduate Library Gallery (Room 100), 913 S. University Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109; 2:30-4:30 pm
- Oct. 14** Short film, "Tjvjik" (Arman Manaryan, director; 1961); lecture by Manoogian Simone Foundation Visiting Professor **Artsvi Bakhchinyan**, "A View of Armenian Cinema;" film, "A Piece of Sky" (Henrik Malyan, director; 1980), University of Michigan Museum of Art, Auditorium, 525 South State Street Ann Arbor 48109, 5:30 -8 pm
- Oct. 15** Symposium, "Armenia in World History, the World in Armenian History," 1636 International Institute/SSWB, 1080 S. University; 2-4:30 pm
Sebouh Aslanian. "From 'Autonomous' to 'Interactive' Histories: World History's challenge to Armenian Studies"
Dr. Stephen H. Rapp Jr. "Shedding the Civilizational Straitjacket: Critical Metageographies, Synergetic Historiographies, and Expanded Armenian Vistas in the Pre- National Age"
Maud S. Mandel. "Diaspora Identity in a Global World: Re-thinking Armenian and Jewish History in the 19th and 20th Centuries"
Michael Pifer. "Whence Flies the Crane: Envisioning Armenia Through a Global Optic"
- Oct. 25** "The British Imperial Ethos: Britain & Transcaucasia, 1917-1920," Professor **Artin Arslanian**, Marist College, Poughkeepsie New York
- Nov. 3** Presentation of book and Archives Workshop for Armenian/Turkish Scholarship (WATS), Bentley Library, University of Michigan, 1150 Beal Avenue Ann Arbor, MI 48109; 4-6 pm
- Nov. 8** Public Lecture, "From Historian to Accidental Diplomat: The Writing of History Before & After Participating in its Making," Professor **Gerard Libaridian**, U-M



Dr. Liza Khachaturian

- Nov. 22** Public Lecture, "How to Petition for Poetic Grace?: Kostandin Erznkac'i's 'strange' vision-poem," Professor **Kevork Bardakjian**, U-M
- Dec. 6** Public Lecture, "The New Turkey and the Issue of Genocide: Armenians in a Progressive Imagination," **Ron Suny**, Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Social and Political History

Winter Semester 2012

- Jan. 11** CREES Noon Lecture, "Arbitrary Borders? The Logic of Bolshevik Boundary-Making in the South Caucasus, 1921-25," **Dr. Arsen Saparov**, Manoogian Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow, U-M, Noon
- Jan. 31** Public Lecture, "Azerbaijan: 20 Years of Independence" **Dr. Hikmet Hadji-Zadeh**, Reagan Fascell Democracy fellow, former vice-premier of Azerbaijan, founder of FAR Center for Economic and Political Research
- Feb. 14** Public Lecture, "Gregory of Narek and the Narekian Fathers: The Mystery of Love from the Commentary of Song of Songs to the Book of Lamentation," **Levon Petrosyan**, Manoogian Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow, U-M
- Mar. 13** Film screening, "Charents: In Search Of My Armenian Poet," (Shareen Anderson, director; 2009); and lecture, "Charents and Revolution," Professor **Azat Yeghiazaryan** (Yerevan)
- Mar. 19** Dr. Berj H. Haidostian Annual Distinguished Lecture, "Ararat-Ten Years After," **Atom Egoyan**, writer, international filmmaker, director. Place TBD, 7 pm
- Mar. 27** Public Lecture. "Why Autonomy? The Making of Nagorno-Karabakh, 1918-1925," **Dr. Arsen Saparov**, Manoogian Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow, U-M

All events will be held at the International Institute in room 1636 from 4-5:30 pm and are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

2010-2011 Manoogian Simone Foundation Fellows Speak

Vahram Danielyan, Post-doctoral fellow

Why did you accept the position at U-M/ASP?

I had participated at the workshop organized by U-M/ASP, and when I knew about the post-doctoral position, I found that it would be great chance to improve my skills as a scholar in the academic environment of U-M/ASP.

What did you expect and what did you find?

I expected to learn new methods of the teaching process and to adopt a new culture of scholarly debates and actually I got them.

What did you accomplish during your tenure here?

I prepared and presented a public lecture on the contemporary historical novel in Armenia, I continued to work on my scholarly research about the contemporary novel in Armenia, and now it is ready to be published as a book in English.

How did your tenure as a post-doctoral fellow help you prepare as a teacher and scholar?

The teaching process and scholarly environment at U-M was an incredible experience for me. It helped me to believe in myself and assured me that what I am doing is very important not only for Armenians, but also for everyone who has interests in literature. My experience is as important for them as theirs is for me.

What recommendations do you have to the program?

I would like to see more scholars from Armenia have the opportunity to be at U-M, which would be a great stimulus for their development as scholars.



Professor Murat Özyüksel

Murat Özyüksel, Visiting fellow

Why did you accept the position at U-M/ASP?

I thought working with ASP would be a very enriching process about Armenian History and also Ottoman History.

What did you expect and what did you find?

I expected a friendly academic atmosphere, and I found it.

What did you accomplish during your tenure here?

I was very satisfied with my course and with my students, and I learned a lot of things from the ASP conferences and public lectures.

How did your tenure as a post-doctoral fellow help you prepare as a teacher and scholar?

Although I am already an old academic I gained a lot of experiences.

What recommendations do you have to the program?

To find new ways to publicize ASP events, if possible.

Halil Ozsavli, Pre-doctoral fellow

Mr. Ozsavli, MA student from Harran University in Turkey, was pre-doctoral fellow, Armenian Studies Program, during the Fall 2010 semester. ASP faculty and graduate students assisted him in his research on relations between Armenians and Turks in the city of Urfa, 1900-1921.

Leo Sarkisian

Mr. Leo Sarkisian, an ethnomusicologist, known as “The Music Man” met with ASP fellows on the occasion of his visit to the U-M.

Mr. Sarkisian broadcast for Voice of America in Africa for over four decades. He donated his collections and papers to the African Studies Center at U-M.



Dr. Vahram Danielyan, Mrs. Naira Tumanyan, Mr. Leo Sarkisian, Mr. Halil Ozsavli

Ben Stolz: A Memory

Delivered at the Michigan League on October 16, 2010, by Professor Ronald Suny at the memorial for the late professor and staunch supporter of Armenian studies chairs and of the program, Benjamin A. Stolz.

I met Ben Stolz over the telephone. I was teaching at Oberlin College when I received an unexpected call from someone I didn't know from the University of Michigan. Ben asked me if I would be interested in teaching a one-semester course in Armenian history. I was intrigued by the idea, and also by the challenge, as I had never taught Armenian history before, was not specifically trained in that field, was dubious about my Armenian, a language that I had worked hard to acquire but which consistently defeated all my efforts. Ben invited me to come to Ann Arbor, meet with him, which I did, and then drove me to Taylor, Michigan, to meet Alex Manoogian and the man I have always thought of as his Minister of Culture, Edmond Azadian. As we drove Ben filled me in on his rather ambitious plans: to have Armenian history added to the curriculum, which already had a course or two in Armenian language, and eventually to have a chair in Armenian studies funded or endowed by Mr. Manoogian.

It seemed a pipe dream, and it would have remained one except for four extraordinary and dedicated people who were determined to make it happen: the benefactor himself, Mr. Manoogian; his chief adviser and – one should add “encourager,” Mr. Azadian; the indefatigable heroine of the story, Alice Haidostian; and the indispensable Ben Stolz, who never got discouraged, who was always ready with a new idea, determined to make this happen, even as it went on for several years.

When I arrived at Michigan for that first year, some thirty-three years ago, Ben was my host, my guide, my mentor, and my faithful friend. He understood the ins-and-outs of this complex university; he knew how to make things work; he always treated me, then a very young and quite untested scholar, with great respect and told me on several occasions that he was convinced that I was the right person for the chair and that great things were going to happen with Armenian studies at Michigan.

And they did! I arrived in 1981, and a few years later, again thanks to Ben's extraordinary foresight, imagination, and determination, a second chair was established, the Mary Manoogian Professorship in Armenian Language and Literature, which has been held ever since by my colleague, Kevork Bardakjian. Ben was responsible for establishing two chairs at Michigan. This was a pioneering effort; Michigan had few outside endowed chairs at the time.

He enriched his department, the university, the Armenian community of Michigan, and changed the lives of several young (well, we were younger then) Armenian scholars.

Officially, I have been asked by the Director of the Armenian Studies Program, Jirair Libaridian, the current holder of the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History, to convey the deep feelings of our program and the Armenian community to Ben's passing.

But my feelings are much more personal, my memories are of a man best described by the Armenian word AZNIV, noble, a man of unblemished integrity, of sober good humor, who was able to work selflessly for others. I was one of the beneficiaries of that selflessness. I would not be at Michigan today, I would not be the person or scholar that I am, if it had not been for Ben Stolz. Few people pass through this life and have that kind of effect on people, programs, and institutions.

I also played tennis with Ben, enjoyed going to his and Mona's beautiful house on Baldwin, and walking and talking with him when we met on campus. I always found him ready to take a minute for a chat, generous with his time and good advice.

Armena, my wife, and I were reminiscing about Ben the other day, and she told me a story that Ben had told her. The Stolzs had a dog that Ben took for walks in the Arb. The dog always stayed right with Ben during these walks. One day when the dog was quite old – at least this is the way Armena remembers Ben telling the story – the dog looked at Ben and then walked off into the woods and did not return.

The last time I saw Ben, I asked him how he was, and he told me, straight out without any strong emotion, that he was in the early stages of Alzheimer's. I was stunned, of course, to see this wonderful man about to embark on a dark journey. The picture I had was of acceptance and courage. I didn't see Ben after that. The Stolzs had moved from the neighborhood. He too walked off and did not return. But what he left behind is an integral part of my and Armena's lives. His monuments may be many, in his family, in his department, and his university, but there is yet one more monument that he leaves behind, Armenian Studies at Michigan, a monument much treasured by a displaced, sometimes abandoned people who have found a home in Michigan. Thanks, Ben, for what you have done for us.

Ronald Grigor Suny

The Workshop for Armenian/Turkish Scholarship (WATS)

The Workshop for Armenian/Turkish Scholarship (WATS) has been an ongoing effort of a number of Armenian, Turkish, and other scholars to investigate the causes, circumstances, and consequences of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, transcending the politics of recognition and denial. Initiated by a group of faculty and graduate students at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, the organizing committee consisted of Professors Muge Gocek (Sociology), Gerard Libaridian and Ronald Suny (History).

Over the last decade under the umbrella of WATS, a group of scholars has met to discuss, present papers, and establish a shared historical record and rough consensus on interpretation of the tragedies of the last years of the Ottoman Empire. U-M was host to the second meeting of WATS in 2002. (The first meeting was held at the University of Chicago.) A selection of papers from the first seven workshops was published recently by Oxford University Press with the title *A Question of Genocide*.

Continuing the series of workshops begun in 2000 the eighth meeting of WATS was convened by the International Institute of Social History and the Center for Genocide Studies, Amsterdam. "The Peoples of Empire: The Millet System and the Last Years of the Ottoman Empire (19th and 20th Centuries)" was the theme for the most recent conference. The workshop took place October 27-29, 2011, at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam.

The Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan co-sponsored WATS VIII in recognition of the contributions of Armenian studies faculty who have been instrumental in the genesis and continuation of the project. In addition to those mentioned above, this also includes the work of Professor Kevork Bardakjian. After more than a decade of leadership in this project, Professors Gocek, Libaridian and Suny have decided to transfer the project to a new team of scholars that was formed in October 2011.

WATS Archives

With the transfer of the leadership of WATS to a new team, the organizing committee, which includes Professors Muge Gocek, Gerard Libaridian, and Ronald Suny of U-M donated their archives on the genesis and first decade of the workshop to the University of Michigan Bentley Library. The donation was made with the support of the Armenian



Dr. Nora Nercessian, Professors Francis Blouin, Muge Gocek and Ronald Suny

Studies Program. Dr. Nora Nercessian was invited to organize, index and catalog the existing documents, and collect additional material on the genesis of the project.

Professor Francis Blouin, director of the Bentley Library, accepted the offer to house the WATS archives on behalf of the Bentley Library with much enthusiasm and appreciation. A special event presenting the volume and the archives took place at the Bentley Library on November 3, 2011.

The index of documents will be available on the Bentley Library's website, allowing researchers to study them in the near future.

Addition to the ASP Archival collection: *Guleserian-Meneshian Archive*

The Armenian Studies program was delighted to receive a rich archival collection from Mrs. Shirley Collins of Auberry, California. The "Guleserian-Meneshian Family Archives," not yet catalogued, includes hundreds of letters dating back to the 1920s through the 1980s written from different parts of the world to the grandmother, mother, and family of Mrs. Collins, the Guleserians and Meneshians, of Aintab. The letters are often written in Turkish and using Armenian characters. Along with photos, post cards, books, and other materials, the collection constitutes rich material for the study of the social history of the diaspora.

Did Obama “Reset” the US-Russia Diplomatic Agenda?

The Armenian Studies Program and the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies hosted Dr. Fiona Hill of the Brookings Institution to deliver the 2011 Dr. Berj. H. Haidostian Annual Distinguished Lecture, Looking Beyond the “Reset”: U.S.-Russian Relations and Their Implications for the Caucasus.

Dr. Hill’s point of departure was the Obama administration’s effort to reframe or “reset” relations with Russia. Hill’s analysis granted a global perspective by laying out several current issues: trends within Russia’s domestic policies, China’s increasing strength, and the unraveling regimes in the Middle East, among others. Further, the analysis included the Russian perception that the U.S. has a more amicable foreign policy because of the turbulence and instability in various regions of the world but that once these issues are resolved the U.S. tendency would be to return to a more antagonistic approach. With regard to the South Caucasus region and Armenia, Dr. Hill argued that it is no longer possible to argue that the U.S. had a policy in the region. There is no imminent issue, such as the oil pipeline was in the 1990s, that compels Washington to focus on the region, she argued, and experts on the region within the government have been moved to work on other issues and more imminent crises.

Video of the lecture is available on the ASP website – www.ii.umich.edu/asp.



Left to right: Cynthia (Haidostian) Wilbanks, Gerard Libaridian, Dikran Haidostian, Alice Haidostian, Fiona Hill



Third Annual Grad Student Workshop Reception

2011–2012 Courses in Armenian Studies

2011–2012 Courses: ASP Faculty

- | | |
|---|---|
| Kathryn Babayan | On leave |
| Kevork Bardakjian | - Western Armenian, I - Western Armenian, II - Armenia: Culture and Ethnicity Issues in Race & Ethnicity - An Introduction to Modern Armenian Literature |
| Gerard Libaridian | - Topics in History: Conflict and Diplomacy in the Caucasus - National Identity and National Institutions: Continuity and Change Through Two Millennia of Armenian History |
| Ronald G. Suny | - Survey of Russia: The Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and the Successor States - Russia’s Empires: From Ivan the Terrible to Putin |
| 2011–2012 Courses: Visiting Scholars & Post-docs | |
| Artsvi Bakhchinyan | - Topics in History: The History of Armenian Performing Arts: Theater, Choreography, and Cinema |
| Levon Petrosyan | - An Introduction to Armenian Christianity |
| Arsen Saparov | - The Caucasus Between Empires, 19th and early 20th Centuries: Understanding the Origins of Modern Conflicts |

Workshop on “The State of Armenian Studies” *Continued from page 9*



Yerevan

The participants in the workshop were aware of the results of an earlier, less ambitious workshop held in 2008 at the University of Michigan, and this was augmented by a great deal of information contributed from the above-named scholars, aggregated and made accessible by the work of Dr. Asbed Kotchikian of Bentley College.

Throughout the three days, the participants were deeply involved in detailed discussion of what the achievements and shortcomings of Armenian studies have been, of the present state of the field, and of progress that can be made when major gaps have been closed, better communication and cooperation established, and clearer goals formulated. Discussion was supplemented at all times by the data already gathered and displayed and by the deep knowledge and experience of the field that senior participants, in particular, displayed.

One of the major topics of the discussion was based on the result of surveys, questionnaires, and reports sent in by Armenian scholars, who identified what they believe to be the shortcomings of Armenian studies. One of the most inspiring aspects of the conference was the energetic and well-informed nature of the discussion in which scholars happily agreed and soberly disagreed. No topic was considered taboo. Even difficult topics including what some scholars call Armenian Studies and others call Armenology was discussed at length. The differing labels represent different levels of inclusion and exclusion for certain topics and methods, as well as different notions of what the core of the discipline is, or should be. Different models of organizing the field were also discussed, juxtaposing the advantages of organizing around one core or center and polycentric approaches.

The frank and energetic discussion revealed complete agreement about the importance of some issues and

disagreement about others. This was especially true concerning what kinds of skills and expertise new scholars must be taught to acquire and prioritize, what topics of research attract or should attract the most funds and consequently the largest amount of personnel, and what priorities research centers and chairs of different size and financed by very different levels of funds should have. The degree of communication and coordination that can exist between these centers of research (and with Armenia's research institutes) was another focus of discussion and analysis.

This multifaceted conference was a success in all aspects, but at its core was the work completed on the analysis of Armenian studies. There are plans to publish a full report on the documentation and debates of the conference and for additional follow up work to be carried out. As all participants recognized, the work is not finished and, it is hoped, never will be. Armenian studies is here to stay in American and European universities. It is here to expand, to be reformed, redirected, and always to contribute to a better understanding of Armenians both by others and by themselves.

The meeting was made possible by the financial assistance of the Harry Ardashes Paul Memorial Fund, by the generous assistance of Dr. Ara and Shirley Paul, and by the close cooperation between the Michigan Program and NAASR, the National Association for the Advancement of Armenian Studies and Research, which has pioneered support of scholars and Chairs in the field and whose sponsorship of the event was fully acknowledged. Marc Mamigonian, NAASR's Director of Academic Affairs, contributed a great deal to the effort to collect information and participated fully in all analytical sessions. The project has also had the support of the Society of Armenian Studies.

Director's Letter *Continued from page 2*

President of MASCO Corporation. Mr. Manoogian was present to represent the Manoogian family, including his sister Mrs. Louise Manoogian Simone who could not attend. The Manoogian family has made this project, begun more than 30 years ago, possible. The cooperation between the academic community and our supporters has been invaluable during the past three decades.

In addition to the university community and the Manoogian family, the success of our program is based on major contributions from the Yarmain, Haidostian, Shoushanian and Paul families, and from Arsen Sanjian. More recently we were encouraged by the addition of two more permanent sources of support to our students and programs: the Robert Ajemian Trust, represented by Peter Sarkesian and Harry Keoleyan, and the late Greg Vaporciyan Trust, that will make more programs possible. We also recognize the large number of donors who care about our program and contribute regularly and generously.

We are also most grateful for the many individuals whose contributions, large and small, have been inspiring and encouraging.

At least once, and in writing, we must recognize the contribution of two special individuals: Edmond Azadian and Eugene Gargaro, the past and present presidents of the Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation, whose intense interest and genuine support for our program have made the Armenian studies project at U-M an integral part of the foundation's mission.

I have indicated before the importance of the synergy between U-M faculty and administration and community support. This university has been able to find a balance between the motivations of the members of the community to support activities on campus and the university requirement to maintain academic freedom and intellectual integrity. Our readers will recognize one dimension of that balance in the activities initiated and supported by our program.

Professors Kathryn Babayan, Ronald Suny and Kevork Bardakjian have been instrumental in the development and sound management of the expansion of our program in the last five years. Equally important has been the support



Naira Tumanyan and Ingird Peterson

we have received from the university's administration. Dean Terrence McDonald played a particularly crucial role, when he prodded us to set our sights higher and become the country's most active Armenian Studies Program.

The intelligent, efficient and enthusiastic contributions that Gloria Caudill and Ingrid Peterson as successive administrators, and Kayla Hack, Christine Thelen, Elizabeth Teifer, and Naira Tumanyan as assistants, have brought to the program during the past five years, cannot be measured by the hours they have invested in the development and execution of projects.

While noting our success in expanding and deepening the dimensions of our program, I write these lines with some sadness, as this will be my last year here at this wonderful institution as a teacher for more than a decade and as director of the Armenian Studies Program since 2007.

In addition to valuable colleagues and friends throughout the university, I am grateful for the bright and eager students who filled my classes and made the craft of a teacher so rewarding.

As I leave the university to focus more on writing and a few other projects, I am confident that the ongoing search for the next modern Armenian historian to take my place will be completed by the time I leave at the end of the current academic year. I am confident that with help from the program's executive and steering committees the new Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History will be able to continue and expand the program. I wish him or her the best.

Gerard Libaridian



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2010-2011 Donors

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Programs and Activities of the ASP

- Armenian studies undergraduate level majors and minors
- Rich variety of Armenian studies and related area undergraduate courses and graduate seminars
- MA and PhD level graduate studies
- Fellowships and research/travel grants available to undergraduate and graduate students
- Pre-doctoral/junior research fellowships (short and long term) for MA and PhD students from other universities
- Post-doctoral fellowships for recent PhDs in the field from recognized universities worldwide
- Visiting scholar fellowships for academics invited to teach in areas not usually taught by our regular faculty
- Annual international workshop for graduate students
- Public lectures, symposia and workshops on new research and contemporary issues, and international conferences
- A number of special projects and development of archival material
- One of the best collections in primary and secondary material in Armenian studies in the US housed at the Graduate and undergraduate libraries of the university
- Long distance advising and informational services to students, scholars and the general public by our faculty
- A growing body of videotapes of public lectures and conferences available on the program's revamped website

The Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, has been there for you since its founding in 1981; we want to be there in the future and continue to offer more to our faculty, students, and the Armenian community both here and around the world.

Please use the envelope inserted in this newsletter to make your tax-deductible contribution.

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