THE ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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Manoogian Family Gives a New Gift to the Armenian Studies Program, Continuing a Long Relationship

by Ingrid Peterson

The historic relationship between the Manoogian family and the Armenian Studies Program (ASP) at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor has been renewed by a generous gift that supports the continued evolution of the Armenian Studies Program as a comprehensive Armenian Studies undertaking. This relationship has its roots in the funding of Armenian language teaching in the 1970s and in the inception of the program with the 1981 establishment of the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History. Six years later, the Manoogian family added the Marie Manoogian Chair of Armenian Language and Literature.

With a firm foundation the Armenian Studies Program began to develop outreach programs to scholars through its summer language institute and academic conferences and workshops. Further, the endowed chairs enabled the University of Michigan to attract three prominent scholars; Ronald G. Suny as the first chair and director, Kevork Bardakjian became the second appointed chair and director, and Gerard Libaridian, the latest Alex Manoogian Chair of Armenian History and current director. In this first phase, 1981-2007, ASP was able to attract smaller endowments to support public lectures and student research grants.

In addition to the emerging community of scholars, the university invested in other resources, including books. The university's library contains over 20,000 volumes directly related to Armenian Studies and supported by the extensive holdings in related fields. ASP has also influenced the establishment of other related scholarly bodies, namely the founding of the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus and the creation of the Workshop for Armenian/Turkish Scholarship or WATS.



Marie (d. 1993) and Alex (d. 1996) Manoogian

2007 saw a new phase in the evolution of ASP with a major gift of \$1.2 million from the Manoogian Simone Foundation providing for multiple conferences and workshops in addition to funding seven graduate students, eight post-doctoral fellows, five visiting scholars, and two pre-doctoral fellows. This new next step solidified the program and added new dimensions in building the academic community over time.

Continued on p. 3



Armenian Studies Program An Interview with Director Gerard Libaridian

by Michael Pifer

This past year was focused on assessment and reflection after the 2007 Manoogian Simone Foundation gift, the impetus behind the program's rapid expansion. Program director, Gerard Libaridian, Alex Manoogian Visiting Professor of Modern Armenian History, shares his reflections in an interview with Comparative Literature Ph.D. candidate Michael Pifer.

Michael Pifer: What were your goals as director of the Armenian Studies Program for the 2009-2010 academic year?

Gerard Libaridian: We focused on enhancing the various fellowship programs, the administrative structure, and the program's financial future. Everyone involved in the program has every right to be proud: from the student support and volunteers; to our administrator, Ingrid Peterson; to the Executive Committee and the Steering Committee; as well as the many levels of University administration.

We honed our post-doctoral fellowship program, which started three years ago. We had eight scholars engage in research, prepare manuscripts for publication, and teach. We tested the new pre-doctoral research program, which is open to students from other universities writing ASP related theses. We started closer planning of courses between senior faculty and the post-doctoral/visiting scholars for the benefit of students.

In terms of the administrative dimension, we needed to find ways to work with other units as part of the International Institute, to maximize resources and minimize vulnerabilities. Our main issue has been that ASP has only one full-time staff person. We resolved this with an agreement of close cooperation and mutual support with the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, which already houses three units. We will become an associated unit per a memorandum of understanding between the Weiser Center and ASP and supported by the director of the International Institute and the dean of the College of Literature, Science, and Arts.

Continued on p. 3

New Gift Continued

The presence of so many scholars over the past three years has enabled the program to expand its offerings to students with a total of 34 courses, including 3 graduate seminars, averaging 14 students.

Starting in the fall of 2010 this three-decade-old partnership continues with a combined new gift of \$400,000 through 2012, on behalf of the Manoogian Simone Foundation and the Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation. The gifts will specifically support fellowship programs for graduate students, pre- and post-doctoral fellows, and visiting scholars. In addition to the support for specific fellows, this new gift will support workshop opportunities that will contribute to the Armenian Studies community in general and scholars in the US and abroad, including Armenia.

Zvartnots Airport, Yerevan, by Anna Davtyan



ASP Post-doctoral Fellow Publishes New Armenian Lexical Dictionary

The Armenian Studies Program recently celebrated the book publication of **Hrach Martirosyan**, linguist and Manoogian-Simone Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow. The comprehensive work, entitled **Etymological Dictionary of the Armenian Inherited Lexicon**, makes a significant contribution to the critical study of Indo-European comparative linguistics, and expands upon previous etymological dictionaries of Armenian, which have focused primarily on Classical Armenian and neglected numerous Armenian dialects. Staff, students, and professors of ASP gathered for a convivial evening of dinner and trivia to congratulate Martirosyan for publishing this groundbreaking work with Brill Academic Publishers during his time at U-M.

Financially, in 2007, ASP was able to expand our activities exponentially through a generous but limited gift of over \$1 million dollars by the Manoogian Simone Foundation (NY). We needed to secure funding for the continuation of new programs. I am delighted to state that during the past year we were able to obtain new funding for the next two years. The Manoogian Simone Foundation and the Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation (Taylor, MI) have made a new contribution totaling \$400,000. We are most grateful to both Mrs. Louise Simone and Mr. Richard Manoogian for their support and encouragement. We are also grateful to a number of others, including the Haidostian/Wilbanks families, Mr. Arsen Sanjian, and Dean Ara Paul, as well as other individuals and groups for their new or continuing support.

MP: In light of what ASP has achieved this year, what were some surprises?

GL: I can think of two: first, everyone involved in the fellowship selection process was pleasantly surprised with the quality of post-doctoral fellows we have had. This was our third year hosting post-doctoral fellows and visiting scholars, all of whom have been phenomenal: of the highest caliber, hard-working, making the most of the opportunity provided, producing work, and interacting with the university community while excelling in teaching.

The second surprise was that our attempt to create a sub-community in Armenian studies was successful. This past academic year we had eight graduate students in Armenian studies, four senior scholars, three post-doctoral fellows, one visiting scholar, and two pre-doctoral students. This means eighteen budding or mature scholars on one campus. This does not include the undergraduate students or colleagues in related fields such as Professors Muge Gocek, Gottfried Hagen, Douglas Northrop, and so many others with whom we work closely.

An Interview with Gerard Libaridian Continued

MP: How has ASP interacted with local communities, both Armenian and academic, over the last year?

GL: We have excellent and complementary relations with both. The 2009-2010 program included fourteen events that ranged from public lectures to the theatrical performance of "Sojourn at Ararat." This past year we hosted two special events: "Historic Achievement or Historic Blunder? The Armenia-Turkey Protocols" panel discussion and the colloquium, "Third Party Intervention in Armenian History and Turkish/Armenian Relations." With regard to the academic community, I must say that in teaching history, culture, and politics, our courses are more inclusive, comparative, and "connected."

MP: Describe the impact, short and long term, this year's post-doctoral and visiting fellows have had on ASP.

Library

The Armenian Studies Program has recently begun assembling a small library in our program office. We are proud to display books from donors as well as recently published works by our own Post-doctoral Fellows and Visiting Scholars. Some texts that have been added to our library this year include:

History of the Armenians of Adana (Atanyi Hayots Patmutiwn), (CD copy) donated by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

The Silent Generation by Haig Sarajian donated by Haig Sarajian

Crime of Numbers: The Role of Statistics in the Armenian Question (1878-1918) by Fuat Dundar, 2008-2009 Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow.

Etymological Dictionary of the Armenian Inherited Lexicon by Hrach Martirosyan, 2009-2010 Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow

Online videos

All 2009-2010 events, and the majority of events since 2007, were videotaped and are available on the ASP website. To access the event videos please see the calendar listing for a specific event, the listing is linked to the video. Please continue to return to our website as we post videos of our events.

GL: This is an intriguing question, since we usually tend to think about the impact programs have on scholars. These scholars have been inspiring to us all and convinced me, at least, that when planned well, these programs have benefits beyond assisting young scholars. These programs have made possible collegiality, mutually supportive scholarship, and fundamental respect that might have been otherwise difficult to sustain. So the long-term impact is that the senior scholars will work harder to secure the future of this program.

MP: ASP has grown to become one of the largest academic programs for Armenian Studies outside of Armenia.

GL: That is the assessment by some. It is true in some respects: next year we will have ten graduate students (eight doctoral and two master's students). We probably have the most comprehensive program: undergraduate and graduate students; pre-doctoral, post-doctoral, and visiting scholars; graduate and undergraduate research and travel grants; lectures; workshops; conferences; and special projects. Whether that makes us the largest program outside of Armenia is probably a matter of judgment. But that we have become an important center, there is no doubt. We still have a lot of work to do, but I appreciate the vibrancy that has developed here, which was built on hard work by professors Suny and Bardakjian.

MP: You have just been reappointed director of ASP for another two years. What would you like to achieve during the next two years?

GL: I would like to make sure that there is an endowment that will support established ASP activities. I would like to see the administration of ASP fully supported for the long term. Above all, I would like to work on development of the programs that deal with young scholars so they can compete not only in the market of positions but also in the field of ideas that matter for the future.

MP: The 2010 ASP Newsletter carries an announcement for the search for the position of the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History. Does that mean you are leaving U-M?

GL: I will be leaving U-M and formal association with any institution. I will be "retiring." When I first started working at U-M, I had already decided that I would stop working here in May 2012.

An Interview with Gerard Libaridian Continued

U-M has been the most pleasant work environment, in some ways the easiest. I have received full support from everyone in the history department, the International Institute, and others throughout the college. If I was to continue working within an academic institution, there is no other place that I would want to work.

I have realized that I had spent the 1960s working at odd jobs: in a restaurant, then in a factory, to put myself through college; the 70s I had spent in graduate school. The founding and directing of the Zoryan Institute occupied most of the 1980s. The 1990s were filled with my work in the government of Armenia. The first decade of this century, U-M, especially ASP, has been the center of my life. I decided I wish a decade for myself: to write, mainly, but also to listen to music.

Also it would be good to have some time to give to the young in Armenia. I would like to spend time there, on a regular basis every year, to work with the youth. We have a brilliant new generation. They soon will be responsible for the future of that country. My generation did what it could, good or bad. So, I thought, what is the best that I can give? And that is what I came up with.

Regarding the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History and the directorship of ASP, I am confident we will find the best person.

See page 15 for the announcement



Ararat from Matenadaran by Anna Davtyan

Panel on Armenia-Turkey Protocols: Historic Achievement or Historic Blunder?

by Michael Pifer

This past fall, Armenia and Turkey signed two protocols to develop diplomatic relations and open the border between the two countries - a decision which rapidly became the target of vitriolic attack or bombastic praise from a variety of media outlets, politicians, political parties, and religious organizations. The Armenian Studies Program responded by organizing a panel of experts to discuss the protocols before an academic and public audience. The panel, titled "Historic Achievement or Historic Blunder? The Armenia-Turkey Protocols," convened on October 23 and consisted of three University of Michigan scholars: Arman Grigoryan, Ph.D., a Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow; Professor Muge Gocek, of the Sociology Department; and Vahe Sahakyan, a Ph.D. student in the Near Eastern Studies department.



Republic Square, Yerevan, by Anna Davtyan

The panel analyzed and critiqued individual points of the protocols, tried to assess what the possible impact of the protocols might be, and provided historical context and background to the issue. One of the objectives of the Armenian Studies Program has been to respond to contemporary political crises and crossroads in a timely and scholarly fashion, and by doing so, ASP hopes to raise the level of political and academic discourse on Armenian-related issues. It is important that not only journalists, governments, or NGOs discuss issues such as the protocols, but also that such matters find immediate and serious resonance among academic circles as well. Additionally, ASP has made it a priority that the greater public has the ability to benefit from and participate in those discussions.

To this end, ASP has also made a full video broadcast of the panel available online. To watch the protocols, as well as other lectures, colloquiums, and conferences of interest, please visit: www.umich.edu/~iinet/asp/

A Project Supported by the Harry Ardashes Paul Memorial Fund: Reporting on "The State of Armenian Studies"

by Vahe Sahakyan

In 2008, the Steering Committee of ASP at U-M enthusiastically approved a project to study and assess the state of Armenian Studies throughout the world. One 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 U-M 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 Ph.D. student

in Armenian studies) and his team developed a series of seven questionnaires, in English and Armenian, to be distributed to Armenian studies programs, organizations, libraries, museums, institutions and scholars around the world. "We believe we have 90% of

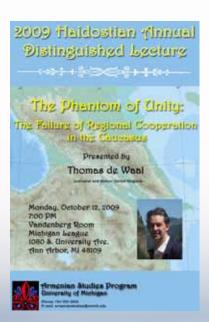


all such programs on our list," stated Prof. Libaridian, "and we are still working on making sure we get to 100%." The third phase of the project includes analyzing the returned questionnaires and sets the stage for a second workshop.

Initially the project was designed to cover Armenian studies in Armenia as well as in the Diaspora. However, given the many differences in the understanding and organization of the field, the project managers decided to cover the diaspora only. Prof. Libaridian thanked Prof. Ara Paul, who agreed to support the project through the Harry Ardashes Memorial Fund established at the University of Michigan, in memory of his brother.

Journalist Thomas de Waal Delivers 2009 Distinguished Annual Haidostian Lecture

Author and award-winning journalist Thomas de Waal delivered the 2009 Haidostian Annual Distinguished Lecture on October 12, 2009 in the Michigan League and was hosted by ASP. De Waal's lecture, entitled "The Phantom of Unity: The Failure of Regional Cooperation in the Caucasus," focused on the fate of various attempts at integration and cooperation within the region. De Waal challenged the belief that regional integration in the Caucasus has failed and is no longer worth pursuing. De Waal emphatically asserted that "the point is not a new Soviet-style region with a single political leadership, but a region that seeks cooperation rather than fragmentation. The problem, I contend, is not that there isn't enough in common to give the peoples of the South Caucasus a shared project to work on, it is that no one has given them the enabling environment to make that happen." Thomas de Waal's conclusions are based not only on his research of the region and its actors over the last two decades, but also on his experiences - from Caucasus Editor at the Institute for War and Peace Reporting to reporting for BBC World Service and



Moscow Times. In addition to his journalistic achievement, de Waal has also authored several books, including: Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War (NYU Press, 2003) and Chechnya, A Small Victorious War (Pan, 1997 and NYU Press, 1988), co-authored with Carlotta Gall.

As Story Tellers Pass Away or Forget

The ASP/U-M Oral History Project in Armenia

by Gerard Libaridian

"On what basis and using what documents will the history of the late Soviet and early independence period be written?" I asked myself a few years after I left my position in the government of Armenia in 1997. In January 1991, I had been a historian who ended up being part of the history of that republic, now returning slowly to academic work and, once more, to the teaching and writing of history.

My first major shock was to find out that I could no longer write the way I used to; having been part of policy and decision making during critical times, the questions that I was asking regarding the distant past were not the same.

More importantly, I realized how many important discussions and decisions were made during informal gatherings and would never be found in any official documents later. The authorities were not fully organized and sufficiently bureaucratized during the years of transition and early independence. The Soviet period had its own peculiar problems; possibly over-bureaucratized, the politics of the system was such that real motivations for decisions and the dynamics of decision-making were covered or distorted.



Radial Wall

The concern I had turned into panic during a discussion with the first President, Levon Ter-Petrossian, with whom I had worked for seven years. We were taking a stroll in the garden of his home in Yerevan where he had resided since resigning in 1998. I mentioned a meeting of the leaderships of Armenia and Karabakh where an important decision had been made. Ter-Petrossian confessed that he did not remember that meeting; somehow it had been erased from his mind. He asked me to remind him of the contents of that meeting, which I did with great detail. He remembered only one detail. I am not sure who was in greater shock, especially when the decision regarded a solution to the Karabakh problem on which both leaderships agreed, for the first time, and the Karabakh problem was what caused the internal conflict that led to his resignation not too long after that meeting. "Have you written this down anywhere," asked Ter-Petrossian. I had not. "You really should."

I should, of course, and I would; that summer I started writing on such events.

But that might resolve the problem of one witness to history. How about all the others? Few would write their memoirs, some would answer questions as background to



Naira Tumanyan, Anna Martirosyan, Gerard Libaridian, Hrach Martirosyan, and Arman Grigoryan

contemporary debates. Most will forget in time; and what they will remember may already be distorted by subsequent developments or merely because of the passage of time. Some witnesses to history will need or want to forget what they said and did then. Finally, many of my colleagues of the time have passed away. Within a decade we will not have many left who can reconstruct, even from their own point of view or the perspective of their own position then, what happened and why.

I had been exposed to oral history from my days in graduate school at UCLA. Professor Richard Hovannisian had initiated a series of seminars whose participants - we graduate students - audio-taped the stories of survivors of the Genocide. Subsequently, as director of the Zoryan Institute in Cambridge, Mass., I had initiated a similar project that videotaped the stories of survivors and trained groups in different parts of the world, including Soviet Armenia, to do the same.

With the panic in place and experience in mind, and the full support of the then director of the Armenian Studies Program at U-M, Prof. **Kevork Bardakjian** as well as the rest of the Steering Committee, we initiated a program of audio-taping as many stories of participants in the history of the Republic of Armenia, late Soviet Armenia, transitional, and early independence periods, as possible.

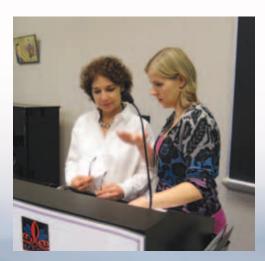
The purpose of the project was to secure for future historians aspects of the late Soviet Armenian and early Third Republic history not likely to be found in official documents. The initial target was to interview some forty personalities who had policy making and executive positions in Soviet/independent Armenia. Such personalities were to be found in Yerevan mostly, but also in Moscow.

2009-2010 Calendar of Events

Fall Semester 2009

- Oct. 12 2009 Haidostian Annual Distinguished Lecture, "The Phantom of Unity: The Failure of Regional Cooperation in the Caucasus," Thomas de Waal, journalist and author, United Kingdom
- Oct. 23 Panel discussion, "Historic Achievement or Historic Blunder? The Armenia-Turkey Protocols," Muge Gocek, Professor of Sociology; Arman Grigoryan, Postdoctoral Fellow, Political Science; Vahe Sahakyan, Ph.D. candidate, Near Eastern Studies
- Oct. 26 Public Lecture, "Imagining Homelands: Poetry and Performance Among Cypriot Armenians,"

 Susan Pattie, Manoogian Simone Foundation Visiting Scholar, United Kingdom
- **Nov. 9** Public Lecture, "The Armenians in Argentina," Lucila Tossounian, Manoogian Simone Foundation Predoctoral Visiting Researcher, Argentina
- **Nov. 23** Public Lecture, "A Critical Reading of the Elite/Mass-Model to Understand the Structure of the Armenian Diaspora," **Sarah Mekdjian**, Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow, France
- **Dec. 7** Roundtable discussion, "Studying the Armenian Diaspora," **Susan Pattie, Lucila Tossounian, Sarah Mekdjian**, and **Khatchig Tölölyan** (founding editor of the journal *Diaspora*)



Susan Pattie and Ingrid Peterson

Winter Semester 2010

- **Jan. 11** Public Lecture, "War, Fears of Minorities, and Genocide," **Arman Grigoryan**, Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow
- **Jan. 23** Armenian Student Cultural Association, "The 2010 Hye Hop Charity Dance"
- Jan. 25 Public Lecture, "Perspectives on the Origin of Armenian Language and Culture," Hrach Martirosyan,
 Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow,
 Netherlands/Armenia
- Jan. 28 Performance, "Sojourn at Ararat," Nora Armani & Gerald Papasian
- **Feb. 10** Public Lecture, "'Foreign Confessions' in Foreign Contexts: Religion Across the Border of the Russian Empire" **Paul Werth**, Associate Professor of History, University of Nevada, Sponsored by the Center for Russian, East European, and European Studies
- Mar. 18 Annual Michigan Lectures on Judaism and Christianity in the Roman World, "Rome in the Nineteenth-Century Imaginary: American Professors, Ancient 'Pagans,' and Early Christianity," Elizabeth Clark, John Carlisle Kilgo, Professor of Religion, Duke University
- Mar. 19 Colloquium, "Third Party Intervention in Armenian History and Turkish/Armenian Relations." Presenters include: Arman Grigoryan, Post-doctoral Fellow, Politial Science; Gerard Libaridian, History; Andranik Migranyan, Institute for Democracy and Cooperation, New York; Michael Reynolds, Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University; Ronald G. Suny, History
- April 18 Annual Holocaust and Armenian Genocide Commemoation, "The Challenges of and Opportunities of Oral Testimonies," lectures by professors Gerard Libaridan and Sidney Bolkosky
- May 8–9 Second Meeting of the workshop on Kosovo and Karabakh, "After Kosovo Declaration of Independence and the August 2008 War: The New Geopolitics and Role of Diplomacy in the Caucasus," co-organized with CIMERA (Geneva, Switzerland)

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 Technoogy Adoption in the Republic of Armenia: Why Mobile Phones but Not Personal Computers and Internet?"

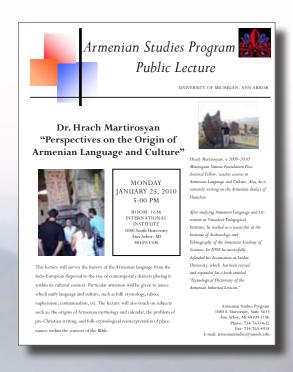
 Katy Pearce, doctoral candidate in communication,
 University of California, Santa Barbara
- **Nov. 15** Public Lecture, "Cultivating Nationhood in Imperial Russia: The Periodical Press and the Formation of a Modern Armenian Identity," **Lisa Khachaturian**, author
- Dec. 6 Public Lecture, "And Then A Hero Comes Along: Istanbulite Armenian Re-fashioning Turkishness, 1918-1923,"
 Lerna Ekmekçioğlu, Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow

Winter Semester 2011 (tentative)

- Jan. 10 Public Lecture, "German Peneration into the Ottoman Empire through Baghdad Railway," Eyyup Murat Özyüksel, Manoogian Simone Foundation Visiting Scholar
- **Jan. 24** Public Lecture, **Kevork Bardakjian**, Marie Manoogian Professor of Armenian language and literature
- Feb. 7 Public Lecture, "Revolutionaries after the Revolution:
 Politics under the Ottoman Constitution," Dikran
 Kaligian, historian and managing editor of Armenian
 Review
- **Feb. 21** Public Lecture, "The Comtemporary Historical Novel in Armenia," **Vahram Danielyan**, Manoogian Simone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow
- **Mar. 14** Public Lecture, "Entwined Fates: History, Turks, and Armenians," **Ronald G. Suny**, director of the Eisenberg Institute of Historical Studies
- **April** Annual Holocaust and Armenian Genocide Commemoration, TBD

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





As Story Tellers Pass Away or Forget continued from p. 7

In the initial phase of the project we developed a list of possible interviewees and the questionnaire which, in addition to general sections, has special sections for different periods during which the subject was active, and a personalized section developed specifically for the subject, relevant to his/her particular position(s). Preparing the interview and the modules for the questionnaire before each interview was a long and involved process in and of itself.

The project started four years ago and has moved more slowly than expected, facing a number of difficulties. The arduous task of selecting and training interviewers had to be repeated twice, since in the volatile employment and political environment of Armenian commitments to side projects can take priority in peoples' lives. At one point the funds allotted for the projects had lost 35% of their value between the time the allotment was approved and US dollars were changed to Armenian drams. Many subjects were reluctant to speak about events dating back 15-20 years, even now, some still remain so. A few interviewees who had agreed to tell their stories passed away before we were able to record them.

Nonetheless, we have managed to make serious progress and taken steps to accelerate the process. The local project manager, Ms. Gayane Sargsyan, a historian by training, organizes the interviews, and coordinates the work of the interviewers and transcribers.

We now have close to twenty interviews completed, while the list of potential interviewees has more than doubled. Among those already interviewed include: the last Prime Minister of Soviet Armenia, Mr. Fadey Sargsian; the first Prime minister of independent Armenia, Mr. Vazgen Sargsyan; the last first secretary of the Community Party before the end of Communist rule in Armenia, Mr. Vladimir Movsisyan, who went on to assume important positions during independence, among others.

Our current focus is recording as many interviews as possible. We hope to have interviews with at least forty subjects before we complete our project. Meanwhile we are encouraging others in Armenia to develop their own projects, since it will be impossible for us to interview everyone whose story should be recorded. These completed interviews will be made available to researchers. Copies will be made available here at U-M and in selected locations in Armenia.

Manoogian Simone Foundation and Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation Fellows

ASP welcomes the following scholars to the 2010-2011 program. We are excited to host such talent and be able to contribute to a more diverse academic community with the participation of the 2010-2011 fellows.

Post-doctoral Fellow **Vahram Danielyan's** research focuses on the contemporary Armenian novel since the fall of the Soviet Union. He is particularly interested in studying the Armenian novel within the context of other national literatures. He received his Ph.D. in 2009 from Yerevan State University, and has published over twenty articles related to his fields of interest in Armenian journals, newspapers, and other publications across Armenia and in the diaspora. He has participated for the last four years in the annual meeting of the Young Armenian Writers organization, which gathers in Yeghedznadzor, Armenia.

Post-doctoral Fellow **Lerna Ekmekçioğlu** recently completed her dissertation, tentatively titled "Improvising Turkishness: Being Armenian in Post-genocide Istanbul (1918-1933)," and received her Ph.D. from New York University in the department of History and Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies. Her areas of interest include feminism in Ottoman and Armenian contexts, including Ademis, a journal for Armenian women which was published in Cairo at the beginning of the 20th century. Aside from teaching courses at NYU, Ekmekçioğlu has studied at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul as well as at the University of Athens as an exchange student in the Department of Political Science.

Visiting Scholar, Professor **Eyyup Murat Özyüksel's** research is currently focused on the history of Ottoman Railroads, especially the Baghdad railroad and the Hidjaz railroad, and how those railroads shape internal political stability, expand regions of political influence, and have bearing upon international

relations. He has taught courses on the history of political thought, social and economic history, and the history of the Middle East at Uludag and Istanbul Universities. Özyüksel's non-academic areas of interest also help fuel his creativity - he has recorded five albums of Turkish music.



Republic Square Fountain, Yerevan, by Anna Davtyan

2009-2010 Manoogian Simone Foundation Fellows

MSF Fellows share aspects of their experiences with the Armenian Studies Program. The following scholars share their recent experiences and future plans.

- Visiting Scholar Susan Pattie returned to London to coordinate the exhibit, "My Dear Brother: Armenians in Turkey a Hundred Years Ago."
- Fuat Dundar, Post-doctoral Fellow from Sept. 2008 through Dec. 2009, secured a research position at Brandeis University.
- Arman Grigoryan will begin teaching at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.
- Hrach Martirosyan returned to his research in the Netherlands.
- Sarah Mekdjian accepted a tenure track position in Geography at the University of Grenoble, France.
- Lucila Tossounian returned to continue her Ph.D. research in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Anna Martirosyan, joined the 2009-2010 cohort for a month to use the U-M library. She returned to her program in St. Louis.

Susan Pattie

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

The position offered the opportunity to work in a stimulating environment with exceptional resources and colleagues who

are both supportive and challenging. I was also looking forward to creating two new courses that I had been thinking about for some time. It was an opportunity to bring different strands of my research together and a push to do further reading on related subjects.

I expected to find a group of people who were pushing the boundaries of Armenian Studies, the resources that would make this possible, and encouragement and support



to be able to join in. This was what I found. I was fortunate in that the graduate level class, especially, was a group of people with diverse ideas and experiences. I benefited immensely from our conversation and their feedback and expect to stay in touch and do collaborative work in the future. I also found an excellent support team in Armenian Studies and in the anthropology department. I am especially grateful for the work of Ingrid Peterson, who was always ready with solutions and assistance.

Lucila Tossounian

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

As a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina) focusing on the Armenian migrations to Argentina, it was clear to me that at one point I would have to enrich the scarce library resources I have in my country in order to write my dissertation. I started to look for different Armenian Studies Programs in the US, and I found that the ASP at U-M could not be better for my academic goals. I accepted the position knowing that this would be an exceptional experience for my education.

Hrach Martirosyan

What did you accomplish during your tenure here?

During the academic year 2009-2010, I completed nine articles. I have collaborated with leading Armenologists working with the Armenian Studies Program, and also with many experts in historical linguistics, Indo-European and non-Indo-European Near Eastern languages. I have taken full advantage of the library of U-M, one of the greatest libraries in the world. I completed extensive examination of sources and scientific literature and have begun writing a manuscript on the very archaic and fascinating dialect of Hamshen.

Arman Grigoryan

What did you accomplish during your tenure here?

In the beginning of the academic year I had to do one last round of revisions on an article on third-party interventions that was under review at the Journal International Studies Quarterly. The editors of the journal decided to publish it shortly thereafter. I had a rough draft of another article coming in to the program, which dealt with Soviet and Yugoslav ethno-federalisms. I was able to turn it into a finished product and submit it to the journal International Security, where it is currently under review. I am finishing up a third article, which deals with a fundamental puzzle in the study of ethnic conflict: why some states facing mobilized minorities appease these minorities, while others try to crush them. I will send it out by the end of June. In addition to my work on these articles, I have also been working on turning my dissertation into a book, which has involved research, revisions of certain parts of the manuscript, and a related presentation to the ASP community. I have made two other presentations to the ASP community - one at a seminar on the Armenian-Turkish protocols and another on the role of third parties in the Armenian-Turkish relations – one presentation for the Armenian Studies program at Columbia University, and yet another for the Armenian community in Los Angeles. Finally, I had the privilege of teaching a course on ethnic conflict to a class of fourteen undergraduates.

Current and Incoming Graduate Students in the Armenian Studies Program



Left to right- Dzovinar Derderian, Fuat Dundar, Anna Martirosyan, Vahe Sahakyan, Naira Tumanyan, Hrach Martirosyan, Sarah Mekdjian, Alison Vacca, Michael Pifer, Arman Grigoryan, Gerard Libaridian, Ingrid Peterson

Graduate Students

Richard Antaramian is a Ph.D. candidate in the history department. As a winner of a Fulbright-Hays fellowship, he spent the last year studying in Armenia and working on his dissertation, which focuses on the history of social and political relations in 19th century Ottoman Anatolia. Richard was also a recipient of a Rackham International Research Award for 2010, which will fund a research trip to Turkey.

Etienne Charriere is entering his second year as a 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 and will receive another year of full support from ASP during his graduate studies.

Semi Ertan is a Ph.D. candidate in the Near Eastern studies department, and was the recipient of an ASP/Arsen Sanjian Research Fellowship for the summer. 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."

Krista Goff is a Ph.D. candidate in the history department. She has spent this year conducting dissertation research in Russia, and she will continue her research in Azerbaijan during the upcoming academic year. She studies Soviet history and focuses on the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic during the 1950s and 1960s. Krista's work in Moscow was funded by several programs at U-M, including ASP. Her research in Azerbaijan is funded by a Fulbright-Hays fellowship.

Rutherford Hubbard is a dual degree student in the law and Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (M.A.), and is the

recipient of a two-year Manoogian Simone Graduate Fellowship. Rudtherford plans to write his thesis based on field research this upcoming year. He recently received a research grant for work on the impact of corruption on institutional legitimacy in Kosovo and Karabakh from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Before his return to academia, Hubbard was a Peace Corps volunteer in Armenia for two years.

Jeremy Johnson is undertaking dissertation research for the 2010-2011 academic year in 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. During the summer of 2010, with an ASP research grant, he researched Soviet language planning policies in Armenia. He plans on presenting this research in Yerevan in October at the Ethnology and Archaeology of Armenia and Neighboring Countries conference.

Michael Pifer is beginning his third year of doctoral studies in the department of comparative literature. He is taking his preliminary exams this fall, and will finish his coursework by the end of the year. His research focuses on medieval Armenian and Persian poetics.

Vahe Sahakyan is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Near Eastern studies department 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 is the recipient of an ASP/Agnes H. and R. A. Yarmain Research Fellowship.

Allison Vacca is a fourth-year doctoral student in Near Eastern studies. She is planning on taking her preliminary exams in the fall and advancing to candidacy. She focuses on the Arab period in Armenian history in both literature and art. She has been the recipient of an ASP/Arsen Sanjian Research Fellowship.

ASP Incoming Graduate Students

Dzovinar Derderian was admitted in the Near Eastern studies department in 2010. She will focus on 19th- and early 20th- century Ottoman-Russian relations and their influences on the political orientations of the two empires, 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. In the summer of 2010 she worked for the Armenian Studies Program to analyze and catalogue the collection of posters, calendars, and maps that ASP had purchased.

Naira Tumanyan is a first-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 received her B.A. and M.A. in sociology from Yerevan State University, Armenia.

ASP Hosts Colloquium on Third Party Interventions in Armenian History

Poster Collection from Lebanon

by Dzovinar Derderian

This March, ASP organized an international panel of experts to discuss the role of third party interventions in the history of Armenia and its relations with Turkey. The panel, which gathered all day on March 19, attempted to reevaluate the role of third party humanitarian intervention in Armenian history, as well as to critically reassess the role played by the Great Powers and interventionist policies since the Treaty of San Stefano in 1878 internalized the Armenian Question.

The panel included Dr. Arman Grigoryan, a Post-Doctoral Fellow at U-M; Professor Michael Reynolds, Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University; Andranik Migranyan from the Institute for Democracy and Cooperation; Professor Gerard Libaridian, the Alex Manoogian Chair of Modern Armenian History; and Professor Ronald G. Suny, the Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Social and Political History at U-M.

The panel additionally tried to evaluate the conflict Armenia faces today between a global hegemon (US) and a regional hegemon (Russia). How will this conflict influence Armenia's long term goals, which are focused on regional stability?

To watch the entire panel online, please visit: www.umich.edu/~iinet/asp/

Last year the Armenian Studies Program purchased a collection of more than 400 posters, 70 maps, and 200 calendars from *Spyurk Newspaper* in Lebanon. The collection has been catalogued and will be available to researchers at the Buhr Shelving Library. Although most of the materials are in Armenian, Arabic, Greek, Farsi, or French, the maps, posters, and calendars have been given English titles in order to be easily researched by Anglophones as visual documents. The materials of the collection come mainly from Lebanon, Syria, and Armenia, and date from the 1960s to 2009.

The collection is a rich resource for those who focus on the politics and visual culture of Armenian communities in the diaspora, as well as the relations between Armenia and the diaspora. The population and monument maps, especially of the territories of Artsakh and Nakhichevan, will attract researchers outside of the diaspora studies context. Finally, the collection can be perceived as a museum of the daily surroundings of the average Armenian. One can see how history is represented in pictures and which political and cultural messages dominate the life of an Armenian, as people are more often exposed to calendars and posters than to detailed history books or even newspapers. ASP also intends to have the collection digitized and available on the web.

Second Workshop Convenes on the Role of Diplomacy in the Caucasus

by Michael Pifer

In 2009, the Armenian Studies Program and CIMERA in Geneva, Switzerland, co-organized a one-day workshop entitled "After Kosovo: Whither Karabakh?" to address how American and European recognition of an independent Kosovo might legally impact the recognition of other new states—such as Mountainous Karabakh—after conflict and unilateral succession. In May 2010 ASP and CIMERA co-organized a second meeting of the workshop on Kosovo and Karabakh, which included four panels and took place over two days.

Entitled, "After Kosovo Declaration of Independence and the August 2008 War: The New Geopolitics and the Role of Diplomacy in the Caucasus," the workshop opened with Professor Ronald G. Suny's keynote speech, which assessed the role of the Caucusus in the context of global struggle and helped to frame the conceptual outlook of the workshop. A group of 13 scholars and policy experts

gathered from London, Geneva, Brussels, Atlanta, Tokyo, Ann Arbor, Baku, Tbilisi, Yerevan, and Ghent to participate.

The four workshop sessions tried to assess three critical and timely questions facing analysts of the Caucasus today. First, in an effort to build upon the first workshop, participants sought to answer what had changed in international politics after the recognition of Kosovo as a state. The second panel sought to address how the August 2008 war between Russia and Georgia had impacted world orders and what the lingering consequences of the war meant for the region, in both a geopolitical and legal sense. Finally, the third and fourth panels were fully devoted to answering what impact the policies of Russia and the European Union might have on the region. The papers presented this workshop will be published in a special issue of *Nationalities Papers*, under the editorship of CIMERA director **Vicken Cheterian**.

A Year of Diaspora

by Michael Pifer

This last year, Visiting Scholar **Susan Pattie**, Pre-doctoral Fellow **Lucila Tossounian**, and Post-doctoral Fellow **Sarah Mekdjian** collectively asked two critical questions facing Armenian Studies today: Why study diasporas? And, just as significantly, how should we study diasporas?

ASP encouraged these scholars to enter into a more sustained dialogue with one another concerning the various methodological and theoretical approaches to studying the diaspora. These conversations were inspired by four related courses, five public lectures, and one roundtable discussion which included Professor **Khatchig Tölölyan** of Wesleyan University and founding editor of the journal *Diaspora*.

"Why study diaspora?" Pattie, who presented a lecture entitled "Imagining Homelands," asked during the roundtable discussion. "Many feel only the state is important. Many people feel it's not even worth their time, and instead focus on established civil societies and international relations. We feel quite strongly that part of the world is indeed diasporas." Pattie stressed the necessity for truly multi-disciplinary and possibly team-based fieldwork in order to better understand who these people are, what narratives they tell about themselves, and how memory shapes their identities.

According to Tölölyan, there are nearly 35 diasporas recognized by scholars in the world today. Although that number is both situational and contingent on varying definitions, "There are so many diasporas that easy generalizations are not possible," he cautioned.

Mekdjian, who received her Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Paris X Nanterre, further complicated this picture by asking how scholars might map interactions between the



Susan Pattie



Khachig Tölölyan, Sarah Mekdjian, Lucila Tossounian

global and the local without losing sight of either. To this end, Tossounian, a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at the University of Buenos Aires, spoke of the additional problem of being an "insider" or "outsider" in whatever diaspora one might study, and how that impacts the kinds of knowledge one produces.

Over the course of the fall semester, the three visiting scholars also presented public lectures on the University of Michigan campus related to the diaspora. Pattie gave a lecture entitled, "Imagining Homelands, Performing History: Poetry and Performance Among Cypriot Armenians," which demonstrated how the performance of poetic tropes such as martyrdom and regeneration shapes Armenian communities. Mekdjian's lecture, "A Critical Reading of the Elite/Mass Model: Towards Democracy in the Armenian Diaspora," focused on how diasporic institutions in Los Angeles maintain their power and legitimacy through conceptual divide between "elites" and the "masses." Finally, Toussounian's lecture, "Armenians in Argentina: The reinvention of Homeland(s)," which was co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, explored the development of the Armenian community in Argentina in relationship to Soviet Armenia.

Both Mekdjian and Tossounian collaborated with Pattie in her graduate seminar titled, "Embodied Identities: Ethnicity and the Senses." Vahe Sahakyan, a Ph.D. student in Near Eastern Studies who specializes on the transmission of diasporan identity, also contributed to the seminar. It is Pattie's hope that the conversations from that seminar will stimulate an upcoming conference on food and culture, as well as additional projects. Ultimately, Pattie argued, scholarship should challenge the reader to enter into greater dialogue about how diasporas shape and reshape our world.

2009-2010 Courses: ASP Faculty

Kathryn Babayan Peoples of the Middle East Shi'ism:

> The History of Messianism and the Pursuit of Justice in Islamdom

Classical Persian Texts

The History of Sexuality

Kevork Bardakjian on sabbatical

Gerard Libaridian Conflict and Diplomacy in the Caucasus

Armenian History from Prehistoric

Times to the Present

Advanced Topics in Contemporary

Political Science

Ronald G. Suny Survey of Russia: The Russian Empire,

the Soviet Union, and the Successor

States

A History of Our Own Time

2009-2010 Courses: Visiting Scholars & Post-docs

Fuat Dundar Tribe, Community, Nation: The History

of Kurds and the Middle East

Arman Grigoryan Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict

Origins and Development of Armenian Hrach Martirosyan

Language and Culture

Sarah Mekdiian Immigrants and Place in Contemporary

Urban America

Susan Pattie Telling Lives: Ethnography, Memoir and

Oral History in Diaspora

Embodied Identities: Ethnicity and

the Senses

Fall 2010 Courses: ASP Faculty

Kathryn Babayan Gender and Sexuality in Pre-Modern Islam

Society and Culture in Early Modern Iran

Kevork Bardakiian Western Armenian, I

Armenia: Culture and Ethnicity

Gerard Libaridian Armenian History from Prehistoric

Times to the Present

Conflict and Diplomacy in the Caucasus

Ronald G. Suny Survey of Russia: The Russian Empire,

Soviet Union, and the Successor States

Topics in Russian, East European, and

Eurasian Studies

Fall 2010 Courses: Visiting Scholars & Post-docs

Lerna Ekmekçioğlu Gender, Diversity, and Social Control in

the Ottoman Imperial Context, 1300-

1923

Eyyup Murat Özyüksel World Conquest thru Railways: The

Great Powers and the Eastern

Question in the 19th- and early 20th-

Centuries

Vahram Danielyan Modern Armenian Literature

(winter 2011)

U-M Seeking New Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History

The University of Michigan Department of History is seeking to fill the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History, an endowed chair established for the purpose of teaching courses in Armenian history, politics, and culture and creating a center of Armenian historical studies. We are looking for a dynamic colleague who has a demonstrated record of scholarly achievement and of successful teaching that should cover the full range of Armenian history with emphasis on the modern (since the 18th century) and the relationship of that history to the wider region and the larger issues of world history. This position would also entail the directorship of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan.

We welcome applications from scholars who are in a position to contribute to a tradition of academic excellence and intellectual distinction. We plan to begin reading files by October 1, 2010, if not earlier.

Please send a letter of interest, a career summary, c.v., statement of current and future research plans, statement of teaching philosophy and experience, evidence of teaching excellence, a list of available referees, and any other supporting material you wish to Prof. Geoff Eley, Chair, History Department, 1029 Tisch Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003; telephone (734) 763-2289; fax (734) 647-4881. Women and minority scholars are encouraged to apply, and the University is supportive of the needs of dual career couples. The University of Michigan is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

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

The Armenian Studies Program serves the university and community by:

- Preparing the next generation of scholars in the field of Armenian studies
- Offering a comprehensive university-level education in Armenian studies, including undergraduate majors, M.A. and Ph.D. 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.

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