

NAASR CELEBRATES



December 2006

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

## *Special Issue: NAASR Celebrates 50!*



**Master of Ceremonies Paul T. Boghosian, NAASR Board Chairman Nancy R. Kolligian, Keynote Speaker Dr. Gregory H. Adamian, and Chairman Emeritus Manoog S. Young at NAASR Celebrates 50!**

Dr. Gregory H. Adamian, Chancellor and President Emeritus of Bentley College in Waltham, MA, delivered a stirring keynote address at the NAASR Celebrates 50! Gala Banquet marking the 50th anniversary of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, on Saturday evening, September 30, 2006, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, MA. He also announced that as of that evening NAASR had raised over \$750,000 towards its immediate goal of \$2 million to strengthen and expand NAASR's programs for Armenian studies and research.

Following a festive cocktail reception with warm conversation among new acquaintances and old friends, the evening began with master of ceremonies Paul Boghosian declaring that "today is history," and that the filled-to-capacity ballroom holding nearly 400 people "is reflective of the pride you have in our community and your understanding of the unique role of NAASR." Boghosian, a former member of NAASR's Board of Directors, stressed that "NAASR's survival has been a beacon to other vitally important organizations" and that "NAASR is more vital, more dynamic, and more important to the Armenian community than ever before" thanks to the enduring interest and support of its friends and members.

— continued inside

## NAASR Celebrates 50! Gala Banquet (continued from p. 1)

Boghosian introduced longtime NAASR Board Member and current First Vice Chairman Raffi P. Yeghiayan, who served as chairman of the NAASR Celebrates 50! Committee. Yeghiayan saluted the hard work and dedication of the committee and marveled at the success of the evening as “the culmination of the committee’s efforts.”

### Founders and Charter Members Honored

NAASR Chairman Nancy R. Kolligian then took the dais and observed that “as we reflect upon the vision of NAASR’s founders it is impossible not to project towards the future and build upon their legacy.”

She recognized five of the original group of sixty founders who were present for the evening: Haig Der Manuelian, Prof. Richard N. Frye, Dr. Elizabeth Gregory, Jack Guveyan, and Manoog S. Young. She also honored the twelve



NAASR Administrative Director Sandra Jurigian, Northeastern University President Dr. Joseph Aoun, NAASR Chairman Nancy R. Kolligian, and First Vice Chairman Raffi P. Yeghiayan

establish the foundation of NAASR on which we stand today.”

Following Kolligian’s toast, NAASR Director of Programs and Publications Marc A. Mamigonian called attention to the letters of congratulations from the living past and present occupants of the NAASR-established chairs in Armenian Studies at Harvard University and the University of California, Los Angeles. These distinguished scholars, Dr. Robert W. Thomson and Dr. James R. Russell, past and present occupants of the Mashtots Chair at Harvard, and Dr. S. Peter Cowe, the current occupant of the Narekatsi Chair at UCLA, were unable to attend.

### A Global Vision for NAASR

Mamigonian then introduced Dr. Richard N. Frye, noting that Frye was “part of NAASR even before there was a NAASR to be part of.” Frye offered brief remarks hailing NAASR’s role as a model for other ethnic groups, such as the Ukrainians, who established

similar organizations, and he offered words of advice: “connect with Armenia, have exchanges back and forth,” and above all, involve young people. He advocated a global vision for NAASR— “become the World Association for Armenian Studies and Research,” he urged.

Chairman Kolligian then returned to give a heartwarming tribute to NAASR’s Administrative Director Sandra L. Jurigian, who has been with the organization for forty-three years. “She is warm, kind, intelligent, and has NAASR’s best interests in mind,” said

Kolligian, and presented her with a

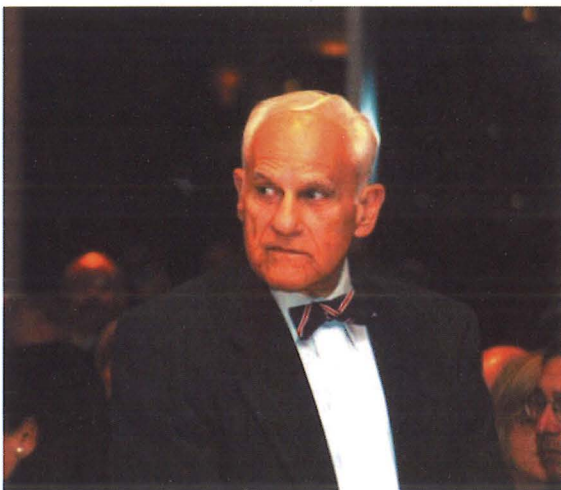


Dr. Richard N. Frye and NAASR Director of Programs and Publications Marc A. Mamigonian

bouquet of roses and a decorative citation hailing her as “truly indispensable.”

Paul Boghosian provided a short introduction to a 15-minute retrospective video he and Lexington-based video documentary maker and NAASR member Roger Hagopian prepared especially for the evening, culled from hours of interviews with nearly thirty people integrally connected with NAASR, past and present. The video was warmly received by the audience. Following the video screening, Father Vasken

— continued on next page



Founding Member Haig Der Manuelian

Charter Members (members who joined as of 12/1/55) in attendance. She toasted these “distinguished individuals who have given their ideas, their financial contributions, and their supreme effort to



Nancy R. Kolligian, Michele Kolligian, Dr. Elizabeth Gregory, and Richard Surabian

Kouzouian of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston delivered the invocation, and dinner was served.

Following dinner, actress and playwright Nora Armani gave an original performance, paying tribute to NAASR and offering a brief poetry reading. Nancy Kolligian then introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Adamian, paying tribute to his extraordinary role in the growth of Bentley College, his "integral part in NAASR's development," and thanking him for being "a true friend and confidant" as well as a "mentor."



Dr. Gregory H. Adamian

**Dr. Adamian's Reflections**

Adamian said that he could "vividly recollect those early days" when NAASR was established and was housed in

Adamian's law offices in Harvard Square. "Instead of paying me rent, they elected me to the Board of Directors," he quipped, and since 1956 he has remained on the Board.

"No other Armenian organization had the interest in promoting Armenian

Studies at the university level, nor to create an endowed chair," said Adamian. The founders understood that "through time-consuming and often tedious research and scholarly effort Armenia's ancient culture and heritage would ultimately find its place." He noted that the creation of the Mashtots Chair at Harvard marked the first time in the history of the university that a chair had been endowed through public subscription, and he recalled the crucial role of Prof. Frye and Prof. William Langer of Harvard in getting the undertaking off the ground.

"It is nothing short of miraculous," Adamian declared, that "this lofty, pie-in-the-sky scheme...became a reality." Speaking with the experience of a seasoned fundraiser, he observed that "raising funds to construct a building or feed the hungry is much easier than to raise funds for the advancement of scholarly research." He continued, "teaching Armenologists is a time-consuming and expensive activity and the results are often difficult to measure and immediately appreciate."

**Progress of \$2 Million Capital Campaign**

It was at this moment that Adamian announced that to date NAASR had raised over \$750,000 towards its goal of \$2 million to continue and expand its programs. "Our future is in your hands,"

said Adamian, as he urged support of the capital campaign.

Master of Ceremonies Paul Boghosian then gave a moving and personal introduction to NAASR Chairman Emeritus Manoog S. Young, saying "we



Nancy R. Kolligian, Manoog S. Young, and Dr. Gregory H. Adamian

are here tonight because of Manoog's persistence and steadfast dedication, his great personal sacrifice to achieve NAASR's objectives." Young expressed his wonder that "fifty years ago I would never have imagined that we would have this kind of a banquet."

He noted that while "the first fifty years have witnessed unprecedented advancement of Armenian Studies," there must be much more done to support research, publication in English, and to support Armenian Studies at the university level. He urged those in attendance to continue to support NAASR and insure that their children and grandchildren would be able to celebrate even greater achievements at NAASR's 100th anniversary.

**Establishment of Fund in Honor of Chairman Emeritus Young**

While Young was still at the lectern, Chairman Kolligian made a surprise announcement that "in grateful appreciation to Manoog S. Young ... NAASR is proud to establish the Manoog S. Young Fund for Armenian Studies and Research," to which has been allocated \$100,000.

— continued on next page



Paul Ignatius

The final speaker of the evening was former Secretary of the Navy and Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul R. Ignatius. Ignatius recalled his father Hovsep's deep involvement with NAASR in the 1950s and 60s and spoke of his own moving experiences traveling to historic Armenia for the first time this past summer on NAASR's Armenian Heritage Tour. "It was especially meaningful for me because I saw the place where my father had grown up, where he had gone to school ... where his friends and my mother's friends lived," in the city of Kharpert. "I stand in awe of your achievements," he said, and also urged the involvement of youth with NAASR in order to keep awareness of the Armenian heritage alive.

Reverend Joanne E. Gulezian Hartunian delivered the benediction and there followed music by the Leon Janikian Ensemble. A large group of revelers continued dancing well into the night.



## Address by NAASR Board Chairman Nancy R. Kolligian

In 1959, over 1,000 members of the American Armenian community gathered in Memorial Hall at Harvard University to celebrate the culmination of four years of active fundraising efforts, which had resulted in the establishment of the first chair in Armenian Studies in the United States.

Almost fifty years later we have gathered together once again to pay tribute and celebrate the vision and wisdom of those remarkable founders of NAASR

who recognized the urgent need to advance Armenian Studies in

this country by establishing endowed professorships, fellowships, scholarships, and courses of instruction at colleges and universities.

As we reflect on their vision it is impossible not to project towards the future and build upon their legacy. In the first fifty years we have accomplished a great deal, yet there are greater achievements yet to be realized as we face further challenges in the field of Armenian Studies.

It is both rejuvenating and encouraging to see so many of you here tonight as we "Honor Leadership, Scholars, and Remarkable Achievements" in celebration of the accomplishments of this vital organization.



We are indeed grateful for the support you have shown NAASR by being here for this milestone.

**"In the first fifty years we have accomplished a great deal, yet there are greater achievements yet to be realized as we face further challenges in the field of Armenian Studies."**

Ladies and gentlemen, as we pay honor and homage to those distinguished individuals who

gave their ideas, their financial contributions, and their supreme effort to establish the foundation for NAASR on which we stand today, we salute their vision and dedication to NAASR and look forward to even greater accomplishments that lie ahead of us.



Chairman Kolligian with NAASR Celebrates 50! Committee member Barbara Tellalian

## Keynote Address by Dr. Gregory H. Adamian

*Dr. Gregory H. Adamian, Bentley College chancellor, NAASR Charter Member, and a longtime member of NAASR's Board of Directors, delivered this keynote address at the September 30 Gala. It has been edited for space and is presented here as it appeared in the Oct. 7, 2006, issue of the Armenian Mirror-Spectator.*

It has been my honor and privilege to have addressed NAASR banquets on countless anniversaries, but today is a very special occasion — the celebration of NAASR's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a half century of extraordinary accomplishments.

I joined NAASR right after it was incorporated in 1955 and was elected to the Board in 1956. Frankly, 50 years is one of my favorite time-frames, because while I was practicing law in Cambridge 1955, I joined Bentley College faculty as a professor of law and last year Bentley celebrated my 50 years of service.

I vividly recollect those early days in 1955 and 1956. I recall being asked by Manoog [Young] to serve on the NAASR Board. At that time NAASR was using my law offices as their headquarters. Why not? The rent was reasonable—it was free. It was a unique arrangement, instead of paying me rent, they elected me to the Board. That's a real quid pro quo.

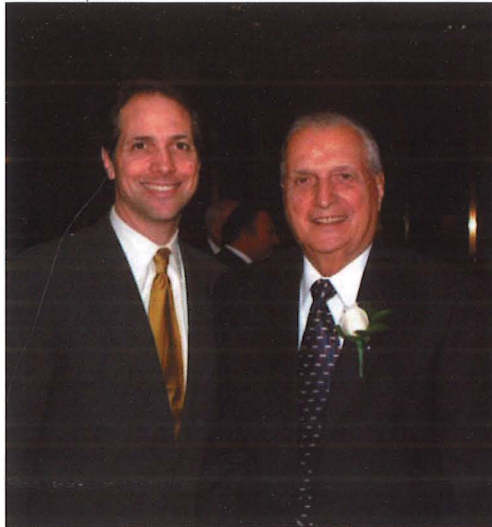
If ever there was a national association created and launched without assets or any semblance or promise of financial support, but with ambitious aspirations and lofty "pie in the sky dreams," it was NAASR.

Some even confused us with having something to do with Egypt because Gamal Nasser if you remember was the President of Egypt in 1956.

While other Armenian organizations, of which there are a multitude, contribute in different, significant, and noble ways to promote the preservation and perpetuation of our heritage, no other has had the interest to promote Armenian Studies at the university level, nor to create endowed chairs that

would exist in perpetuity and thereby unambiguously establish the significance of Armenian Studies in the context of world history. Some even thought we could buy a lot of chairs much cheaper at a local furniture store.

NAASR was convinced that through time consuming, often tedious research and scholarly effort, Armenia's ancient



**Dr. Adamian, right, with his son, NAASR Board Member Daniel Adamian.**

culture and heritage would ultimately find its rightful place in the history of civilization.

The original founders, Manoog Young, Thomas Amirian, and Arra Avakian, all active members of other Armenian organizations, were convinced that this new organization espoused a cause that every Armenian, regardless of religious or political persuasion, could embrace without equivocation.

Four years after the formation of this national association, in 1959, at a banquet in Memorial Hall with over 1,000 in attendance, NAASR announced the culmination of our fundraising campaign having raised over \$300,000 to fund an endowed chair of Armenian Studies at Harvard University.

In Harvard's case, an institution established in the 1600s, this was the first time in its history that a chair was established by public subscription.

My friends, this unique, exciting new organization, NAASR, could not have succeeded at Harvard University without the advice and wholehearted support of Professor Frye and Professor Langer.

Professor Frye was associate professor of Middle Eastern Studies and instructor in classical Armenian and associate director of the Harvard University Center for Middle Eastern Studies. He firmly believed that Armenian needed to be established as a respected academic discipline in a university and should receive the same status and recognition as Arabic or Persian and that this new national association should have as its primary goal the establishment of an endowed chair for Armenian Studies at a leading university.

Professor Langer, director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, fervently believed that Harvard University would welcome an endowed chair of Armenian Studies as part and parcel of the Middle Eastern Program and that he too had long recognized the importance of Armenian history, literature, and culture.

And so, this lofty "pie in the sky" dream, this ambitious unheard of aspiration, became a reality.

As a consequence of this successful bold adventure, a similar chair was established at UCLA.

Who would have dreamed 50 years ago that the birth of NAASR would have spawned and would be the catalyst whereby a total of 17 endowed chairs at 13 universities in the United States would ultimately be established in the field of Armenian Studies?

It's nothing short of miraculous as we look back to 1955 when this organization was founded. Never did this pioneering group that had their impossible dream ever in their wildest imagination envisage what you see today.

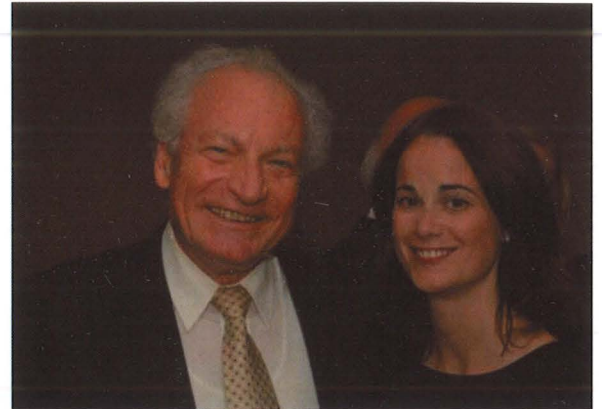
Nevertheless, we cannot rest on our laurels. Much remains to be accomplished to further the field of Armenian

— *continued on p. 12*

## NAASR Celebrates 50! Photo Gallery



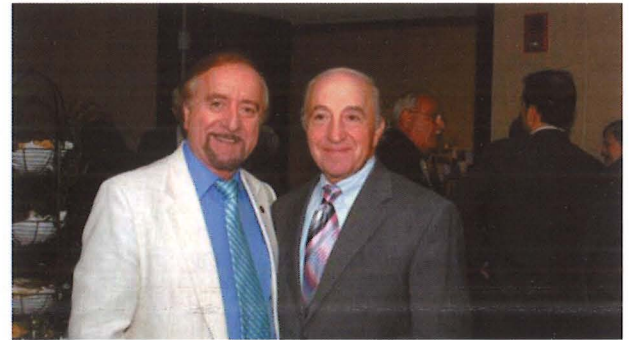
Gladys Conlon, Paul T. Boghosian, Victoria Boghosian, Marilyn Papazian



Raffi P. Yeghiayan and Rep. Rachel Kaprielian



Daniel Dorian, Nancy R. Kolligian, Daniel Adamian, Lisa Dorian, Carrie Ellen Adamian



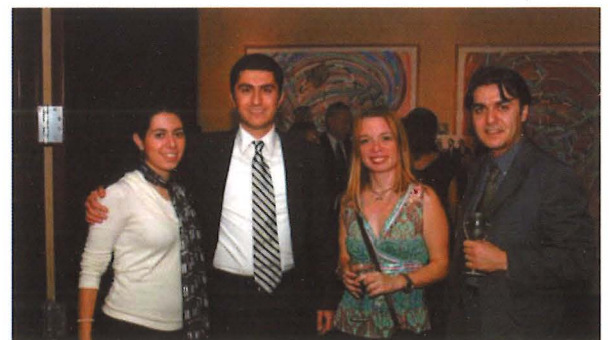
Edward Der Kazarian and Dr. Alan Der Kazarian



Carol Yeghiayan, Mary Aroian, Karen Kazarosian



Sandra L. Jurigian and Marc A. Mamigonian



Ani Nalbandian, Luder Sahagian, Ceren Ergenc, Phil Gamaghelyan

## NAASR Celebrates 50! Photo Gallery



Mary and Van Aroian



Nora Armani



Dr. Joseph Aoun and Paul Ignatius



Ayda Erbal and Dr. Lou Ann Matossian



Paul T. Boghosian, Yervant Chekijian, Nancy R. Kolligian, Robert D. Bejoian, and Dr. Suzanne Moranian



Here's to another half century of success!



The Leon Janikian Ensemble

## Symposium: "Armenian-Turkish Dialogue and the Direction of Armenian Studies"

On Saturday morning, September 30, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) welcomed an audience of over 200 to a symposium at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, titled "Armenian-Turkish Dialogue and the Direction of Armenian Studies," in celebration of its 50th anniversary.

The basic message from the panelists' different points of view was that dialogue has begun, but there needs to be much more of it.

Following opening remarks by

are engaged. There are hopeful signs that this dialogue has the potential to lead to a better relationship and an understanding of Armenian culture and history," he said.

The first speaker, Dr. Christina Maranci, Associate Professor of Art History at the Uni-



versity of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, spoke on "Future Directions in Medieval Armenian Architecture: The Case of Mren, Kars Region." She addressed how and why modern conditions have affected the field of Armenian architecture.

Contrasting the explorations of Austrian art historian Josef Strzygowski in 1913, when he documented and photographed over 700 Armenian monuments in eastern Anatolia, she stated that today limited access to Armenian structures in Turkey has constrained the study, publication, and distribution of information regarding the importance of Armenian architecture in the broader context of the Middle Ages.

"Only Ani and Akhtamar have received much attention .... Very few scholars have pursued any comparative study of Armenian architecture," she said.

— continued on next page



**Standing, Left to Right:** Dr. Kevork B. Bardakjian, Rachel Goshgarian, Marc A. Mamigonian, Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, Dr. Taner Akçam, Dr. Christina Maranci, Nancy R. Kolligian, Dr. Gerard J. Libaridian. **Seated:** Manoog S. Young

NAASR Board Chairman Nancy R. Kolligian, Marc A. Mamigonian, NAASR Director of Programs and Publications, paid tribute to the organization's history for the many programs, lectures, symposia, and "exchanges of ideas that move the field [of Armenian Studies] along."

Mamigonian also acknowledged Dr. Suzanne Moranian, who, he said, had suggested the symposium topic. "Armenian-Turkish dialogue has generated great interest, and there are now Turkish scholars who





## “Armenian-Turkish Dialogue and the Direction of Armenian Studies”

Maranci cited the Church of Mren, a seventh-century church near Kars, which still stands, crumbling in an isolated field. Its reliefs and inscriptions deserve further study and documentation, “yet Mren is largely unknown,” she said.

“Publication of scholarship can help protect these monuments from vandalism. There is a great need to bring the study of Armenian architecture to a broader audience. And there are signs that a younger generation of scholars, including those working in Turkey, have become more interested in the Armenian tradition.”

Dr. Gerard J. Libaridian, Alex Manoogian Professor of Modern Armenian History at the University of Michigan, in his talk, “Levels and Forms of Turkish/Armenian Dialogue: The Role of Scholarship,” pointed to some of the obstacles to Armenian-Turkish dialogue — the personal and communal internalization of the Armenian Genocide in the Armenian community and Turkey’s state ideology of genocide denial.

“Yet,” he said, “the independence of Armenia has changed the spectrum of issues. And dialogues have already occurred in many forums, including TARC [Turkish-Armenian Reconciliation Commission], meetings in France and Vienna, and the workshop for Armenian-Turkish scholarship. Most of these have failed, but the many attempts have become part of life. History must be continuously explored to find the answers and the best conclusions.”

Regarding Armenian Studies, Libaridian asserted, “We have to separate scholarship from advocacy. Advocacy and propaganda should not become a part of history. The task of scholarship is to help us disengage from terms so loaded they no longer answer questions.”

Said Libaridian, “We have to find a common language. Armenians and Turks have lived in the same space. We have more commonality than differences and that common space needs to be found.”

Next, Rachel Goshgarian, Ph.D. candidate in History and Middle Eastern studies at Harvard University, spoke on her topic, “Armenian and Ottoman: Moving Towards Inclusive History.”



She noted that “Armenian history has aroused little interest in Armenian-American children and that this history is often distorted.”

“There is a great need to integrate Armenian Studies into the field of Middle Eastern Studies, to integrate it with Turkish Studies. At the moment, these fields are delineated along ethnic lines. The field of Ottoman history speaks one language. Armenian history speaks another,” she said. “Armenians are being left out of the narrative of medieval Anatolia. Ottoman history is dominated by a certain Turkish centrality. And the field is complicated by linguistic barriers and political barriers.”

She cited the need for more translation and the need for Armenian and Turkish scholars to learn each other’s languages.

Dr. Taner Akçam, visiting Associate Professor of History at the University of Minnesota, advanced what is perhaps the most creative and novel approach to the great bar-

rier between Armenians and Turks — the recognition of the Armenian Genocide—in his address, “The Creation of a Common Body of Knowledge and the Importance of Ottoman Documents.”

“We need a new definition of the problem,” said Akçam. “The Armenian Genocide should be addressed as a human rights issue and seen in the context of democratization of both countries. Turkey seeks admission to the European Union; Armenia is facing a new reality as an independent nation,” said Akçam.

He added, “Both societies are traumatized. The way to build the future is to confront the shared histories and interact with each other. Both societies must talk to each other.”

He addressed the need for further study of Ottoman documents. “Turkish society knows almost nothing of the variety of sources available. They rely only on documents in Istanbul and ignore all others.”

Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, the Armenian Educational Foundation Professor of Modern Armenian History at the University of California, is widely recognized as the dean of Armenian Studies. Speaking on the topic, “Dialogue: Historical Impediments and Future Goals,” Hovannisian, in contrast to Libaridian, said he found “great difficulty in separating pure scholarship and the moral efficacy of scholarship. Scholarship cannot be totally neutral.”

Reviewing past obstacles to dialogue, Hovannisian cited by name some of the organizations and scholars such as Heath Lowry, Justin McCarthy, and Bernard Lewis, who perpetrated denial of the Armenian Genocide and denounced the truth.

“My generation found it very  
— continued on next page

## “Armenian-Turkish Dialogue and the Direction of Armenian Studies” (concl.)

lonely. We had very few people in Armenian Studies and I remember very clearly when I tried to make an entry into the prestigious Middle Eastern Studies Association [MESA] with an Armenian subject ... The program committee stuck me into a session of the Turkish Studies ... There were very strong psychological and emotional obstacles to any kind of dialogue whatsoever,” said Hovannisian.

Hovannisian pointed to Akçam’s appearance in Yerevan at the 80th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Yerevan as a moment that opened doors.

“I am pleased that now Taner Akçam is not alone. There are 30 or 40 Turkish scholars and writers who have opened a little window, who want to set the historical record straight. But I want to emphasize

again that we shouldn’t separate scholarship and ethics. I think they are bound together and need to be bound together.”

Kevork Bardakjian, Marie Manoogian Professor of Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, took the role of panel respondent to all the presentations. However, he also had his own points to make.

“Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora, each has its own agenda. Armenia, since independence, has been trying to build a viable, prosperous state. The post-Genocide diaspora has its own agenda. The attempt to emphasize that we are one nation with one church, one language is simply not true,” said Bardakjian. “What is diaspora? Do we speak in one voice? Diaspora is a

cluster of communities and no two are alike.”

Bardakjian also emphasized the need for translation of more documents and suggested that perhaps NAASR might establish scholarships and prizes for translation.

Part of Bardakjian’s concluding remarks paid tribute to the NAASR staff and particularly to Manoog S. Young, honorary symposium chairman, and Chairman Emeritus of NAASR.

The positive audience response to the morning symposium signaled optimistic support for NAASR’s mission—the continuing scholarly development of Armenian Studies.

[by Daphne Abeel, *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, Saturday, October 7, 2006; reprinted with permission]



## Editorial: Armenian Studies Celebrates a Milestone

*The following editorial appeared in the October 7, 2006, issue of The Armenian Reporter. It is reprinted with permission.*

The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last week. The founders—Manoog S. Young, Thomas T. Amirian, and Arra S. Avakian—had the vision to institutionalize the study of Armenian civilization, to make Armenian Studies an enduring part of academia. They harnessed the intellectual and financial resources of Armenian American communities large and small across the United States. The strong response of our communities is something we can be proud of.

The main component of NAASR's vision was the establishment of endowed chairs at major universities. The idea is not simply to fund an instructor teaching language or history to undergraduates. The idea behind a chair is to fund a professor who trains graduate students, does research, publishes books and scholarly articles, and participates in scholarly conferences. This is a big investment in a university and its mission.

Beyond that, the hope is that the chairholder will be a resource for the larger Armenian community, addressing issues within his or her competence, writing, and organizing public events.

Major benefactors and Armenian Americans of more limited means helped make the chairs a reality at Harvard, at UCLA, and beyond. The long list of American endowments in Armenian Studies includes chairs at California State, Clark, Columbia, and Tufts Universities, at the Universities of California and Michigan, and programs and centers throughout the U.S.

NAASR also realized that there is more to promoting Armenian studies and research. It established a Journal of Armenian Studies, a rich library, and a book distribution center. It has organized many lectures and symposia over the years, bringing Armenian Studies to the community—employees, retirees,

stay-at-home parents.

As these fifty years have elapsed, Armenian Studies has become an accepted part of scholarly life. Chairholders and their graduate students have carried out research and published works that have enhanced our appreciation and understanding of Armenian civilization. Hundreds of undergraduates have taken classes in Armenian language, literature, and history.

Along with the many successes, there have been lessons learned. Universities have not always been prompt to appoint faculty to vacant chairs; chairholders have not always attracted or retained graduate students; nor has every tenured-for-life chairholder been as diligent and productive as one might have hoped. The Armenian community has also learned that university departments have their own politics and priorities and do not always see eye to eye with benefactors when it comes to filling vacancies.

As a result, new solutions have emerged: the establishment of institutes and foundations that are independent or semi-independent of universities; set their own agendas and performance criteria; and support faculty, students, research projects, and publications wherever they may be based.

Over the years, too, the definition of Armenian Studies continues to evolve. The main focus of Armenology was once philology, ancient and medieval history, and the study of the Armenian translation of the Bible. In recent decades modern history and modern and contemporary literature have become accepted as part and parcel of the field. Now as other disciplines—from sociology to ethnography, from public health to political science—focus on Armenia and Armenians, they too expand the scope of Armenian Studies.

A new generation is studying Armenia's transition from a planned to a market economy, Armenia's role in international affairs, and Armenia's progress towards a just society based on

the rule of law. Newer institutions are bringing bright students and practitioners together and building up the field.

At the Armenia-Diaspora Conference in September, President Kocharian stated that the Republic of Armenia should become the center for Armenian Studies. He had made the same point three years earlier at an international conference of Armenian Studies convened in Yerevan. The chairs and institutes established in the U.S. over the last five decades have made this country a powerhouse in Armenian linguistics, history, and literature. If Armenia can rise to the president's challenge, then that will be a welcome development. Meanwhile, Armenia has become ground zero for the newer fields.

Fifty years ago, Armenia was barely a footnote in scholarship. Today, it is practically impossible to keep up with all the Armenian-related publications in a variety of fields. Efforts are under way to translate more Armenian sources into Western languages and to fully integrate awareness of Armenian civilization into the academic mainstream.

NAASR's founding vision and the confidence and generosity of its many friends launched Armenian Studies as a legitimate scholarly endeavor—a new *zartonk*, an intellectual resurgence. Reclaiming the legacy of a generation that was cut off by the Genocide, this growing field goes even further. For as our ancient, vibrant, cosmopolitan culture takes its rightful place among the cultures of the world, others will learn from our traditions, and Armenians, in our turn, will find new sources of inspiration and renewal.

NAASR has embarked on a \$2 million campaign for the advancement of Armenian studies and research. To support this valuable effort, please contact NAASR at (617) 489-1610, email [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org), or write to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478.

Please join us in wishing NAASR a happy fiftieth anniversary!

## Adamian Keynote (*from p. 5*)

studies and research both in and outside of academic institutions.

In celebration of this 50th anniversary, we have embarked on a \$2 million capital campaign to create an endowment so that, along with the annual dues of our members the funding can be provided to continue this vital work to which NAASR is committed.

We recognize and appreciate that other organizations are also involved in fundraising drives but this is not unusual in our Armenian-American community. Our community is small in numbers, but our needs are great and never ending.

However, after five decades of unparalleled achievements, our challenge and our future is in our hands. Together, I am confident that we can meet that challenge and insure that Armenian literature, language, history, and culture will take its rightful place in the study of world civilizations.

## NAASR Newsletter

ISSN 0890-3794



National Association for  
Armenian Studies and  
Research, Inc.

395 Concord Avenue  
Belmont, MA 02478  
Tel.: 617-489-1610  
Fax: 617-484-1759  
E-Mail: [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org)  
Web: [www.naasr.org](http://www.naasr.org)

Marc A. Mamigonian  
*Director of Programs and  
Publications*

## Address by Chairman Emeritus Manoog S. Young

Just as the first fifty years of NAASR has witnessed the unprecedented advancement of Armenian Studies in the United States with the permanent endowment of programs at seventeen universities, there needs to be the further establishment of programs at other universities, including state universities and others which are more accessible to students from working and middle class families.

There needs to be more grants to encourage and support research in all aspects and periods of Armenian history as well as in literature, art, architecture, and other fields.

There needs to be more English-language publications in Armenian and related fields – hundreds more considering that Armenia has a history that goes back nearly 3,000 years and has been said to be at the cradle of civilization.

With more university programs, more research activity, and more publications, there will come more understanding of the Armenian people and their history and culture and, hopefully, as well, recognition of their needs and demands, especially of the Armenian Genocide and Nagorno Karabakh.

It is up to each and every one of you to help realize our current \$2 million capital campaign just as many of you were responsible for the success of the Harvard Chair campaign in spite of the odds against its success at the time. This is how we can guarantee the continued success of NAASR and its programs and be assured that fifty years from now you or your children and grandchildren will be celebrating NAASR's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



Manoog S. Young with his wife, Barbara Young (left) and NAASR Administrative Director Sandra Jurigian (right)

## A Special Thank You

To everyone who attended the NAASR Celebrates 50! Gala and Symposium on September 30; to those who made contributions but could not attend; to those who wished to attend but were unable to; to all who showed their interest in these events:

### We thank you!

To everyone involved in the planning and carrying out of the celebration and symposium, including the NAASR Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers; members of the NAASR Celebrates 50! and Fundraising Committees; and employees of the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge:

### We thank you!

To all of the thousands of people who have supported NAASR for half a century through your work, your contributions, and your dedication:

### We thank you!