

June 3, 2022

Haigazian University Commencement

7PM

### PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

أصحاب السيادة والسعادة،

أيها الحفل الكريم،

على مدى السنوات السبع والستين الماضية قامت جامعة هايكازيان بتخريج آلاف الشباب من خلال منحهم مصدريين أساسيين، دبلوم لاستخدامه في مهنة معينة لتعلم كيفية عيش الإنسانية في عالم مليئ بخيب

رغم كل التحديات ، حاولت جامعتنا أن تظل وفية لرسالتها التربوية والتنموية ، وحاولت استبدال كل فشل على الساحة الوطنية بالحلول الداخلية آتية ريثما ننهض الى مستوى اسمى تستحق أجيالنا الشابة كل الفرص التي يمكن أن نمناها لهم للنمو والنجاح ، وهذا ما سيواصل مجلس الأمناء أعضاء هيئة التدريس والموظفين القيام به. والان انه لفخر لي ان ادعو اباء وامهات واولياء الخريجين ليقفوا باعزاز ولنصفق لكم ونقدر دعمكم لابنائكم وبناتكم كل هذه السنوات.

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Մի րեւի շրջանաւարտներ եւ հարազատ հիւրեր,

Խանդավառող օր մըն է այս, ի միջի զանազան անկումներու եւ յուսահատութեանց: Պայմանները կրնան նպաստաւոր չսեպուիլ ամենուրեք, սակայն փաստ մը կայ այսօր հոս թէ յարատեւութիւնը, նուիրումը, հաւատքը, համբերութիւնը, բարձրագոյն նպատակներու վրայ դրուած կեդրոնացումը, հաւաքական աշխատանքը, եւ բարձր մակարդակ պահելու

ջանքը մեզ ամօթով չեն ձգեր: 2019ի աւարտական հանդէսէն ի վեր դիմագրաւեցինք ամէն տեսակի ճգնաժամ, Պէյրութէն մինչեւ Արցախ եւ Առողջապահութեան համաշխարհային Կազմակերպութեան գրասենեակ: Սակայն մենք պիտի ընտրենք մեր ինքնութեան եւ էութեան, հայրենիքին ու մարդուն պատիւը միշտ: Մեր ուսումնական ու մշակութային ծրագիրներով եւ ստեղծած մթնոլորտով պիտի մեծարենք Լիբանանը, Հայաստան Հայրենիքի ամէն բջիջը, նուիրաբերելով մեր լաւագոյնը, բարոյական ու հոգեմտաւոր բարձր ոգիով: : Չկայ այլ պատգամ որ յանձնենք ձեզի սիրելի շրջանաւարտներ:

Հայկազեանի այս առաքելութիւնը կը շարունակուի այդպէս:

Բարի երթ ձեզի:

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There came a time, when we taught technologies to acquire knowledge. Then, machines started returning the favor to humans in teaching us what and how to learn.

There was a time, when the old and experienced taught the young and the inexperienced what to learn. Then came a time when the child taught the old ones how to learn.

Followed a time when the how and the what of knowledge got innovatively fused, but also sometimes confused.

One current question for education is not simply the particulars of artificial intelligence. The deeper question is what other artificial realities, means, and methods would be beneficial and elevating, and

what artificial matters would produce meaninglessness or dehumanize societies. When do we find the balance in human experience?

At graduation today, we are not going to solve the meaning of being human. But we are going to remember that a constant question in the civilized history of humans will remain to be, who will be tomorrow's teacher or creator of meaning and its method.

In my past years of travel, school after school, one educational council after another in many cultures, has expressed anxiety over that tomorrow, by focusing on tomorrow's educator.

Dear Haigazian University graduates, some of you have chosen teaching or institutional education as a profession, but my words today concern every single one of you, in business, biology, computer science, language, social work or other. In our life, and from the moment we are born, we are not only learning but also teaching, teaching those who have a sense to observe, perceive, think and learn. Every profession for our university is an educational domain and opportunity for learning and teaching. It is not a surprise that a high percentage of parents of HU students are teachers, and many of our graduates in diverse fields end up teaching.

Yes, the world is anxious. Who will teach our children, what, where, when and how? The question is not about virtual or in person learning alone. Even if machines are the medium, the question is which machine, with what method, what content and for what purpose. In the midst of all, it is our role to keep people in healthy balance.

You, as persons, will always be in the center of the discussion, and each of you will be needed for tomorrow's human society and the natural environment too.

Will you be there, graduates, to show the skills, to dedicate the time, to position yourself in service, to lead by example, and most importantly, to exhibit the type of sensitive spirit that is sparkling, transparent, trustworthy, self-fulfilled and dedicated to the highest of what humans can become, as I believe God created us to be.

This is the Haigazian talk we aspired to communicate to you in the past years, some of which were times of distance, quarantine, loneliness, and disappointment. Yes, the intelligence of our computer systems and virtual connections proved to come to our help. But that is only part of the discussion.

In Lebanon today, in the Middle East, in Europe and everywhere, we need to rediscover what it means to be tomorrow's human, first, but also to the guide of people's day after. Do not be consumed with today's news and realities only. The question concerns tomorrow. And you will be entrusted with the task of leading the way. Will you? How will you?

Remember, education is not its medium, education is the life and spirit it would instill. Do not be caught up with today's deals, but feed on your ideals for tomorrow's opportunities. Today's deals are failing education. We are left with the ideals, which, if lost, humanity sinks in meaninglessness.

With these thoughts, we bid you farewell, and will hopefully want to follow your path with satisfaction.

Now, to our distinguished guest speaker of the day:

Ms. Costanza Farina is the Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States, and UNESCO Representative to Lebanon and Syria since March 2021. Ms. Farina was previously the UNESCO Representative in Jordan and before that the UN Resident Coordinator

and UNDP Resident Representative in Jordan. In over 30 years of professional career with the UN, Ms. Farina notably served the UNESCO in Qatar; the UN and UNDP in Libya; she was Secretary of the Council with the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) based in Geneva, and she has had a long experience as UNESCO Representative in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and working with UNRWA for Palestine Refugees. Ms. Farina holds a Master degree in Oriental Languages and Cultures from the Istituto Universitario Orientale, in Napoli, Italy.

Warmly welcome Ms. Farina.

Paul Haidostian

President