



The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

December 2013

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

Robotics Team Trip to Lawrence Technological University

by Jacob Garabedian

On December 4, the 9th grade robotics team, comprised of Moris Sarkisian, Giulio Basilisco, Sevag Oknayan, William Colfescu, Jacob Garabedian, and Joseph Shebat, and led by Dr. Torossian, visited Lawrence Technological University (LTU) to learn about solar panels and gather as much information as possible on their current project: a solar powered car! This was their first trip to LTU. Upon arrival, they met Prof. Ken Cook, head of the Engineering Technology Department, who welcomed them with a warm smile and a fantastic bag of tricks! They were pleasantly surprised to meet Dr. Richard Marburger, President Emeritus of LTU and



Chairman of the Manoogian School Board of Education. After posing for pictures, Prof. Cook had a surprise for the students. He had assembled a small electric toy-car which he claimed would run on salt water. The students were skeptical. Prof. Cook was also anxious and wanted to see if it would run. The tiny battery consisted of a magnesium plate and a cloth. He carefully squirted five drops of salt water onto the cloth and put the battery back. Instantly, the wheels of the car sprang alive. The

students could hear them whirling! He put the car on the ground and it raced down the hall. Their mentor was ecstatic! He laughed and all the students laughed; it was a great time. The students took pictures and videos, and they played with the car until it ran out of juice. The trip to LTU was simply fantastic! The students learned about solar energy and understood the fundamentals of their project. They will now begin designing their own solar powered car. Kudos to Prof. Cook for making science fun.

Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings Visit Third Grade

In early November, as a part of its Educational Outreach program, the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings conducted a three-day session on "Science and Sound," which was designed specifically for third grade. Our enthusiastic students learned about the physics of sound and music, while focusing on vibrations, sound waves, frequency, pitch, and acoustics. A trio of musicians performed musical renditions on percussion instruments, bass, and flute. The students learned through both lecture and hands-on demonstrations how these particular instruments produced their own unique sounds. As a culminating activity, the third graders were actively involved in using rubber bands and a variety of recycled materials, such as tin cans, metal lids, and plastic containers, to produce musical sounds that were performed alongside the live musicians.

THANKSGIVING



Viken Yeranosian Speaking at the Detroit Federal Reserve Bank

by Grace Torossian

Ten high school seniors, along with Dr. Torossian and Mrs. Karagosian, were invited by the Detroit Economic Club to visit the Detroit Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank. On November 22, the formally dressed group headed to Woodward Avenue to catch a glimpse of the whopping four billion dollars secured in the fortress/building. Security officers and elevated fat bars blocked the entrance. After passing through an unbelievable level of security, refreshments were served upstairs, and the students took their seats in a well-lit conference space. Other schools started to arrive. Bankers talked to the students about loans,



credit cards, debt, and credit scores, as well as how to save money wisely. Budgeting money was the main focus; it is never too early to start saving money, even if it's just a dollar a day. Each student was handed a keypad, in which they were to punch in the correct answer to the questions at the end of the presentation. The Manoogian students were enjoying this friendly competition, as they were in third place in a room of a hundred students from all over Michigan. They even did some budgeting games

and interacted with other students to share their ideas. At the end of the presentation, a video was shown about all the money that was being held in a safe located right below them. Sitting above four million dollars was an exhilarating feeling! Interesting facts about the building's foundation and security were mind-blowing. Every aspect of security, including protection from air toxins, security cameras on every corner, armed guards perusing the hallways, bullet-proof and blast-proof windows, was considered while constructing the building, so much so that an airplane couldn't knock it down, due to its sturdy foundation. The bank even has its own SWAT team. After the three-hour presentation, the group headed downstairs to see the billion dollar reserve through glass windows. Although no money was being moved that day, it was incredible to see how all that money was handled and distributed. This was a fantastic field trip!

National Honor Society

October 22 marked the annual induction ceremony of the Manoogian Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). Seven high school students joined twelve active members, all recognized for their academic excellence, service to the school and community, as well as for their leadership skills and character. High School Principal, Dr. Hosep Torossian, congratulated this select group of students (Angelina Antonyan, Selena Cholak, Alexandra Dehnerova, Aram Ferhadson, Liana Gevorgyan, Kristen Hanna, and Kegham Jalhaian). Their diligent Faculty Advisor is Mrs. Joanna Holsinger. NHS President Grace Torossian, Vice President Gohar Melkonyan, Secretary Irene Petou, and Treasurer Viken Yeranosian all spoke at the gathering.

New Teacher

Mrs. Michelle Dallo is the new second grade teacher. She graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor's degree in Education. She states that since she was a young girl, she knew she always wanted to be a teacher. Mrs. Dallo goes on to say that helping children on a day to day basis adds great fulfillment to her life. Before coming to the Manoogian School, she worked as a bilingual paraprofessional for Farmington Public Schools. That particular position expanded her interests in education even more, because she was able to watch and help students new to the country grow academically and learn the English language. In her spare time, Mrs. Dallo enjoys spending time with her family, relatives, and friends, and trying new restaurants with her husband. She is proud to be a part of the Manoogian family and cannot wait to see what this academic year will bring.



Letter from a Recent Graduate

Hello Baron Torossian,

I hope this e-mail finds you well, and I hope that the academic year has been kind to you so far. The autumn season always reminds me of the school year - I remember my years at Manoogian with great fondness. It seems like I just walked across the stage to receive my diploma yesterday. As time flies by, it's really important for me to stay in contact with my alma mater.

Since my graduation from the U. of M. in Ann Arbor, I have been working on my Master's degree through Columbia University. I am concentrating on Interdisciplinary Economics (that is, economics with focus on federal and local funding, K-12 education, and immigration reform), with hopes of applying this degree to my current job.

I am also thrilled to be taking a major step in my education career - law school! A few months ago, I applied to multiple universities. Unbelievably, I was accepted into the University of Michigan, NYU, Cornell, Columbia, and finally, Yale Law. I will be in Boston next week to interview at Harvard.

The path to the Ivy Leagues has not been easy, but it is certainly worth it. I am confident that all of my accomplishments have much to do with my upbringing and primary and secondary education. A.G.B.U. Manoogian has played an integral role in my life - after all, it does take a village to raise a child. I am confident that you are continuing the legacy of Manoogian High School. I thank you and the incredible faculty for instilling not only knowledge in me, but also values, integrity, and a deep sense of devotion and obligation to my heritage.

Warmest regards,

Julia Papiyants

An Interesting Exchange of Letters

Dear Ambassador Heffern,

Greetings to you from the A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian School in Detroit. I am the high school principal and have been serving the Manoogian School for 14 years. As a proud U.S. citizen of Armenian roots, I salute you and congratulate you for the wonderful work that you do in our ancestral homeland.

Yesterday, while celebrating Armenian cultural month at the school, our students viewed a YouTube clip of a dance starring you and Mrs. Heffern, surrounded by hundreds of youth in downtown Yerevan. Our students were so impressed by your approachability (and dancing skills) that I promised them that I would write to you with a big wish.

In April of 2014 (April 5-15), I will be bringing 30 Junior and Senior students to Armenia. This journey is designed to give our students a unique opportunity to experience life in Armenia and to forge an unbreakable link between our two cultures. Would it be at all possible for our students to meet you? May they be allowed to see their beautiful Embassy? Of course, I would be more than happy to provide the names, addresses, and passports of our students and the three teacher chaperones and comply with any requirements your staff may have. We are flexible with dates and will alter our tour schedule as needed.

Mr. Ambassador, if such a meeting is possible, I guarantee you that it will be an unforgettable highlight of our much anticipated visit to Armenia. The A.G.B.U. office in Yerevan could also facilitate this initiative if you so desire.

Sincerely, and with much anticipation,

Dr. Hosep Torossian

High School Principal:

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

Dear Dr. Torossian,

Thank you for sharing this uplifting and extraordinary news of achievement. It is deeply rewarding to hear of Julia Papiyants's kind appreciation of her school and heritage and her outstanding sense of identity. It is also most encouraging to see where our bright and promising youth are headed. I am sure you and your school are rewarded beyond any praise that can otherwise be bestowed upon you.

Sincerely,

Artoun Hamalian

Director: AGBU Education Department

Dear Dr. Torossian,

The Ambassador would be happy to meet with the students if he is available at the time, but at this point it will not be possible to make a definite arrangement, since it is too far in advance.

Please feel free to contact us two weeks prior to the students' arrival in Armenia.

With kind regards,

Naira Alaverdyan

Protocol Assistant to the Ambassador

US Embassy - Yerevan

Armenian Independence Day and Cultural Month Celebrations

Organized by the Armenian Department Coordinator, Mr. Sebouh Avedikian, and the Armenian faculty (Mrs. Tamissa Dakissian, Mrs. Sona Vandevelde, and Mr. and Mrs. Dickran and Anahit Toumajan), the elementary school students participated in a joyful program of recitations and songs. After the showing of an upbeat video on Armenian tourism, fifth graders Alex Koceyan and Elaine Kirma extended welcoming remarks, emphasizing the importance of Armenian Independence and Armenian Cultural Month, celebrating the 5th century creation of the Armenian alphabet, followed by a Golden Age of Armenian literature and culture. The highlight of the program was a hilarious theatrical rendition of A Drop of Honey, written by the “Poet of All Armenians,” Hovhannes Toumanian, performed by Mr. Avedikian’s fifth grade class. The story revolves around a misunderstanding which leads to conflict. The moral not lost on the students was to listen, discuss, and find solutions to problems peacefully and respectfully. Elementary and Middle School Principal, Ms. Dyana Kezelian, expressed her delight, seeing so many proud parents in attendance, and showered praise upon all the participants.

That same afternoon, middle and high school students gathered in the high school auditorium and watched an exhilarating video which showed Armenians on Northern Avenue in Yerevan doing a celebratory flash mob dance, with U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, the Honorable John Heffern, and his wife actively participating and having

the time of their lives! Welcoming remarks were made by twelfth graders Nyree Tufenkjian in Armenian and Dunia Atcho in English. Mrs. Toumajan’s eighth grade class recited Vahan Tekeyan’s “Ode to the Armenian Language” and Maro Markarian’s “Armenian Alphabet” poems in Armenian. Most of the program was dedicated to the 89-year-old French Armenian singer/actor Charles Aznavour, who was voted the greatest entertainer of the 20th century as a result of an online poll conducted by *Time Magazine*. Mr. Avedikian’s students read the lyrics of songs written by Aznavour and watched the crooner himself singing these songs on the giant screen. The last song was called “The Old Fashioned Way” and five senior boys and five senior girls danced beautifully and gracefully to the melody. Principals Ms. Dyana Kezelian and Dr. Hosesep Torossian sang the praises of the students and sincerely thanked the efforts of the Armenian faculty.



Visit Manoogian School’s Web Site: www.manoogian.org



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