

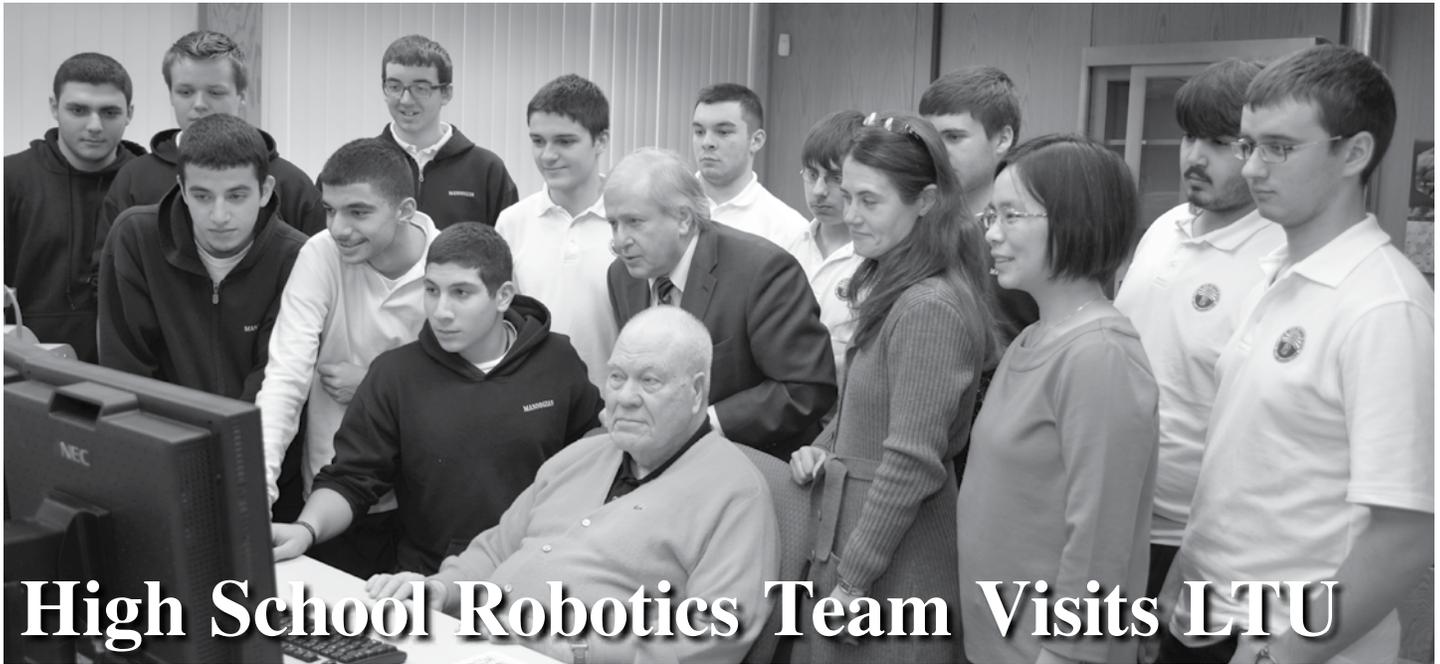


# The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

April 2013

A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian School



## High School Robotics Team Visits LTU

The high school robotics team from the A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian School of Southfield visited Lawrence Technological University on Feb. 7 to see the environmental scanning electron microscope (ESEM) in the university's College of Engineering.

The students were accompanied by Manoogian High School Principal Hosesep Torossian and Anca Stefan, the robotics team advisor and a former faculty member at LTU.

The group was hosted by LTU President Emeritus Richard Marburger, who is chairman of the board of the Manoogian School. The student team has also worked with LTU Professor CJ Chung.

Assistant Professor Yawen Li of LTU's biomedical engineering program demonstrated how the advanced microscope works.

The microscope can produce high-resolution images revealing details less than a nanometer (one-billionth of a meter) in size. To put this into perspective, a very fine human hair is about 10,000 nanometers wide. The maximum magnification of more than 500,000 times is about 250 times the magnification limit of the best light microscopes.

The powerful microscope can be used to scientifically characterize wet, oily, porous, and soft materials that are traditionally considered impossible to study using conventional microscopy techniques, according to Li, who

*LTU Assistant Professor Yawen Li explains the attributes of LTU's environmental scanning electron microscope to the robotics team of the Manoogian School. Hosesep Torossian, the Manoogian High School Principal, is to her left, and LTU President Emeritus Richard Marburger is in front.*

was the principal investigator for the National Science Foundation grant that brought the first ESEM to the Detroit area.

"The environmental scanning electron microscope has strengthened the existing materials research infrastructure at Lawrence Tech and our partnering institutions, and it enhances the research and educational experiences of a large number of students at Lawrence Tech and other universities," Li said.

To demonstrate the capabilities of the powerful ESEM microscope, Li used a hair from one of the students and a dead ant one of the students found.

"The presentation was an eye-opener for all team members. They were talking about the hair and the ant all the way to our school, 2.9 miles away," Torossian said.

Marburger noted that the presentation captured the imagination of these high school students. "Dr. Yawen Li truly 'connected' with these bright high school students. Her brilliantly clear explanations kept them spellbound for the entire hour," he said.

# CEO



Despite the declared snow day on February 27, these brave ladies from grade 11, and their teachers, Mr. Novak and Mrs. Karagosian, attended a meeting with Mark Bertolini, chairman and CEO of Aetna, the world's largest healthcare insurer. They also had the opportunity to chat with Al Gilmour, president of Wayne State University. Mr. Bertolini (center of photo) took 8 years to get his bachelor's degree from WSU. He now runs a Fortune 50 company, and has been hand-picked by

the supreme decision makers in China to design a health care system for 1.3 billion Chinese. He described his vision of health care in the U.S. and in China.

Mr. Bertolini's rags to riches story was fascinating. He truly connected with the students. We thank the Detroit Economic club for providing us with this opportunity and to Oakwood healthcare systems for sponsoring our table.

Mr. Gilmour is standing next to his now-famous student.

# Special Guest

Mr. Artoun Hamalian, Director of Education for the more than twenty A.G.B.U.-supported schools around the world, paid his annual visit to our school in January and met with the school principals and the entire Armenian staff. Furthermore, he facilitated the creation of a "tele-bridge," an internet discussion involving our school with Armenian teachers and administrators of three A.G.B.U. schools in Los Angeles and Montreal. The expectation is that all the schools will benefit from the exchange of ideas, experiences, and expertise regarding the teaching of Armenian language and culture. The hope is that students at these various A.G.B.U. schools will eventually have the opportunity to communicate with each other on the internet in Armenian.

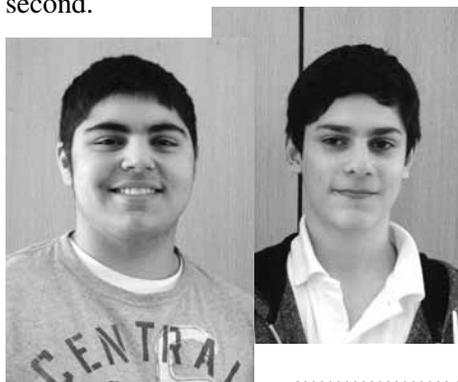
# Scripps National Spelling Bee

In February, Middle School students participated in a fierce competition as part of the National Spelling Bee contest. Each grade competed for first and second place, resulting in six winners, who, in turn, vied for the school championship, to determine who would represent the

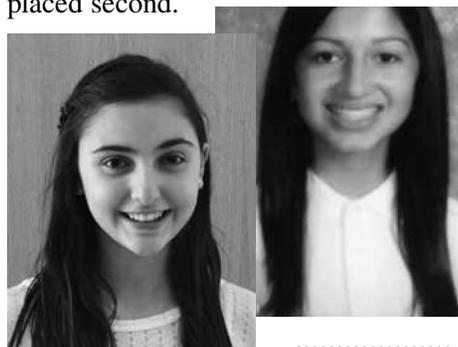
Manoogian School against other Oakland County school students.

Emerging out of stiff competition was the eventual school winner: Celene Philip, who went on to compete at Oakland Schools in March. Congratulations to Celene!

In eighth grade, Joseph Shebat placed first and Sevag Oknyan second.



In seventh grade, Christina Tufenkjian (pictured) was the class champion, while Rachel Fullmer placed second.



In sixth grade, Celene Philip won, with Lerna Lacinian coming in second.



# Vartanants



The annual Vartanants celebration took place on March 1, 2013. The morning Elementary program featured poetry recitations and songs dedicated to the memory of the fifth century Armenian hero, Vartan Mamigonian and his companions, who fought valiantly against the Persians in defense of their faith and homeland. The highlight of the program was a play performed by Mr. Sebouh Avedikian's fifth grade students who read a letter written by the Armenian nobles to the Persian shah, stating that the Armenian people would remain loyal subjects of the Persian Empire, but that they had no intention of abandoning their Christian faith and Armenian homeland and identity. Vartan rallied his fellow soldiers with an impassioned speech, stressing the fact that they were fighting for an immortal, rather than a mortal, king. Mr. Avedikian's senior class

performed the same play at an afternoon program for Middle and High School students. Displayed on a giant screen were excerpts from a video, "East of Byzantium," and a selection of songs performed by young Armenians in Yerevan preparing for the Junior Eurovision contest. Mrs. Anahit Toumajan's eighth grade class recited a poem,



"Korhoort Vartanants" (The Mystery of Vartanants). The audience, which included many parents and relatives, waited with great anticipation for the conclusion of the festivities, when the Middle and High School choirs, under the direction of Mrs. Paulette Apkarian, took to the stage in native Armenian attire and dazzled the crowd with an outstanding medley and choreography of Armenian national and patriotic songs. Participating students and teachers were lauded by school principals, Ms. Dyana Kezelian and Dr. Hosep Torossian.



# America and Me Contest

Every year, Farm Bureau Insurance sponsors a writing contest for Michigan eighth graders. The topic of the essay is "My Michigan Hero." This competition is open to all eighth graders at the Manoogian School. Selected for the competition this year were the essays of seven students: Juvael Alisa, Sona Avedikian, Celine Bouery, Cybelle Bouery, Jacob Garabedian, Bianca George, and Cecile Koceyan. Farm Bureau selected three students as local winners. They are: Cecile Koceyan (first place), Juvael Alisa (second place), and Sona Avedikian (third place).



*Cecile Koceyan (center), Sona Avedikian (left) and Juvael Alisa.*

Cecile's essay now advances to the state level, where the ten top essays will be chosen. The winners will be announced in April. Best of luck, Cecile!

## National Geographic Bee

Every year, Middle School students compete in the National Geographic Bee. It is a tough competition that focuses on the various aspects of geography. This year, the winners from each class were: Julius Shammass (sixth grade), Lindsey Isho (seventh grade), and Mourad Tossounian (eighth grade). Mourad was the eventual school winner and competed via a worksheet that was submitted by mail. Good luck to Mourad in achieving a second round victory.



*Julius Shammass (left), Lindsey Isho and Mourad Tossounian*

## Silent Auction

The Manoogian School PTO is sponsoring a Silent Auction fundraiser on Saturday, May 11, 2013, beginning at 7:30 in the High School Atrium. Advance tickets cost \$30, \$35 at the door. There will be an open bar, mezza/hor d'ouvres, and music. Families and friends of the school are requested to donate new or used items, such as children's books, toys, board games, bikes, movie tickets, restaurant gift certificates, etc. Attendees may bid on such items as signed memorabilia from players for the Detroit Tigers and Lions, Detroit Tiger tickets, signed Michael Aram Collection pieces, About Face Beauty Spa prizes, a Hagopian carpet, jewelry, gourmet gift baskets, an American girl doll, classroom artwork, goldfish swim school, and much more. All students whose families either donate to or attend this event will be granted a "Free Dress" day. Please call 248-569-2988 to purchase tickets or donate items.

Visit Manoogian School's Web Site: [www.manoogian.org](http://www.manoogian.org)



**A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian School**  
22001 Northwestern Highway  
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Southfield, MI  
Permit No. 314