



Armenian Studies Program Newsletter

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New Gift Focuses on Student Research and Overseas Experience

The late Mr. Robert S. Ajemian of Michigan has willed the Armenian Studies Program at UM the generous amount of \$350,000. This gift has been designated for student use in two endowment funds: the annual proceeds of \$250,000 will provide general support for students in Armenian studies, with the remaining \$100,000 designated for student travel and research abroad. The funds reserved for research and travel abroad qualify for President Mary Sue Coleman's Challenge for The Student Global Experience which will add another \$50,000 from University funds to the initial endowment amount. Starting in the Spring of 2010 Armenian studies students at UM will be able to benefit from the proceeds of this generous and thoughtful combined endowment of \$400,000.

Mr. Ajemian was born in Detroit in 1927, the son of a student from Chmshkatzak and a survivor of the Genocide. He served in the US army, and studied chemistry at Wayne State University. He developed a career in occupational health and pollution prevention. He worked for major companies and published extensively. He was an outstanding member of the Armenian community in the Detroit area. (His full biography can be seen on our website.) In addition to the generous gift provided to the University of Michigan, Mr. Ajemian made funds available to various organizations within the Armenian community, including to the Alex & Marie Manoogian School in Southfield, Michigan, and the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

Ann Arbor Hosts Yerevan State University Rector

The Armenian Studies Program was happy to host Yerevan State University's Rector, Dr. Aram Simonyan, March 16-23, 2009. In addition to consultations with the ASP director and faculty, Simonyan met with leaders across the university, including Dean Terrence McDonald and Provost Theresa Sullivan. One of the goals of the visit was to further explore the implementation of the agreement of cooperation signed earlier between the two institutions. Further, Dr. Simonyan toured the library facilities and collections, taking special note of documents relevant to Armenian Studies. Dr. Simonyan reviewed the recent addition to the library's Special Collection, the Arzoumanian Archive, which document the Hnchakian Party activities from 1891 to 1907, a topic in which Dr. Simonyan holds special interest as a historian of the period.

Activities during this visit extended beyond the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, to include the Alex Manoogian Museum and Alex Manoogian Day School in Southfield along with the adjacent church and facilities. He also visited the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus, which houses the Armenian Research Center, our sister program whose director, Prof. Ara Sanjian, was a student of Dr. Simonyan in the early 1990s at Yerevan State University.

Professor Simonyan's visit coincided with the international conference on "Armenia and Armenians in

International Treaties," which was organized by the ASP and held on campus; Dr. Simonyan was delighted to attend most of the sessions of that three-day conference.

At the conclusion of his visit Dr. Simonyan met with ASP faculty and

graduate students for an intensive exchange of views on the state of Armenian studies worldwide and the role of the university and research community in the politically charged atmosphere in Armenia.

Dr. Simonyan's fruitful stay in Ann Arbor was followed by a visit to Yerevan by the Director of the ASP, Professor Libaridian, in May 2009. At that time agreement was reached on cooperation and modalities thereof on a number of specific projects to be announced as planning for each is under way.



*Dr. Aram Simonyan and
Provost Theresa Sullivan*

Message from the Director

One of the challenges our program faces is bridging the gap between the scholarly and practical spheres. Scholarly perspectives and recommendations can often seem irrelevant, while 'practical' or 'current issues' can be seen as too politicized to be brought into scholarly debate. This challenge seems to be particularly sharp in the case of Armenian Studies which, unlike most other regional studies programs, is financed largely by funds established by individuals and organizations within the Armenian-American community, and with support from the university administration.

The Armenian Studies Program, here in Ann Arbor, has tried to incorporate in its programming two important dimensions that attempt to respond to the need to fill that gap. First, we have undertaken a study on "The State of Armenian Studies" in collaboration with major Armenian studies organizations and institutions in the Diaspora and in Armenia (see page 3). The purpose of the project is to help those leading the field to chart a more intentional course. Secondly, our public events, in addition to the courses taught

by ASP faculty, highlight topics of immediate relevance and contemporary issues.

We have paid special attention to nurturing the next generation of scholars in the field, both our own students and those in other institutions. This year we have two more graduate students specializing in Armenian studies, bringing the total to eight (see page 9). In addition, our two graduate workshops have brought a total of 30 graduate students together on campus for annual three day consultations (see page 10). Our Post-doctoral and Visiting Scholar program this year welcomes a new group of six scholars from the US, South America, Europe and Armenia (see page 8).

We are grateful to the Manoogian Simone Foundation and many other donors for their continuing support and vote of confidence. Further we have experienced growing support through attendance at our public events, both by those physically present and those who participate through live webcasts.

We are particularly grateful at this time for the \$350,000 gift bequeathed to our program by the late Mr. Robert S. Ajemian of Michigan. We did not know Mr. Ajemian; he, obviously, knew and appreciated our work. And that makes his posthumous gift all the more touching and significant.

To ensure our ability to continue full programming in the future, the Armenian Studies Program is undertaking a fund raising effort. We hope that through our events and programs, this newsletter, our website and our faculty and students you will be inspired to contribute to these efforts and partner with us in our effort to bridge that gap between the scholarly and practical for the benefit of all.



-Prof. Gerard Libaridian

Whither Armenia? Ombudsman Harutyunyan Tries to Explain

Ann Arbor was one of several cities to host Mr. Armen Harutyunyan, the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia since 2007, on a U.S. State Department sponsored tour of the United States. This national tour was comprised of discussions of human rights on the international, national, and local level and included three other cities. ASP agreed to organize the only events on his tour scheduled to be related to Armenian studies. In addition to luncheon meeting with UM faculty interested in Armenia. ASP hosted a lecture and on April 9th, 2009, that was webcast live worldwide. Prof. Gerard Libaridian highlighted the significance of this lecture with his comment that, "This is a rare opportunity, to hear directly from the official Human Rights Defender of Armenia regarding the human rights and political situation in Armenia and develop a constructive dialogue with him." The lecture and the extensive Q&A provided an opportunity for the ombudsman to defend his role in the polarized society in Armenia and face the challenging questions from the audience regarding lapses in his performance of his duties. Please see www.ii.umich.edu/asp for videos of this and other lectures.

Mr. Harutyunyan has extensive experience in the development of human rights law in Armenia and intensive training in European universities on the subject. While he has been critical of the human rights record of the government of Armenia since he took office, Mr. Harutyunyan has also been criticized by some in the press and in opposition for ignoring two major issues facing Armenia; the killings of peaceful demonstrators in Yerevan on March 1, 2008; and the issue of political prisoners jailed on questionable grounds. Mr. Harutyunyan linked these series of events in his statement that, "it is a new and danger-

continued on page 10

UPDATE: Faculty

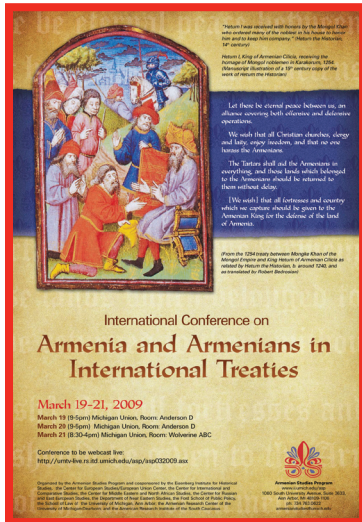
Gerard Libaridian, in addition to directing the Armenian Studies Program, has recently been asked to join the Directors' Council for the Weiser Center for European and Eurasian Studies, with particular responsibility for the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies. The four member directorate will govern the Weiser centers until such time that a permanent director is designated next year. Prof. Libaridian also holds several offices with multiple academic and political organizations, including: the Board of Directors of the American Research Institute in the South Caucasus and serves as its corporate secretary; Special Series/Armenian Studies editor of Transaction Books, Rutgers University; and the chairman of the Advisory Council of the Library and Archives of the first president of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrossian. Prof. Libaridian has also published widely, most recently with "Democracy: Deviations and Externalities" of the latest issue of the UM's International Institute devoted to democracy; "What was Revolutionary about the Armenian Revolutionary Parties in the Ottoman Empire," to a volume on the Armenian Genocide being edited by professors Muge Gocek, Ronald Suny, and Norman Naimark and to be published by Oxford University Press; an article on the South Caucasus for the Journal of International Relations (Istanbul) devoted to the South Caucasus; and is completing his new study "Anatomy of Conflict," on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. The French translation of his latest work (Modern Armenia, 2004), appeared in Paris in 2008.

For the University of Michigan's Armenian Studies Program (ASP) the 2008-09 academic year could be characterized as international, both in content and structure. Among the events under the umbrella of the program were international conferences, with participants from all corners of the globe, student workshops and lectures. While many of the guests came from abroad their subject matter also addressed international activity which was best exemplified in the March conference entitled "Armenia and Armenians in International Treaties."

International Treaties Conference

This three day conference brought together 22 scholars of Armenian Studies in the first conference of its kind to examine international treaties and agreements that have impacted Armenian history and culture over the last two thousand years. The conference was supported by the Manoogian Simone Foundation as the main sponsor; ten other organizations co-sponsored and supported this first of its kind conference. These partnering organizations include; the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, The center for European Studies- European Union Center of Excellence, The center for International and Comparative

Studies, the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, the Center for Russian and East European Studies, the Department of Near Eastern Studies, the Ford School of Public Policy, the Law School at the UM, the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Armenian Research Center, and the American Research Institute in the South Caucasus, based at the University of Chicago.



In addition to those able to attend in person, the conference was videotaped and webcast live, allowing for a larger and truly global audience. Abstracts from the papers presented are available via the ASP website (www.ii.umich.edu/asp). Also, the presentation videos will be posted on our website.

UPDATE: New Student

Etienne Charriere joins ASP as an incoming Comparative Literature PhD student from Geneva, Switzerland. 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 and will receive full support for two years from ASP during his graduate studies.

UPDATE: Visiting Research Student

Lucila Tossounian, a PhD Candidate of the School of Philosophy and Literature at the University of Buenos Aires, will be a Manoogian Simone Foundation Visiting Research Student in the Anthropology Department this fall. Her dissertation project is on Diasporic communalizations among Armenians in Argentina. She has researched the Armenian community in Buenos Aires since 1999



and is interested in issues such as ethnicity, nationalism, migration, diaspora, identity, and community-building processes. Lucila is the co-director of a research group called *The Armenian Genocide: Ways of Transmission and ways of Action* at the University of Buenos Aires. She is also a researcher with the scientific project *Migrations, State, and Alterities: An Anthropological Perspective*.

Reporting on "The State of Armenian Studies"

Two years ago the Steering Committee of the ASP at UM enthusiastically approved a project to study the state of Armenian Studies throughout the world. An aim of this project is to produce a report that would be made available to anyone interested in Armenian studies.

The project's many partners include: the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) in Belmont, Mass.; the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn; the Society for Armenian Studies, US; the Society for Armenian Studies, Europe; the International Association of Armenian Studies, Europe; and the State University of Armenia, the Matenadaran, and the National Academy of Sciences, Armenia.

A first meeting of representatives was held at the UM in September 2008 and outlined a plan for action. Since then, the project has moved to the implementation phase. Under the direction of Prof. Gerard Libaridian, Mr. Vahe Sahakyan (a PhD student in Armenian studies at UM) and his team developed a series of seven questionnaires, in English and Armenian, that were distributed to Armenian studies programs, organizations, libraries, museums, institutions and scholars around the world. "We believe we have 90% of all such programs on our list," stated Prof. Libaridian, "and we are still working on making sure we get to 100%." The third phase of the project, analyzing the returned questionnaires will be preparation for a second workshop that will review a draft of the final report. ASP and Prof. Libaridian thank Prof. Ara Paul of UM, who agreed to support the project through the Harry Ardashes Memorial Fund established at the University of Michigan in memory of his brother.

Hampartzoum Arzoumanian Archives

As previewed in our last newsletter, in Oct. 2008 ASP hosted a special reception to unveil Hampartzoum Arzoumanian's archive documenting correspondence related to the Hnchakian Center, one of the first socialist parties in the Ottoman Empire. This 1200 page set of documents was donated by Arzoumanian's granddaughter, Mrs. Marguerite Harms, and the Arzoumanian family. Among those in attendance at the presentation of the Arzoumanian Archive were more than 60 university faculty, staff, students and 15 Arzoumanian family members, including some great-grandchildren of Hampartzoum.



This extensive archive is available for research in accordance with access regulating the university's Special Collections. In addition to the physical documents the libraries have undertaken the process to digitize said documents for more universal accessibility. One of the missions of ASP and this particular event was captured in the words of ASP director, Professor Gerard Libaridian, "we wanted to organize this event and present the Arzoumanian Archive...to encourage others to preserve family papers and prod organizations to open their archives to researchers." As part of the ASP readership we encourage you to contact us if you think you may have resources that could impact the research undertaken by the community of Armenian Studies scholars.

Oral History Project in Armenia

Three years ago ASP initiated an oral history project in Armenia with the purpose of recording the memoirs of political leaders from the Soviet period to early independence. Questionnaires were developed and a special team of interviewers was trained by Professor Libaridian, director of the project. On site in Armenia this project has been managed by Ms. Gayane Sargsyan of Yerevan.

Thus far 16 individuals have been interviewed, including: Fadey Sargsyan, the last Prime Minister of Soviet Armenia; Vladimir Movsisyan, the last First Secretary of the Communist Party of Soviet Armenia; Vazgen Manukyan, the first Prime Minister of independent Armenia; and Babken Araraktsyan, the first Speaker of the parliament of independent Armenia.

"It has been a very slow process," explained Prof. Libaridian. "We have not been able to move as fast as we wanted. Armenia has a very fluid society; young scholars and professionals engaged in our work have moved on and it takes time and effort to find and train new ones. The dominance of politics in the country and the polarization of forces have also made it difficult for individuals to focus on the past. In the process, we have lost some important figures we wanted to interview to age and illness."

Prof. Libaridian expressed hope that a return to some kind of normalcy in the country will provide the opportunity for the project to achieve a higher speed in arranging for and achieving the interviews for the project.

UPDATE: Faculty

Kathryn Babyan continues teaching courses through the Department of Near Eastern Studies on Iran and ASP benefits from her expertise on a country and civilization with close connections to Armenia and the Armenian people as well as her membership in the Executive Committee of the Armenian Studies Program.

UPDATE: Continuing Students

Richard Antaramian (History) completed successfully his doctoral preliminary examinations, and will defend his prospectus in September before engaging full time in research and writing of his doctoral dissertation. Richard was the recipient of an ASP/Sanjian Summer Research Fellowship for the summer, an ASP/Manoogian Simone Foundation Fellowship for Harvard University's Ottoman language training in Turkey; he is also the winner of a Fulbright-Hayes fellowship, which will enable him to spend the 2009/2010 academic year in Armenia for his research.

Semi Ertan (Near Eastern Studies Department) was the recipient of an ASP/Sanjian Summer Research Fellowship for the summer and 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."

Krista Goff is a 3rd year PhD student in the History Department, and recently passed her preliminary exams. She specializes in Soviet history and is preparing a dissertation project on the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic in the post-Stalinist period. She has received several fellowships to begin her dissertation research in Moscow archives this upcoming winter and plans to spend the following year in Azerbaijan. She is the recipient of an ASP/Sanjian summer Research fellowship.

2008-2009 ASP Public Events

All public events were videotaped and will be made available on our website.

Events marked with an (*) were webcast live.

FALL SEMESTER, 2008

Sept. 18-20 First meeting of the "State of Armenian Studies" Workshop, with participants from the Armenia, Europe and the United States.

Oct. 1 ASP co-sponsored book presentation and public lecture on Sassounsi Davit by Yeghiazarian (Yerevan, Armenia), with Armenian Research Center, UM-Dearborn, in Southfield, Michigan.

Oct. 16-19 International conference, "The Apocalyptic Tradition in Armenian Culture and History," UM, An Arbor, campus.

Oct. 31 Presentation of the Arzoumanian Archives, Hnchakian leader Hampartzoum Arzoumanian's archives (active 1891-1907), Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library. Co-sponsored with Special Collections.

Nov. 7-8 International Conference, "Minorities in the Middle East," sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies with ASP co-sponsorship.

Nov. 10 Public lecture by Dr. Hratch Tchilingirian of London, "Church and Religion since Armenian Independence."

Nov. 18 Public lecture by Dr. Sebouh Aslanian, ASP Manoogian Simone Post-doctoral Fellow, "English Piracy and New Julfa Merchants in the Mid-18th Century: The Santa Catherina Affair," in Southfield, Michigan, co-sponsored with Armenian Research Center, UM-Dearborn

Nov. 19 Public lecture by Dr. Fuat Dundar, Manoogian Simone Post-doctoral Fellow, "Instruments of Power during the Medz Yeghern (Big Holocaust) of Ottoman Armenians: Map, Census, Telegram," Ann Arbor campus.



Jan. 14 *2008 Haidostian Annual Distinguished Lecture by Dr. Gerard Chaliand, "The Geopolitics of the World Today: US Policy at the Periphery of Russia."

Jan. 23-24 "Gilgamesh" public performance on campus by Kevork Mourad (Syrian-Armenian painter/artist) and Kinan Azmeh (Syrian musician/artist), co-sponsored by ASP.

Jan. 27 Public lecture by Prof. Seta Dadoyan, "Islam and the Armenians: Paradigms of a Near Eastern Dialectic."

Jan. 30 *One day International Workshop, "After Kosovo: Whither Karabakh?" Co-sponsored with CIMERA, Geneva, Switzerland.

Feb. 10 Public lecture by Dr. Jasmine Dum-Tragut, Manoogian Simone Foundation Visiting Scholar, "The Changing Face of Armenia: Language, Culture, Religion and Minorities since Independence."

March 3 Public lecture on campus by Dr. Sebouh Aslanian, Manoogian Simone Post-doctoral Fellow, "Trust in Gossip but Bastinado when Needed: Regulating 'Trust' Relations among Julfan Mer-

chants in the Early Modern Period."

March 18-21 *International Conference, "Armenia and Armenians in International Treaties."

March 26-29 International Conference, "Armenian Studies at a Threshold," co-sponsored by ASP, hosted by Society for Armenian Studies, University of California at Los Angeles.

March 31 Public lecture on campus by Dr. Arus Harutyunyan, Manoogian Simone Foundation Visiting Scholar, "National Identity, Political Trust, Social Justice and Democratic Attitudes in the Republic of Armenia."

April 2 Joint Holocaust/Armenian Genocide Commemoration: Samuel Totten, "Confronting the Scourge of Genocide: From Knowledge to Action" and Roger Smith, "Should We Teach About Genocide? And If So, What Should We Teach?" Co-sponsored by ASP.

April 3-4 Conference "Dreams and visions in Islamic Society." Sponsored by the Islamic Studies Initiative with ASP co-sponsorship.

April 7 Public lecture by Dr. Parvin Ahanchi (Academy of Sciences, Baku and the University of Wisconsin), "Globalization, Oil Boom and Ethnic Relations at the Turn of the 20th Century in the Southern Caucasus."

April 9 *Public lecture by Dr. Armen Harutyunyan, Chief Human Rights Defender (ombudsman) of the Republic of Armenia (webcast live).

April 16-20 2nd ASP Annual Graduate Students' International Workshop, focused on Armenian Literature.

UPDATE: Continuing Student

Jeremy Johnson is a doctoral student in the Interdepartmental Program in Anthropology and History. His research focuses on gender, literacy and nationalities policies in the South Caucasus during the 1920s and 1930s. He recently presented research papers on literacy education among women in Soviet Armenia at UCLA's Armenian studies graduate symposium and the Association for the Study of Nationalities. He is the recipient of a Manoogian Simone Foundation Graduate Fellowship, FLAS fellowships for the study of Armenian, Georgian and Russian, the International Institute Research Award and the Rackham Graduate Research Grant. He is also a recipient of an ASP/Agnes H. and R. A. Yarmain summer Research Fellowship.

Scholar Spotlight

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During the 2008-09 academic year the Armenian Studies Program hosted two Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellows, Dr. Sebouh Aslanian and Dr. Fuat Dundar, and, for one semester, Manoogian Simone Foundation Visiting Scholar, Dr. Arus Harutyunyan. They taught classes, gave several public lectures at the University and at Armenian community centers, and participated in Armenian Studies Program events. Dr. Harutyunyan taught an advanced undergraduate seminar titled "Citizenship and its Modern Challenges." Dr. Dundar worked to convert his dissertation into a book manuscript and taught a seminar on the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey. Among other projects, Dr. Sebouh Aslanian worked on revisions for the upcoming publication of his book, *From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean: Circulation and the Global Trade Networks of Armenian Merchants from New Julfa, Isfahan, 1605-1747*. He also taught two classes; an undergraduate course on the Indian Ocean and a graduate seminar on early modern Armenian history. Our three scholars answer our questions below:

"I needed to have the right place and scholarly atmosphere to work comfortably on a hotly political and debated issue..." -Fuat Dundar

Fuat Dundar:

Continuing as a Post-doctoral Fellow at UM:

Why did you accept the position at UM/ASP?

I knew the Armenian Studies Program and Prof. Suny, Prof. Libaridian and Prof. Göçek through the WATS conference and their Workshop series. It was my first reason to apply to this position. There were other reasons as well: the high academic quality of University of Michigan with the most liberal and energetic Armenian Studies Program. Furthermore, the UM has a library with one of the richest collections regarding Armenians and Ottoman history. I needed to have the right place and scholarly atmosphere to work comfortably on a hotly political and debated issue, aspects of Armenian Genocide, on which I planned to write a book partly based on my dissertation. Finally, I preferred Michigan because of the teaching opportunity, which I had not experienced earlier.

What did you expect and what did you find?

I did not have any particular expectations other than finding the right atmosphere to work, but I have been impressed and greatly honored by the warm welcome and hospitality. Everyone greatly facilitated my life in Ann Arbor and created a productive atmosphere.

Arus Harutyunyan:

Currently teaching courses at Western Michigan University:

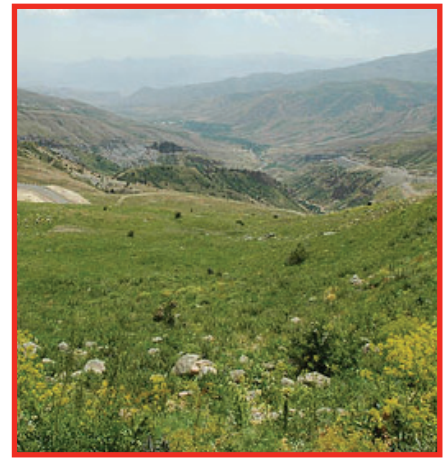
What did you expect and what did you find at the Armenian Studies Program?

As a beginning scholar I was eager to interact with established scholars and attend conferences. I was also eager to teach my newly designed course. My teaching experience here particularly exceeded my expectations, as it became a source of professional development and immense intellectual satisfaction. I was very happy and proud of being able to pass my knowledge to my wonderful students as well as learning from them.

Why did you accept the position at UM/ASP?

The Manoogian Simone Visiting Scholar appointment at the Armenian Studies Program gave me a rare opportunity to teach in one of the nation's finest universities, participate in diverse intellectual activities organized by the ASP, and be a part of the University of Michigan's academic life."

"My teaching experience here particularly exceeded my expectations..."
-Arus Harutyunyan



Sebouh Aslanian:

Currently Mellon Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow in World History at Cornell University

What did you expect and what did you find?

I expected to have free time to work on my book revisions and to acquire more teaching experience. My experiences as a Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow were in some ways more rewarding than what I had initially expected. In addition to gaining excellent teaching experience offering my upper level undergraduate survey course on the Indian Ocean to a group of smart and dedicated students, I also had the unique opportunity to teach a graduate level seminar entitled "Early Modern Armenian history, 1500-1800" that covered a period of Armenian history usually referred to as the "black hole" of Armenian studies. This was my first time teaching a graduate seminar as well as my first time teaching Armenian history. The seminar provided me with an opportunity to re-familiarize myself with old texts that I had read and reread over the years and introduced the material to a small group of promising scholars who I hope will make a positive contribution to the field of Armenian Studies. In addition, the discussion format of the seminar also allowed me to learn from my graduate students and to become acquainted with their interests and concerns as up and coming scholars in the field. Lastly, my tenure here was also rewarding because of the very stimulating environment of collegiality that made it possible for me to interact with generous colleagues and graduate students.

Faculty Spotlight

Kevork Bardakjian was the main convener of the ASP international conference on "The Armenian Apocalyptic Tradition: a Comparative Perspective" in the Fall of 2008 and of the second graduate workshop: "Armenian Literary Identity: Text and Transmission" (Winter 2009) on campus. He chaired panels and served as a jury member of Tekeyan Cultural Association's literary prize for "Best Literary Book of the Year in Armenia."



"Reflections on the Artsakh [Karabagh] literature of the Soviet period," Shushi and Stepanakert, The Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh; "Loan words in hayrens: origin and cultural background," Michaelbeuern, Austria; "Old images, new interpretations: the vilification and vindication of Arshak II, King of Armenia," Vienna; "One nation, one country, one culture?: A cursory glance at some aspects of modern Armenian identity," Storrs, CT; "The Abecedarian poems of the late medieval Armenian tradition," Paris; "William Saroyan's identity and some aspects of Armenian- American literature," Yerevan; "The fatal failure of the Muses: literary biographies of Siamanto and Varuzhan," Zurich; "The Armenian 'national' constitution: a Dhimmi-Muslim 'contract?'," Ann Arbor, MI; a public lecture "Hopeful signs, discouraging prospects: A perspective on the thorny road to better Armenian-

Turkish relations, at "An evening with scholars: Cengiz Aktar and Kevork B. Bardakjian," Los Angeles. Prof. Bardakjian recently conducted research in Bashbakanlik Archives in Istanbul and in Yerevan, and, among other projects, is working on the publication of the papers presented at the international conference on the "Armenian Apocalyptic Tradition."

From 2004-2009 Prof. Bardakjian served as Director of Graduate Studies of the Near Eastern Studies Department and will be on sabbatical leave during the 2009/2010 academic year. He is a member of the Executive Council of the Society for Armenian Studies.

During next year Prof. Bardakjian will be presenting papers at conferences in Oxford, Yerevan, and Munich, and lectures at the University of Cairo, the Library of Alexandria (both in Arabic) and the American University of Cairo.

During the past two years, he has presented a number of papers and lectures on a wide range of topics in the US and abroad: "When orthography spells cacophony how does one pronounce (contemporary) Armenian identity?" Chicago; "Armenian soldiers in the last fight for Constantinople: the unfinished mission of Trdat's warriors," Jerusalem;

Discussing World Affairs with Dr. Gerard Chaliand

In January 2009 ASP hosted Dr. Gerard Chaliand for the Dr. Berj Haidostian Distinguished Annual Lecture. This special lecture was attended by more than 70 faculty, students and community members, despite the extremely inclement weather, it was also webcast live and received by a large audience throughout the world. Dr. Chaliand, an internationally recognized researcher in strategic thinking, assessed U.S. foreign policy during the eight years of the Bush administration in his lecture titled, "U.S. Policy at the Periphery of Russia: The Geopolitics of the World Today." Dr. Chaliand's main argument was that *the era of "Western" dominance of world affairs is over; the West will now have to share the course with non-Western emerging powers such as China and India.* In response to a question from the web audience, Dr. Chaliand pointed out that as important as the South Caucasus is for the international community, the Republic of Armenia has more or less lost its larger strategic significance. In addition to this lecture Dr. Chaliand participated in a special seminar for ASP and related faculty and graduate students and gave a lecture in Kalamazoo at Western Michigan University as arranged by ASP.

These lectures were informed by decades of Dr. Chaliand's work in strategic

thinking and observing guerilla, revolutionary and independence movements in many countries around the world. Further, Dr. Chaliand has spent a total of nine months in Iraq since 2003, and recently was a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Center for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS) in Kabul, Afghanistan. Dr. Chaliand has also authored more than forty books including, *History of Terrorism from Antiquity to al Qaida* (University of California Press, 2007) with A. Blin, and *The Art of War in World History* (University of California Press, 2004).

The Haidostian Distinguished Annual Lecture is supported by the Berj Haidostian Endowment of the Armenian Studies Program, UM, established and supported by the Haidostian family. Mrs. Alice Haidostian, widow of Dr. Berj Haidostian, and UM alumni class of '46, is a prominent member of the Michigan Armenian-American community, an ardent supporter of the Armenian Studies Program at UM and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, among other cultural institutions in her sight. The Haidostian children and grandchildren have been students at UM for three generations already; Cynthia Wilbanks, a daughter of the Haidostian family, is currently UM Vice President for Government Affairs.

UPDATE: Faculty

Ronald Grigor Suny, newly appointed to a two-year term as Director of the Eisenburg Institute of Historical Studies at the University of Michigan, spent the last year on leave as Richard Hudson Research Professor of History for the fall term, 2008. He completed the writing of a second edition of *The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States* (Oxford University Press) and the co-editing, with Norman Naimark of Stanford University and Fatma Muge Gocek of the University of Michigan, of *A Question of Genocide, 1915: Armenians and Turks at the End of the Ottoman Empire* (Oxford University Press). The volume is an outgrowth of a long-running series of workshops that have brought Armenian, Turkish, and other scholars together to discuss the causes, evolution, and consequences of the Ottoman massacres of Armenians, Assyrians, and others during World War I. Professors Suny, Gocek, and Libaridian are the coordinators of this Workshop on Armenian-Turkish Scholarship (WATS). Suny is now finishing a biography of the young Stalin.



2009-2010 ASP Post-doctoral Fellows and Visiting Scholars, Armenian Studies Program, UM

Dr. Fuat Dundar was a Manoogian Simone Foundation Visiting Scholar last year and will complete his stay at the University of Michigan this fall as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the History Department. He will teach an upper-level course for the Department on the history of the Kurds and the Middle East, and continue to work on his research. In the past year at Michigan he revised his dissertation, which concerns ethnic engineering by the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP) during the Turkification of Anatolia from 1913-1918. Publication of his dissertation is forthcoming in Turkey. While at the UM, Dr. Dundar also completed another work, "A Crime of Numbers," on the Armenian Genocide, to be published early 2010 in the US. Prior to arriving in Ann Arbor, Dr. Dundar earned his PhD from EHESS-Paris in 2006. He previously published two books in Turkey, one on the CUP's Settlement Policy and one on Minorities in the Turkish Census. He is currently writing several pieces on population expulsions and deportations in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey for the Online Encyclopedia of Mass Violence.

Dr. Arman Grigoryan, a Manoogian Simone Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in the Political Science Department,

plans to continue research and writing based on his dissertation. In 2008, he completed his doctorate in political science at Columbia University with a dissertation titled "Third Parties and State-Minority Conflicts." In the intervening year, Dr. Grigoryan has been a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology's Center for Comparative and International Studies. Among his specialties are international relations theory, nationalism and conflict, genocide, bargaining and war, and the Caucasus and Balkan regions. He co-wrote with Stuart Kaufman an article titled "Correspondence: Hate Narratives and Ethnic Conflict," which was published in the journal *International Security*. Arman will also teach a course on Mass Murder and Genocide in the 20th Century in the Political Science Department during the Winter 2010 semester.



Dr. Hrach Martirosyan, will be a Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow in the Near Eastern Studies Program this year. In 2008, he defended his dissertation on "Studies in Armenian Etymology with Special Emphasis on Dialects and Culture: Indo-European Heritage" at Leiden University in the Netherlands. His dissertation explored the Indo-European lexical stock of Armenian with systematic inclusion of unused data found in Armenian dialects. Dr. Martirosyan has published articles on the interpretation of artaxur xawart; on the Armenian spring feast of the cow sacrifice; on the lexicon of Narekac'i; and Mediterranean-Pontic substratum words, among other topics. Hrach will teach Armenian language related courses in the Near Eastern Studies department and continue his research of the Armenian dialect of Hamshen.



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UPDATE: Continuing Students

Michael Pifer (Comparative Literature/Near Eastern Studies departments) is beginning his second year of doctoral studies. This summer Michael studied Farsi at the Arabic and Persian Immersion Program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and next year plans to focus on the relationship between Armenian and Persian medieval lyric poetry.

Vahe Sahakyan (Near Eastern Studies Department) is a second year PhD student in the Near Eastern Studies department and Simone Manoogian Foundation Graduate Student Fellow, specializing on problems of national identity. His research addresses differences of Armenian identity in various groups of Armenians living in the Republic of Armenia and in various diaspora communities, as well as possibilities of pan-Armenian identity. He is the recipient of an ASP/Agnes H and R. A. Yarmain summer Research Fellowship.

Allison Vacca (Near Eastern Studies Department) is a doctoral student and studies the Arab period in Armenian history and is the recipient of an ASP/Sanjian summer Research Fellowship.

A list of students who majored or minored in Armenian Studies 1998-2009

The program for a major or a minor in Armenian Studies was instituted in 1998 at the Department of Near Eastern Studies. The following chronological list provides names, with dates, of students who majored or minored in Armenian Studies.

Pearce, Katy (1998-2001)
Prudian, Gary (1998-2001)

Gavoor, Aram (2001-2003)
Nassar, Jacqueline (2001-2005)

Korkigian, Shant (2002-2004)
Sarkisian, Sara (2002-2005)
Sagherian, Nareg (2002-2006) (Armenian and Arabic)

Kalayjian, Benjamin (2005-2008)
Pifer, Michael (2005-2007)

Churukian, Hrag (2007-2009)
Churukian, Nareg (2007-2009)
Shirvanian, Varant (2007-2009)

Current:
Matossian, Anahid (2008-2009)

Regents of the University of Michigan: Julia Donovan Darlow, Laurence B. Deitch, Denise Ilitch, Olivia P. Maynard, Andrea Fischer Newman, Andrew C. Richner, S. Martin Taylor, Katherine E. White, Mary Sue Coleman ex officio.

Fellows & Scholars continued from page 8



Sarah Mekdjian, will be a Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow in the History Department. She anticipates her PhD defense in

the Geography Department of the University Paris X Nanterre in November, 2009. Her dissertation is titled "Immigrant Urban Places. A Critical Approach of the Enclave Ideology. The Armenians in Los Angeles." She has published several articles related to her dissertation research in journals and edited volumes. Some of her articles include: "Reproduction or Creation? Armenian Religious Images, Practices and Objects in Exile;" "Tension between Centrality and Fragmentation: The Armenian Neighborhoods in Los Angeles;" and "Criteria of Spatial Marginality in a North-American Context: Little Armenia in Los Angeles." Sarah will teach Armenian Immigration in Contemporary Urban America: the Issues of Identity, Space and Power in the History Department during the Winter 2010 semester.

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ous tendency when society is more ready than government and opposition for democracy."

Prior to the April 9th public lecture on human rights issues in Armenia and the South Caucasus, Mr. Harutyunyan met with the Armenian Studies faculty, followed by a luncheon with associate faculty from the Center for International and Comparative Studies, which has a strong program in Human Rights; the Center for Russian and East European Studies; the Center for Middle eastern and North African Studies; the Center for European Studies-European Union Center; the Ford School of Public Policy; and the Law School.

Dr. Susan Paul Pattie will return to the University of Michigan this year as a Manoogian Simone Foundation Visiting Scholar in the Anthropology Department, where she earned her PhD in 1990. She is currently a Senior Research Fellow at University College London, an Adjunct Professor of Anthropology for the Syracuse University London Program, and the Director of the Armenian Institute in London. She is also co-founder of the Project on Armenian and Turkish Studies (PATS), which is a discussion group providing a forum for research and collaboration among scholars, journalists, and artists. Her numerous publications include her book, *Faith in History: Armenian*



Rebuilding Community (1997), and two forthcoming publications, a Reader in Contemporary Armenian Studies (editor) and "New Life in an Old Community: Cypriot Armenians in the 20th Century," a chapter in an edited volume on the minorities of Cyprus by Panikos Panayi. She is currently at work on several research projects, including a documentary film about Armenians in Cyprus; Uncle Jack's Store, an exploration of the process of migrants becoming American in the 20th century and, at the same time, becoming a new kind of Armenian; and oral histories in local communities, a multi-perspective portrait of a London neighborhood. Dr. Pattie will be teaching "Telling Lives: Ethnography, Memoir" and "Oral History in Diaspora Embodied and Identities: Ethnicity and the Senses."

2009-2010 Calendar of Events WINTER SEMESTER 2010

All events will be held at the International Institute in room 1636 and are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

FALL SEMESTER 2009

Oct. 12 Tom de Waal, (journalist and author, United Kingdom) 2009 Haidostian Annual Distinguished Lecture, "The Phantom of Unity: The Failure of Regional Cooperation in the Caucasus," Michigan League, Vandenberg Room, 7:00 PM.

Oct. 26 Susan Pattie, (Manoogian Simone Foundation Visiting Scholar, United Kingdom), "Imagining Homelands: Poetry and Performance Among Cypriot Armenians," 5:00 PM.

Nov. 9 Lucila Tossounian, (Manoogian Simone Foundation Visiting Research Student, Argentina), "The Armenians in Argentina," 5:00 PM.

Nov. 23 Sarah Mekdjian, (Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow, France), "A Critical Reading of the Elite/Mass Model to Understand the Structure of the Armenian Diaspora," 5:00 PM.

Dec. 7 Roundtable discussion: Susan Pattie, Lucila Tossounian, Sarah Mekdjian, and others, "Studying the Armenian Diaspora," 5:00 PM.

Jan. 11 Arman Grigoryan, (Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow), "War, Fears of Minorities, and Genocide," 5:00 PM.

Jan. 25 Hrach Martirosyan, (Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow, Netherlands/Armenia), "Perspectives on the Origin of Armenian Language and Culture," 5:00 PM

Jan. TBD Second Meeting of the workshop on "Kosovo and Karabakh," co-organizaed with CIMERA, Geneva, Switzerland.

April 18 Annual Holocaust and Armenian Genocide Commemoration, "The Challenges of and Opportunities of Oral Testimonies," lectures by professors Gerard Libaridian and Sidney Bolkosky. 2:00 PM in the Bernath Auditorium of the David W. Adamany Undergraduate Library at Wayne State University. Co-sponsored by ASP.

May TBD International Conference on "Armenian Studies," co-sponsored with and hosted by Yerevan State University in Yerevan, Armenia.

May TBD Second meeting of the International Workshop on the "State of Armenian Studies" (by invitation).

Additional public events TBA, please check our website for the latest event updates.

And, congratulations to:

Nareg Churukian and Hrag Churukian, also pre-med majors, for completing undergraduate concentrations in Armenia in 2009. Lauren Sarkesian, recent graduate in English and Political Science, as well as president of the University of Michigan's Armenian Students' Cultural Association, who won both the Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan Award and the Detroit Free Press Editorial Award.

Recent Acquisitions

ASP has recently acquired the following special items:

- A set of two schoolbooks, one used in pre-Genocide Arapgir owned by the late Diran Chorebanian of Arlington, Mass. Mr. Chorebanian bound these books in one volume and has a large number of handwritten annotations, including an autobiography. The volume was studied by a graduate student, Vahe Sahakyan as a class project. His final paper will be available on our website along with a digitized copy of the book; the originals will be kept by UM's Special Collections.
- A set of eight handwritten notebooks produced by a native of Musa Dagh, Mr. Sarkis Hergelian, who immigrated to Soviet Armenia and lived there until his death in 1980. Mr. Hergelian took copious notes of events he witnessed, writing down his own memoirs and those of others. The notebooks have not yet been studied closely. It appears that another eight volumes were sent to different relatives. ASP is currently trying to see if those too can be obtained and preserved for future research at the UM Special Collections.
- A collection of over 800 posters produced on various occasions in the Diaspora, though mostly in Lebanon in recent decades. The collection will be analyzed, catalogued and made available to researchers with particular interest in the visual arts and politics and culture.
- A digitized version of the *Hnchak* newspaper (1887-1914), the official organ of the first Armenian revolutionary party.
- A complete set of "Hayastan," the official organ of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), an organization active in anti-Turkish and anti-Western politics, including assassinations of Turkish diplomats and bombing of Turkish offices.
- A complete set of audio recordings of all major speeches, interviews and discussions by leaders of the Karabakh Movement, 1988-1991.
- Upon special request by ASP, the University of Michigan Library has secured a microfilm copy of a rare three-volume study by David Ananun, "Rusahayeri hasarakakan zargatsume" [The Social Development of Russian-Armenians]. The three volumes, covering the years 1800-1920, were published at different times and in different places in the early part of the 20th century; they constitute one of the best documented and analytical sources for modern Armenian history and sociology and politics. The University of Michigan Hatcher Graduate Library also boasts of a large number of rare Armenian journals in microfilm format published here and in Europe.

UPDATE: New Student

Rutherford Hubbard will be a dual degree student in the Law School and Russian and East European Studies (MA), and is the recipient of a two-year Manoogian Simone Graduate Fellowship. Rud has served two years in Armenia as a Peace Corps volunteer and speaks Armenian fluently. He is interested in post-conflict reconstruction and the development of law in post-Soviet states.

Graduate Students' International Workshop on Armenian Literature

Graduate students of Armenian studies from Armenia, Europe and the US gathered on Thursday, April 16, 2009 to participate in the second annual workshop organized by the Armenian Studies Program of the University of Michigan's International Institute. Providing a forum for students and scholars devoted to Armenian literature, the workshop served to build a scholarly community in which young scholars became acquainted with each other and receiving valuable feedback on their work.

A diverse group of established scholars led the various sessions, serving as discussants and also providing guidance and feedback to the student presenters and participants. Those chairing the sessions included; **Prof. Theo van Lint**, Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian Studies at Oxford University, **Kevork B. Bardakjian**, Marie Manoogian Professor of Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, **Prof. Khachig Tololyan**, College of Letters, Wesleyan University, and **Talar Chahinian**, PhD, UCLA.

The sessions consisted of students presenting their own individual research projects or dissertations, spanning a wide breadth of subject matter and time periods. **Benedetta Con-tin**, opened the workshop discussing her paper on the concepts of act and sensation in the Definitions of Philosophy by David the Invincible, followed by **Alison Vacca** (UM), who

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**UPDATE: Staff**

*In mid-April the Armenian Studies Program said farewell to its administrator of almost two years as **Gloria Caudill** (left) accepted another position within the International Institute. Gloria stepped into the administrator role with the Center for Chinese Studies. Those at ASP are sad to see her leave but wish her all the best in this new endeavor. ASP welcomes the new administrator, **Ingrid Peterson**, who joins our program after two years as an administrative assistant with the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia. Ingrid studied International Relations and Latin America at Kalamazoo College and went on to receive an MA from the University of Sussex. Ingrid also has experience living and working in Venezuela, Ecuador, Japan, and England. She looks forward to learning more about Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora.*

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presented her research on reconciling Armenian and Islamic historiography in seventh century accounts of Arab incursions in Armenia. **Tamar Boyadjian**, from the University of California, Los Angeles, discussed analogs of a Middle English didactic romance, King of Tars, and **Hayk Hambardzumyan** from Yerevan closed the session with his study on variants of the Armenian epic poem, Sasna Tzrer.

The second session included **Michael Pifer** (UM) opening with his paper on the role of the senses in the gardens of Armenian medieval poetry. **Semi Ertan** (UM) discussed his work on Eremia **Chelebi Keomurjian** and the question of millenarianism in seventeenth century Ottoman society, and **Shushan Karapetian**, from UCLA, discussed the drama and dramatist in Hovhannes

Tumanian. **Jeremy Johnson** (UM), gave a multimedia presentation on the woman's magazine Hayastani ashkhatavoruhi and the cultural production of gender norms in the early Soviet period.

The next session, opened by **Vahram Danielyan** (Yerevan) with his research on the contemporary novel in Armenia, followed by **Myrna Douzjian** (UCLA) and her presentation on Aghasi Ayvazyan's Dekorner in the context of madness, memory, and forgetting in post-Soviet emptiness. **Talar Chahinian**, who received her PhD recently from UCLA, spoke about narrative time in Krikor Beledian's Anune lezuis tak, and **Barlow Der MugrdechianMugrdechian** (Fresno State and UCLA) closed, with his work on genocide, identity, and memory in post-Genocide Armenian-American literature.

The final session largely focused on the art of translation in Armenian literature. **Sona Haroutyunian**, Venice, spoke about the reception and translation of Dante in the Armenian world. **Theo van Lint** outlined his research on the international context of Armenian culture in regards to translation. **Prof. Tololyan** discussed the difficulties of translating Armenian literature, particularly in regards to Bedros Turian. **Kevork Bardakjian** closed with a talk on the task of translating loan words and the importance and need for establishing a center to focus on translation in Armenia.

Der Mugrdechian led a roundtable discussion on the last day, which touched upon issues both general and specific, ranging from language and expression, influences, and relationships between the literature of the Diaspora and literature produced in Armenia.

Participants were expressly pleased to attend the workshop, and enjoyed sharing their work with some other members of the next generation of Armenian studies in a warm and congenial atmosphere. **Kevork B. Bardakjian** was the main convener of the gathering.

Armenian Studies related Courses taught at the University of Michigan during the last four years

(Regularly or in cycles; all courses are at the undergraduate level, unless indicated otherwise)

Prof. Kevork Bardakjian, Near Eastern Studies Department (Prof. Bardakjian will be on leave this academic year)

- An Introduction to Classical and Medieval Armenian Literature
- An Introduction to Modern Armenian Literature
- Armenia: Culture and Ethnicity- Issues in Race and Ethnicity
- Armenian-American Writers
- Armenian, Intensive 1st Year Eastern
- Armenian, Intensive 1st Year Western
- Armenian, Intensive 2nd Year Western
- Armenian Language, Eastern, Beginner -Advanced
- Armenian Language, Western, Beginner -Advanced
- Intensive Introduction to Classical Armenian
- Introduction to Classical Armenian I
- Introduction to Classical Armenian II
- Origins and Development of Armenian Language and Culture
- The Church of Armenia: Profile of a National Institution

Prof. Gerard Libaridian, Department of History

- Armenian History from Prehistoric Times to the Present
- Conflict & Diplomacy in the Caucasus
- Diasporan Identities and Politics: The Case of the Armenians
- Islam and Armenians
- Nationalism of Small Nations (graduate seminar)
- The Writing of Post-Soviet History: The Case of the Caucasus and Armenia (graduate seminar)
- The Third Republic of Armenia through Documents
- Turkish-Armenian Relations since the 19th Century

Prof. Ronald Suny, Department of History

- Survey of Russia: The Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, & the Successor States
- Nationalism

Visiting and Post-doctoral Fellows

(courses taught one time only)

- Armenia Today: Continuity and Change (Jasmine Dum-Tragut)
- Citizenship/The Post-Soviet States and the Caucasus (Arus Harutyunyan)
- Demographic Engineering in Late Ottoman Empire (Fuat Dunder)
- Early Modern Armenian History (Sebouh Aslanian)
- Kurdish and Turkish Nationalisms (Hans-Lukas Kieser)
- Missionary America and the Near East (Hans-Lukas Kieser)
- The World of the Indian Ocean (Sebouh Aslanian)
- Turkish Nationalism (Halil Berkta)
- Origins and Development of Armenian Language and Culture (Hrach Martirosyan)
- Tribe, Community, Nation: The History of Kurds and the Middle East (Dundar)
- Mass Murder and Genocide in the 20th Century (Arman Grigoryan)
- Armenian Immigration in Contemporary Urban America: the Issues of Identity, Space and Power (Sarah Mekdjian)
- Telling Lives: Ethnography, Memoir and Oral History in Diaspora Embodied (Susan Pattie)
- Identities: Ethnicity and the Senses (Susan Pattie)



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The University of Michigan's Armenian Studies Program Recognizes 2003-2009 Contributions From:

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The Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, deserves your support:

- Preparing the next generation of scholars in the field of Armenian studies
- Offering a comprehensive university level education in Armenian studies, including undergraduate majors, MA and PhD degrees and post-doctoral studies
- Teaching language, culture, literature, history, anthropology, international relations and political science
- Reaching out to the larger community with an intensive program of public lectures, workshops and international conferences
- Answering student and researcher questions on Armenian history and culture from the US and throughout the world

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 do more. Please use the envelope inserted in this Newsletter to make your tax-deductible contribution.