



# The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

September 2001

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

## A National Tragedy:

### How Manoogian Coped

Manoogian was just one of many educational institutions having to deal with the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. Students needed to cope with something they had never experienced in their lifetimes.

Most important was to stress normalcy, according to vice principal Hosesep Torossian.

Torossian said that on September 11, the day of the attack, the administration brought the Upper School students together and viewed the events on television, conducting discussions as well.

Torossian said the next day the school informed parents on how to handle their children regarding the tragedy. Parents were also advised that counselors and teachers were available for grief counseling.

The week in the aftermath of the terrorist attack continued with assemblies for elementary, middle, and high school students, specifically addressing what had occurred during the previous 48 hours.

The week ended September 14 with a show of solidarity in the form of Red, White, and Blue Day. The school also observed a moment of silence on what President Bush called, "A National Day of Prayer and Remembrance." Family Fun Night, to be held that evening, was postponed until October 12.

The entire school held a cash fund-raiser, with the proceeds going to the American Red Cross. Students have raised more than \$1,000.



## New Teachers Welcomed

The A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian School would like to announce three new teachers for the 2001-02 academic year: **Annemarie DeClark**, **Andrea Nowaczewski**, and **Dominic Piantedosi**.

DeClark is the new Upper School math teacher; Nowaczewski is the new physical education teacher; and Piantedosi is handling social studies for the Upper School.

DeClark majored in Mathematics at Madonna University, completing her schooling with a 4.4 grade point average. DeClark also spent two years at West Point Military Academy, where she studied civil engineering. She says her math students' progress has been impressive thus far.

Nowaczewski has a Bachelor's Degree from Adrian College and has taught previously in Michigan and Florida. She sees teaching K-12 as an enormous learning opportunity.

*continued on back*

## Peer Mediation Introduced

The counseling office began the new school year by offering a peer mediation program to all students.

Peer mediation is an alternative for resolving conflict. Students will be trained as peer mediators to assist fellow students in resolving disputes.

The counseling office is confident peer mediation will leave a positive impact on the school.

Besides peer mediation, Valarie Kole and her office provide a variety of programs and services to Manoogian's students. Kole is available to meet with students to discuss personal concerns, behavioral difficulties, academics, and guidance beyond high school.

### TESTING CALENDAR

PSAT	11th Grade	10/16/01
PLAN	10th Grade	10/23/01
HSPT	9th-12th Grades	10/29-11/9/01
ACT	11th & 12th Grades	Student Choice

# Dr. Sarafian: *Many Accomplishments*

Following a busy summer, the Manoogian School opened its doors to a wonderful new academic year. The cheerfulness and energy of the young generation permeate the school, inspire optimism and encourage all of our faculty, staff, and administration to continue our mission with enthusiasm.

As I look back over our accomplishments of the past year, I am filled with pride. Our first celebration was the renewal of our charter contract with Central Michigan University for another five years.

Then came the exciting news that our school had won the Golden Apple Award in two categories, and the precious Apple arrived with \$50,000 in prize money. We thoroughly

enjoyed spending most of those funds on new programs, as well as the purchase of educational software, instructional materials, and lots and lots of enrichment books for our students.

The exposure of our Upper School students on national television in mid-May was also something most of us will never forget. The meeting of our students with Adam Bagdasarian, the author of "Forgotten Fire," which was on *Time* magazine's best-seller list for many weeks, was aired on CSPAN II, reflecting the deep and thought-provoking questions our Middle School students asked our celebrity guest.

We believe that despite all the complexities, demands, and pressures, our job is rather simple: we are all here to help students acquire knowledge, academic and social skills, character, citizenship, responsibility, and understanding of themselves, and help them develop a purpose in life. In short, we love to see that every child becomes a better person with each consecutive year.

We enjoyed the fantastic support of the A.G.B.U. Special Project Group once again, through the Golf Outing they organized at three golf clubs this summer. Our Middle School faculty and students have already started enjoying the privilege of moving into our newly constructed

# New Teachers Welcomed

*continued from front*

Piantedosi has previous ties to Manoogian. Ten years ago his wife was the school counselor. He has a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Wayne State University.

The faculty, staff, students and parents, welcome you all.



*Annemarie DeClark*



*Andrea Nowaczewski*



*Dominic Piantedosi*

modular units, for which we are indebted to the leadership of the Apostolic Society. We had a beautiful start, and we would like to sustain it throughout the school year.

I hope our entire faculty and staff are proud of their contributions to the climate and culture of our school, and I hope they are also prepared to meet their new challenges and strive for even higher degrees of excellence over the course of our new academic year.

Welcome and good luck to you all.

## PTO CORNER

### October Events

The Parent-Teacher Organization at Manoogian is looking forward to holding its "Soiree Extravaganza," at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, October 27.

This will be a fun-filled evening of food, drink, and dancing at the Armenian Congregational Church Hall, 26210 W. 12 Mile Road. Jacques Toutounjian and the Paradise Band from Montreal will be featured.

Seating is limited; get your tickets soon by contacting Silva Demirjian at (248) 661-5862 or Nayiri Misirliyan at (248) 374-5282.

The PTO would also like to remind families to attend Family Fun Night on Friday, October 12, at the school. Halloween will be the theme, complete with a haunted house with ghosts and goblins, and costumes are encouraged. Please plan on attending.

## Varsity Cougars Are Back

The fall is here, and so are high school sports.

Co-ed soccer, boy's basketball, and girl's volleyball have returned to Manoogian for the 2001-02 school year.

Winning and losing are taking a back seat this season, as "good sportsmanship" is being stressed. Acceptable ways of expressing good sportsmanship include handshakes before and after games between competing teams, respecting the calls of officials, and following the rules of a given sport, as well as following the spirit of the rules.

Manoogian's soccer teams, Ararat Blue and Ararat Gold, will play opposing schools, as well as each other, with the season commencing in late September and ending in early November.

In mid-November, basketball and volleyball will begin. Dickran Toumajan will coach the former; Andrea Nowaczewski will lead the latter.