

*Founders' Day Celebration
Haigazian University
50th Anniversary Concluding Event
Monday, October 17, 2005*

PRESIDENT'S WORD

Dear Students, Guests and Colleagues,

The annual celebration of the Founders' Day is an opportunity to gather together as students, faculty, and staff in the presence of some friends to remember that *beginnings are important*, in particular good beginnings. Whether it is the beginnings of Haigazian as a college in 1955 or your own beginning of a new academic year or program, many things will be determined by how well you prepared to start and actually started.

- The good beginnings of Haigazian focused on training teachers, pastors and leaders for the community, in other words, on preparing people who would be ready to serve others.
- The good beginnings of Haigazian also witnessed a real partnership between the local community in Beirut and the Armenian American community, the first identifying its need and vision, and the second translating its sympathy into actual financial and organizational support.
- The good beginnings of Haigazian helped it to navigate wisely during the turbulent days of Lebanon, and therefore succeeded in keeping its academic community above sectarian and blinding politics.
- The good beginnings of Haigazian kept it away from basing its policies and plans on financial gain and therefore gave it freedom to focus on its relatively limited academic programs and strong sense of community.

Fifty successful years of the history of Haigazian University are behind us. But for each of us here, what matters much is today and tomorrow. Let us all consider this day a new beginning and prepare to do well, while learning from the examples of those who came before us. Much in Lebanon will depend on your choices and beginnings.

Finally, I wish you all, students, faculty and staff, a fruitful year of academic work and developing friendships, and want to thank all those who made the 50th anniversary year which we conclude today, a memorable one.

Enjoy every good beginning!

*Paul Haidostian
President*