

Issue No. 13 - Winter 2006-2007



# INSPIRIT

The Haigazian University Newsletter



*Promoting Peace*

# From the President

## PROMOTING PEACE ON CAMPUS

### Dear Friends,

Haigazian University had prided itself throughout the past decades for promoting a community spirit of tolerance, openness to the other, friendship, and cooperation among young people and scholars of diverse racial, ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds.

The current crises of Lebanon, both internal and regional, have been making it increasingly difficult for people and institutions of goodwill to fulfill their mission.

During the past two years of turmoil in the country, everybody at Haigazian has become more deliberate in their efforts to promote peace on campus. The students have come up with the idea of a white peace ribbon, the Student Life office has been organizing seminars and training sessions on conflict resolution, community service and citizenship. The faculty and staff have reminded people of the necessity of respecting the opinion of others, and the importance of distinguishing between the peaceful realities of the campus and the generally tense atmosphere of the larger society.

I was recently asked by a magazine what three major challenges I anticipated in the year 2007?

Here is what I said:

*The first challenge as a university president is to continue leading programs, people, and plans in such a way that outside tensions and potential instability will have a minimal effect on our operations.*

*The second challenge is to keep finding elements of hope, whether earthly or heavenly, in a Middle Eastern region that remains to be volatile. We have to realize that people in leadership have the role of not only acting but also speaking positively and constructively. Our words and not only deeds could move people upwards or downwards.*

*The third challenge is for each institution to creatively respond to the needs of society by developing plans that lead those in its sphere of influence into better life, that is, better education, better governance, better quality service, better respect for human rights, and better openness to the world.*

*Our vision for Lebanon does not include mediocrity, partisanship, isolationism, tolerance of corruption, or blind followership. For all the three aforementioned challenges to be met successfully, I/we need to be wise and faithful stewards of what we have been entrusted.*

*Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian*



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String Ensemble of Haigazian University  
at the Christmas Musicale

# Alumni Activity

## Alumni Gathering



*Unveiling the "Alumni Plaque"*

On Friday, October 27, 2006, there was excitement in the air as Haigazian University alumni, deans, faculty and staff gathered in the Auditorium in response to President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian's invitation. As they entered they watched a slide show of the photos taken during the 50th Anniversary Alumni Garden Event.

After the welcoming word of the President, about 130 alumni watched an audio-visual presentation, "Tribute to the Founders."

President Haidostian highlighted the areas of growth that Haigazian University has been witnessing in terms of staff, faculty, student numbers, financial aid grant amount, campus space and the IT Department. Towards the end of his speech, President Haidostian announced the formation of

the Alumni Advisory Committee: Joseph Ashjian (Class of 1973), Mr. Bashar Ladki (Class of 1974), Mr. Hisham Abou Jaoude (Class of 1993), Mr. Zeron Aintablian (Class of 1997), Ms. Salpi Jalian (Class of 1999) and Ms. Dima Al-Hakim (Class of 2004). This committee will assist the President's Office for the coming year in organizing alumni data and activities.

The unveiling of the "Alumni Plaque" followed the President's word, in the lobby

of the Philibossian Building (Admissions floor). The curtain covering the plaque that carries the signatures of those present at the 50th Anniversary Alumni Event on June 27, 2005, was opened by Setrag Topalian (Class of 1962) and Michel Majdalani (Class of 2006). Then all those present joyfully witnessed the opening of the "Quad," a new plot which is designed to provide space for the students until the start of the renovation of the newly acquired heritage building on May Ziadeh Street. The alumni enjoyed a time of fellowship on the Quad.

Another opportunity to remain connected with each other and their Alma Mater was created, this time by the Alumni Advisory Committee members, when they organized a tea party in the Student Lounge of Haigazian University, on Thursday, December 14, 2006.



*The opening of the Quad*



*The Alumni Advisory Committee members in front of the heritage building*

## A Meaningful Wedding Anniversary

Forty-seven years ago, Anahid Khanjian (English, Class of 1963) and Hagop Terjimanian (History, Class of 1963,) met at Haigazian College, graduated and then got married on September 25, 1966. On their 40th wedding anniversary they made a thoughtful gesture: the sum of \$4,000-plus dollars, which was collected at the anniversary gathering, was donated to Haigazian, through the

A.M.A.A., to be used as financial aid or as scholarship fund. Hagop has recently retired and also recently published his sixth book. Anahid continues to work in the Los Angeles Unified School District as an assistant principal at a middle school.



# Faculty News

## Faculty Profile

### Frieda Haddad Abs

Frieda Haddad Abs is at present a lecturer at Haigazian University, and Coordinator of the Social Work Program at the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Her training both at the graduate and postgraduate level was multidisciplinary, joining a social work base at the undergraduate level to graduate training in philosophy at the American University of Beirut, followed by post graduate training in theology in Geneva as well as by postgraduate training in community development and youth studies at the University of Edinburgh (Scotland). Professionally, before joining the Haigazian University faculty in 1990, she successively occupied the posts of Director of the Social Services Training Center with the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs, Lecturer in Pastoral Theology and Religious Education at the Theological Institute of Saint John the Damascene (Balamand), Assistant Program Officer and Social Services Consultant with the UNICEF Area Office in Beirut, and



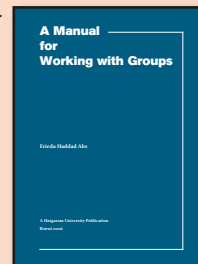
Lecturer in Social Work at the Lebanese American University. She undertook several consultancy missions with the aim of planning social work training and service development in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain, the Arab Emirates, Egypt and Morocco. She is the author of a number of training manuals for social work education, pastoral work and religious education.

Mrs. Frieda is married to Michel Abs, Director of the Human Resources Development Department at the St. Joseph University, and has two sons: Haitham 12, and Karim 11. In her free times, she enjoys hiking, cycling and cooking.

### A Manual for Working with Groups

This manual, written by Frida Abs and published by Haigazian University, was conceived as a tool for human relations training in organizations. It is based on the workshop way of learning and consists of twelve modules or units that could be used either independently or as a sequence in manpower refresher courses.

The material that constitutes the main body of this book was developed over a number of years that mark the author's own professional course. It is recommended for use in planning manpower development training and refresher courses in youth groups, community groups, human service organizations, as well as small business enterprises.



## Faculty Retreat



The Faculty Retreat took place on September 29, 2006, in the Evangelical Conference Center, Ain el Kassis-Dhour Shoueir. After Rev. Bakalian's Reflections, the President and Deans welcomed the Faculty members and thanked them for all their efforts in salvaging the Summer School in spite of the war. The President then commented on his perspectives of higher education. Dr. Jerejian reported on the exit survey administered to 70% of the graduating students at the end of the 2005-2006 academic year. Mrs. Rida Elias-Farah conducted a workshop on management styles. The workshop helped identify Haigazian University's management style and also those of individual faculty members.

A lunch and departmental meetings followed the morning session.

# S t a f f N e w s

## Congratualtions!

The Haigazian University family was blessed with many happy occasions.

Laetitia Hera, a cute baby girl was born into the family of the PR Director, Mrs. Mira (and Hratch) Yardemian, on Tuesday, October 17, 2006.



Mr. Setrag Momjian, the President's driver and the assistant to the Facilities Director wedded Ms. Lena Chaylian on Sunday, September 10, 2006, in the St. Nishan Armenian Apostolic Church in Beirut.



Dr. Berge Traboulsi, an Assistant Professor of History, Religion, Intercultural Studies, and Director of the Orientation Program, was wedded to Ms. Eliane Masry on Sunday, December 17, 2006, in the Patriarchate of the Orthodox Church in Ashrafieh.



## Meet Our New Staff

During the accademic year 2005-2006, we welcomed three new staff members:

Mrs. Maral Gurunian, Financial Aid Officer



Mr. Nazareth Nicolian, ITS Department Director



Ms. Salpi Badakian, Head Librarian



This year, the staff at Haigazian University grew once again in Fall 2006 with the addition of two members:



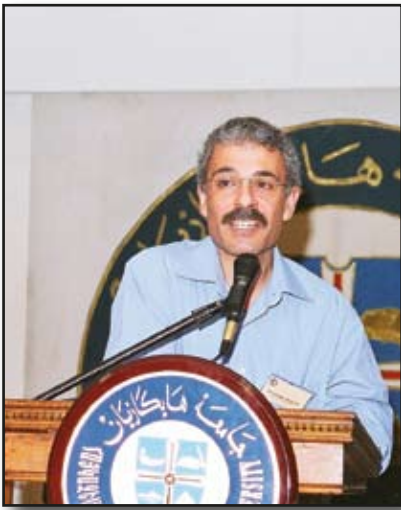
Mr. Harout Sahagian, a graduate of Haigazian University, also joined the ITS Department as the Hardware/Network Analyst.

Ms. Talar Simonian became the new mail clerk and receptionist, as the former receptionist, Mrs. Rosine Moughalian, was transferred to the ITS Department as the Administrative Analyst of the department.



# Student Life

## Orientation Day for New Students



On Monday the 18th of September, 2006, 102 incoming students underwent an Orientation Program during two full days.

Rev. Nishan Bakalian, the Campus Minister, warmly welcomed the newcomers, and assured them that all Haigazian University staff and faculty were there in their service.

President Dr. Paul Haidostian introduced the students to the Haigazian culture which is based on its motto: "Truth,

Freedom and Service," and said, "What is rewarded most at Haigazian is the spirit of respect, eagerness to learn, an attitude of service to others near and far, and interest in developing leadership abilities, and seriousness in all your endeavors."

Dean of Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Arda Ekmekji, Dean of Business Administration and Economics, Dr. Fadi Asrawi and Student Life Director, Mr. Antranik Dakessian all invited the students to be active members in the numerous clubs at Haigazian, all the

while developing their critical thinking and analytical skills.

The Director of the Orientation Program, Dr. Berge Traboulsi, considering the program a key to University success, encouraged the students to understand, respect and tolerate diversity and to develop good habits.

Then the new students attended sessions on topics relevant to their academic life at Haigazian University.



## Celebration of Founders' Day at Haigazian University

After the Lebanese anthem and an invocation by the Campus Minister Rev. Nishan Bakalian, those participating in

the celebration of the Founders' Day at Haigazian University received a call to find a balanced life amidst the imbal-

ance, our country and the world at large is experiencing these days.

The call came on Monday, October 16, 2006, at noon from the President of Haigazian University, who addressed students, staff & faculty gathered to remember the Founders who established this unique institution of higher learning with vision and commitment.

Talking about the need for balanced leadership and finding balance, Dr. Haidostian said, "One does not need to be a prophet to know that the future of Lebanon and of the whole world will be threatened by imbalance, unbalanced perspectives, unbalanced power struggles, unbalanced views of the other, unbalanced representations of religion, add to that an increase in problems of emotional, physical, and ecological imbalance."



Mr. Antranig Dakessian, the Student Life Director, introduced Michel Majdalani, Student of the Year 2006, who addressed the audience with a statement, in which he acknowledged how Haigazian University had enriched him with lifelong friends. He urged his fellow-students to enjoy the opportunities at Haigazian University and to transmit its culture to the society around and the future generations.

An informative audio-visual presentation about the Founders & the founding of the University was presented by Mrs. Maria Bakalian.

The celebration concluded with the HU Alma Mater.



## Spread Message of Peace



Nowadays, colors have strong political connotations in Lebanon. Against this background, the idea of starting a white ribbon trend occurred first to some Haigazian University students at the beginning of December 2006. Since then, many members of the Haigazian family have been working on propagating the concept of the white ribbon throughout the country, and dispersing a peaceful message among their fellow citizens.

## Youth Awareness Campaign

As their biggest project, each year the Desert Streams plan a special event. This year it was a two-day awareness program for high school students at Haigazian University's campus, on December 27 & 28, 2006.



The "Youth Awareness Campaign" was attended by 16 students, who came from various Lebanese schools and followed the program, which included six lectures, exercises, games and other activities related to the topics addressed by the lectures.

Developing social and leadership skills, creative thinking, learning about the importance of volunteer work, conflict resolution, addiction awareness and planning and organizing philanthropic projects were some of the themes that the campaign covered.



The participants left Haigazian University with grateful adieus and the hope of coming back.

# Miscellaneous News

## Human Rights Training Course at Haigazian University

Haigazian University and the Foundation for Human & Humanitarian Rights (Lebanon) jointly organized a two-day training course on human rights for the benefit of the Makhzoumi Foundation. The course took place at Haigazian University on 27-28 October 2006, with 19 participants.

Participants came from diverse backgrounds: students, lawyers, political activists, Makhzoumi Foundation employees as well as participants of previous training courses organized by the Makhzoumi Foundation.

At the opening, the President of Haigazian University highlighted the achievements of the Haigazian University after 52 years of existence, with special focus on the student life at all levels. Lectures were given by Foundation members Wa'il Kheir, Dr. Berge Traboulsi, and Eliane Masry, in Arabic and English. At the end of the course, each participant was given a certificate of attendance in the closing ceremony.



## Christmas Musicale

“This year’s special greetings of Christmas come as a bouquet of musical pieces and performances, with the hope of sharing the message of reconciliation and peace that took concrete form in the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ”, was the reflection of Rev. Paul Haidostian, president of Haigazian University on the Christmas Musicale, which took place on December 22, 2006 in the sanctuary of the First Armenian Evangelical Church in Beirut.

A repertoire underlined by joy, love and celebration themes, with a smart selection of all-time classics of 16th and 17th centuries and contemporary music, the Haigazian University String Ensemble and Handbell Choir, in addition to the Armenian Evangelical Armiss Choir,



warmed the hearts of the audience with the season’s spirit.

Making a special appearance was the guest soloist, Elie Francis, a full-voiced tenor, who performed two carols.

A pleasant surprise of the musicale was the Handbell Choir, conducted by Mr. Nabil Melki, and composed of 13 Haigazian University students and staff, who cheered the audience not only by the mere sound of bells, but also with their capable renditions of tunes such as the tune of Jingle Bells.

The program concluded with the audience joining Armiss and the accompanists in singing a group of favorite Christmas carols.

## Haigazian University Inaugurates a Fully Equipped Computer Exam Room

On Wednesday the 10th of January 2007, H.E. Leila Solh Hamade, Vice President of the Al Waleed Bin Talal Humanitarian Foundation, and foundation delegation, paid a visit to inaugurate the fully equipped Computer Exam Room, which was installed by a special grant from the institution, and

was announced during a gala lunch organized by the Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary in May 2006.

After unveiling the recognition plaque, President Haidostian thanked the Foundation for its generosity and support.

During a tour of the Computer Exam Room, Mr. Nazareth Nicolian gave a short presentation about the benefits of the equipped classroom.

A reception followed, where Mrs. Solh had the chance to get closer to the Haigazian community by listening to their prospective plans and future needs.



## Continued from Faculty News (page 4)

**Mrs. Frieda Abs** presented a paper, "Immigration and the Integration of Migrants" at the Near East School of Theology, during the Workshop of the Joint WCC/MECC working Group on Refugees, Displaced and Migrants. The workshop was held on November 27-28, 2006.

She presented another paper, "Participatory Developmental Project Planning" during a workshop on Planning and Monitoring of Projects held at the Araxy Boulgourjian Center by the Lebanese Union of Armenian Social Workers, on December 7, 2006.

Dean **Dr. Fadi Asrawi** presented a paper, co-written with Dr. Azar, on optimum currency areas in the Arab countries, at an international conference which was held in early January 2007 in Florida, USA.

**Dr. Samih Azar** has published three papers in double-blind refereed journals in 2006: "The Three Tenets of Monetary Policy: Lebanon, 1991-2003," *Journal of Emerging Market Finance*, 5, 1, 95-120; "Liquidity Cost Premia," *International Advances in Economic Research*, 12, 4, 461-467; and "Measuring Relative Risk Aversion," *Applied Financial Economics Letters*, 2, 341-345. Three more papers are already forthcoming in double-blind refereed journals for 2007.

**Dr. Samih Azar** has also presented a paper on the "Phillips Curve" at the 81st Annual Conference of the Western Economic Association International held in San Diego, USA, early July 2006.

He has published in May 2006 a book entitled: *Collection of Essays in Economics*.

**Dr. Arda Ekmekji** attended the Global Church Ministries Board Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio (November 9-12, 2006) and presented a paper on the Middle East within the theme of "Singing a New Song Together, at the Point of Deepest Need."

**Dr. Hatem Halaoui**, of the Computer Science Department, attended the International Conference on Signal-Image Technology & Internet-Based Systems and presented a paper in the ACM/IEEE SITIS 2006 conference, that took place in Hammamet, Tunisia December 17 - 21, 2006.

The title of the paper was: AIRSTD: An Approach for Indexing and Retrieving Spatio-Temporal Data.

# Public Lectures

## The Art of Public Speaking



The Cultural Hour at Haigazian University started its 10th year of activities with a lecture on "The Art of Public Speaking." The lecturer was Dr. May Maalouf-Alfy, a professor in the English Department of the Lebanese University. It was held on Thursday, October 26, 2006 in the Auditorium.

## Haigazian University Appreciates the ICRC

Mr. Juan Koderque, in his first public appearance after being appointed to head the International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation to Lebanon, which will be commemorating its 40 years of humanitarian service in Lebanon

in 2007, lectured on the legacy of Mr. Henry Dunant, the Swiss businessman, who was the key figure in establishing the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Mr. Koderque's speech started with the history of the international movement of humanitarian aid which included the ICRC, the Geneva Conventions and



the Federation of the Red Cross & the Red Crescent. He said that their main task was to help the victims of wars and natural disasters. But the ICRC, along with the national Red Cross Societies, also visits war and political prisoners &

detainees, helps the latter to be in touch with their families, and is available at the devastation zones to assist the people in infrastructural needs (water, medical help and shelter) that may arise because of hostilities and natural disasters. The lecturer also noted that in times of peace the ICRC works to promote the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and tries to secure its recognition by all the countries of the world.

After the speech the audience present watched a film on the humanitarian services of the ICRC and addressed any questions they had.

The evening ended with Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, the President of Haigazian University, presenting an appreciation token to the ICRC Delegation in Lebanon for their outstanding and exceptional humanitarian services to the Lebanese people.



## Paintings Exhibition (continued from Misc. News page 11)

By the courtesy of the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, a painting exhibition, *Peace for Lebanon*, was displayed in the A. Matossian Gallery of Haigazian University.

The 33 paintings were the work of children from the Armenian National Center of Aesthetics, using the latest war on Lebanon as their theme, and calling for a stop to the war through their art. Several schools sent their students with their art teachers to visit the exhibition. Prior to coming to Haigazian University, the paintings had been exhibited for the Lebanese public in the UNESCO Hall.



# Photo Gallery



*Farewell to the Armenian Ambassador, Arek Hovannisian*



*Welcoming the new Armenian Ambassador, Vahan DerGhevontian*



*Receiving the Guertmenian Evangelical School's 75th Anniversary Plaque*



*Ambassador Vahan DerGhevontian presenting books to the Haigazian Library*



*A delegation from the Presbyterian Church USA*



*With Mr. Abdel Salam Marini of the Walid Bin Talal Humanitarian Foundation*



*The Armiss Choir during the Christmas Musicale*



*The Handbell Choir*



*From the Staff Christmas Lynch*



*From a two-day student workshop at the Safir Heliopolitan Hotel*



*From the President's Christmas Dinner*



*Armenian Paintings and Lebanese Children*



*From the Arts & Sciences Annual Christmas Open House*

## Major Undertakings

### Electrical Infrastructure of HU

By the end of summer 2006, the administration took an inevitable strategic decision to upgrade the whole electrical infrastructure of the campus.

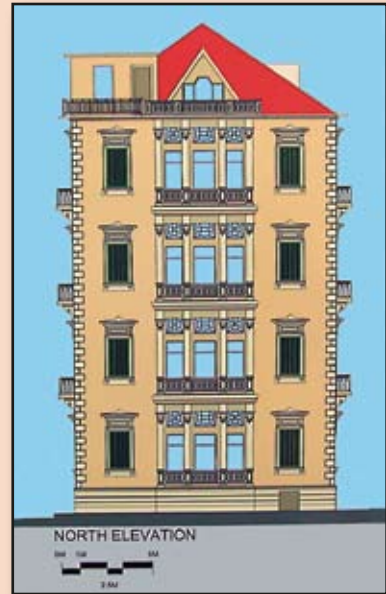
The course of action includes: reworking all the underground wiring and cabling system, installing new electrical panels in each of the critical locations of each building, take into consideration the electrical supply and infrastructure of an expanded campus, in addition to the purchase of two new power generators.

Friends, supporters, and alumni of Haigazian University are invited to contribute generously. For ways of giving you may write to the following addresses: *president@haigazian.edu.lb*, *LHKurkjian@aol.com* and *amaa@amaa.org*.

Haigazian University is exempt from US Federal Income Tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

### Renovation of the Heritage Building

On January 3, 2007, Haigazian University signed an agreement with an architectural company, Idea Consultants sarl, to start the renovation of the Heritage Building on the new plot. Our hope is that by August 2007, the necessary official permits, based on the plans of execution will be obtained and the renovation will start in due time.



### E-mail Addresses Requested!

As part of Haigazian University's effort to remain in touch with its worldwide family of graduates, all alumni/ae are invited to send their e-mail addresses to:

<vart@haigazian.edu.lb>



## INSPIRIT

The Haigazian University Newsletter *Inspirit*, the magazine for alumni and friends of Haigazian University, is published by the Office of the President.

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