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LOCAL NEWS

Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory Annual Meeting

On December 17, the annual meeting of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) was held.

Among those present were the employees and engineers of all BAO departments, as well as distinguished guests Vahan Kocharyan, the Director of the Institute of Applied Problems of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia.



Andranik Sukiasyan, Gayane Baleyan, Areg Mickaelian and Derenik Andreasyan. BAO.

BAO Director Areg Mickaelian presented the BAO scientific and organizational activities of 2024.

Judging by all the indicators the BAO remains one of the most efficient scientific institutes in Armenia. You can find the report [online](#).

According to tradition, several awards were presented at the end of the meeting, including the Annual Award of the Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS) and International Certificates of the

Galileo Teacher Training Program (GTTP).

ArAS 2024 award was given to Naira Azatyan and Arus Harutyunyan, and GTTP 2024 certificates were awarded to Derenik Andreasyan and Andranik Sukiasyan.

The ArAS Annual Prize for Young Astronomers was founded in 2004, and was initially sponsored by one of the co-chairs of ArAS, Professor Yervant Terzian (Cornell University, USA), and by BAO later. In 2009, the award was named after Yervant Terzian.

This award is given to the most active young astronomer who has been the best in terms of scientific articles, participation in conferences, and other scientific activities during the year.

Galileo Teacher Training Program (GTTP) has started in 2009, and is now one of the official educational programs of the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

Annual Review Conference 2024

The “Annual Review Conference-2024” of the Armenian academic community took place at the Yerevan State University. This major scientific event brought together scientists, researchers, and young professionals to reflect on the past year's scientific achievements, strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration, and pave the way for new partnerships.

Researchers from the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory were also among the speakers. Areg Mickaelian,

Director of the BAO presented a report on the topic of “Multi-wavelength search and study of active galaxies”, Satenik Ghazaryan talked on the “Search and identification of high-velocity stars using dynamical emission from multiple stars and supernova explosions”, and Elena Nikoghosyan discussed “Star Formation Domains: Formation and Evolution”.



Annual Review Conference-2024

Winners of Scientific (Astronomical) Journalism and Photography Award

On December 17, the annual Scientific (astronomical) Journalism and Photography Award was held at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO). It took place at the end of the BAO annual meeting.

Being the initiator of scientific journalism in Armenia, BAO has been organizing the Scientific (Astronomical) Journalism Competition almost every year since 2009, aiming to promote the development of scientific journalism in Armenia and

encourage journalists of the field. The winners of 2024 competition are:

- Ruzanna Mkrtchyan (A1+) and Araks Kasyan (Armenpress) – “Author of the best printed/online article or series of articles” category
- Astghik Piliposyan (Public Radio of Armenia) and Sevak Vardumyan (Kentron JSC) – “Author of the best audio/video material” category
- Lily Hover (Armenia JSC) and Ani Karapetyan (“168 Hours”) – “Most active scientific journalist of 2024” category
- Suren Manvelyan – “Best photo of BAO territory and telescopes” category

It should be noted that photographers Hamlet Marukyan and Anna Melyan were honored with incentive prizes.

We congratulate the winners and hope that it will be another stimulus for the development of scientific journalism.



Annual Scientific Journalism and Photography Award 2024

ANNIVERSARIES

Elma Parsamian's 95th Anniversary



Elma Parsamian

On December 23, Professor Elma Parsamian celebrated her 95th anniversary. Since the early years of the foundation of Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO), she has had a significant contribution in the development of Armenian observational astrophysics, as well as in preparation of future astronomical generations. Prof. Parsamian was born on 23 December 1929 in Yerevan. Finishing the secondary school with a gold medal, she studied in 1949-1954 at Yerevan State University (YSU) Department of Physics and Mathematics. After the graduation of YSU in 1954 she started working in Byurakan. She was a post-graduate in 1957-1960 and took her Ph.D. degree at the YSU in 1963 under the supervision of Prof. G.A. Gurzadian on “Colorimetric and polarimetric investigation of some cometary nebulae”. From 1967 to 1986, Parsamian was a Senior

Researcher, in 1986-2000, a Leading Researcher, and since 2000 she is a Principal Researcher at BAO. In 1983, she defended her second thesis and became a Doctor of Sciences. Since 1989 she has been Professor. In 1983-1987, Parsamian simultaneously worked at the Armenian Pedagogical Institute as the Chair of the Department of Astronomy and Theoretical Physics. In 1967-1971 and 1990-1991, she lectured at the YSU and has been a supervisor of a number of diploma and Ph.D. theses. In 1968-1969, 1976-1977, and 1991-1995, Parsamian worked at UNAM and Tonantzintla Observatory in Mexico as a researcher of the highest “C” degree. There she also lectured at the University in 1992. In 1965 and 1996, she was a visiting scientist in 14 Germany (Tautenburg Observatory and Max-Planck-Institute for Astronomy in Heidelberg). In 1982 she also worked in Italy (Asiago Observatory), as well as in some other institutions. In 2000, Parsamian was elected a Corresponding member of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences, and in the same year, a member of the Editorial Board of the journal “Astrofizika”(“Astrophysics”). Parsamian’s studies concern the physics of gaseous nebulae, investigation of variable stars in star clusters and associations, and archaeoastronomy. She has carried out colorimetric and polarimetric study of cometary nebulae (the subject of her Ph.D. thesis). In 1965, Parsamian published the first catalog of cometary nebulae. Since 1965, she was engaged in studies of variable (mainly flare) stars. In 1970-1981 she participated in the large program of search and investigation of flare stars in young stellar groups (Pleiades, Orion, Hyades, Praesepe, Cygnus, etc.) organized in BAO. Parsamian has discovered and

observed numerous flare stars. In 1976, she has worked out a new method for determination of the age of flare stars and stellar associations and clusters containing flare stars. In 1979, together with V.M. Petrosian, Parsamian published her second catalog of cometary nebulae containing 106 such objects. She has studied the frequency distribution function of flare stars in the Orion association and estimated that there were 1.5 times more flare stars than in Pleiades. In 1982, together with the Mexican astronomer E. Chavira, she published a catalog of 534 stars in the Orion nebula region having H α emission (half of them discovered by herself) adding many new such stars to Haro's list. At present Parsamian is the PI of a research group in Byurakan and works on spectral study of fours and subfuors, spectrophotometry of planetary nebulae, and problems of distribution of flare activity and frequency of flares of flare stars. Some cometary and planetary nebulae discovered by her have been named after Parsamian. Parsamian has significant contribution to archaeoastronomy. She has justified the astronomical significance of buildings in Metzamor (1967), Zorats Karer Karahunge (1984). Particularly, she discovered proof of the existence of astronomical observing platforms in Metzamor. She showed that Sirius was observed in Metzamor in 2500-2600 B.C. As a result, Parsamian has published 136 scientific papers, as well as a number of popular articles. She has participated in more than 50 international and all-Union symposia and conferences, including 4 IAU General Assemblies and several other IAU meetings. Parsamian is a member of 15 IAU (1976), EAS (1990), EAAS (1996), and ArAS (2001). She also is a member of BAO Specialized Council for Scientific Degrees (1980) and its Chair since 2007, Vice-President of the working group "Flare Stars" of the Commission on Stellar Physics of the academies of sciences of Socialist countries (1985-1988), member of the USSR Commission on Preparation of Astronomical Staff (1986-1991), member of Editorial Board of the journal "Historical-Astronomical Investigations"(1988-1992),member of astronomical scientific-methodological commission of the USSR universities and institutes (1990-1992). Parsamian has been awarded the medal "For Labour Valour" (1971), Letter of Commendation of the Armenian NAS (1981), and Anania Shirakatsi medal (2003). Her name was included in Armenian Concise Encyclopedia (Vol. 4, p.183, Yerevan, 2003) and "Who is Who" encyclopedia (Vol. 2, p.314, Yerevan, 2007). Our sincerest congratulations to prof Elma Parsamian.

Elena Nikoghosian's 60th Anniversary

On December 16, Elena Nikoghosyan, a leading researcher of the Department of Unstable Phenomena, celebrated her 60th anniversary.

Elena Nikoghosyan was born on December 16, 1964 in Yerevan. In 1986, she graduated from the Faculty of Physics of Yerevan State University (YSU), majoring in Astrophysics, and that same year she was employed at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO). In 2002, Nikoghosyan defended her PhD thesis in Physics and Mathematics, dedicated to the study of the infrastructure of galaxy groups. From 2004 to 2022, she worked as a scientific secretary of BAO.



Elena Nikoghosyan

Throughout her career, E. Nikoghosyan collaborated with the Institute of Astrophysics in Paris, working as an invited astronomer. Her main research interests are star formation domains and various problems related to young stars, outflows, eruptive variables, and structure of star formation domains. Elena has published about 60 peer-reviewed articles, most of which in the international astronomical journals, such as *European Astronomy & Astrophysics*, *Publications of the Australian Astronomical Society*, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, *Publications of the Astronomical Society of Japan*, *Russian Astronomy Reports*. Elena Nikoghosyan teaches at the Russian-Armenian University and the European University of Armenia. She has actively cooperated with astronomers from France, USA, Japan, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, and other countries.

E. Nikoghosyan was awarded by the American Astronomical Society (AAS), the European INTAS, the National Foundation for Science and High Technologies (NFSAT), the Armenian National Science and Education Foundation (ANSEF, 2006 and 2008), and the RA Science Committee (SCS, 2012-2014, 2021- 2026) grants. The latter is an Advanced Research Project of the RA Higher Education and Science Committee, on which seven young astronomers are working.

E. Nikoghosyan is a member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU, 2012), the European Astronomical Society (EAS, 2002), and the Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS, 1999). She is one of the founding members of ArAS. In 2009, she received Paris Pishmish Award being recognized as the best female astronomer of the year in Armenia.

We extend our warm congratulations to E. Nikoghosyan and wish her continued success in her professional endeavors.

Armen Davtyan's 60th Anniversary

On December 22, BAO researcher, Sumerologist Armen Davtyan celebrated his 60th anniversary.

Armen Davtyan was born on December 22, 1964 in Yerevan.

From 1998 to 2018, he served as a referent to the President of RA.

In 2004, his first scientific work, “Armenian Star Mythology” was published in Yerevan. In 2014, he authored “The Dictionary of Sumerian-Armenian Generalities”.

In 2022, A. Davtyan published another comprehensive monograph titled “The Sumerians’ Agricultural Guide Is in Armenian”.

Since November 2022, Armen Davtyan has been a researcher in the BAO Department of Historical and Cultural Astronomy.

Last spring, his monograph dedicated to the Armenian translation and astronomical analysis of the Sumerian poem “Lugal-Banda in the Mountain Cave” was published.

Armen Davtyan has authored and co-authored many scientific articles, including studies published in international journals.

We extend our warm congratulations to A. Davtyan and wish him continued success in his professional endeavors.



Armen Davtyan

ArAS News is the electronic newsletter of the Armenian Astronomical Society. It was distributed to all ArAS members from the beginning of 2002, 4 times a year, typically at the end of each trimester. In 2009-2014, 8 issues annually and since 2015, 12 issues annually have been released.

ArASNews publishes information materials on ArAS, Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory and the Armenian astronomy in general, reports on ArAS Annual Meetings and participation of the Armenian astronomers in important international meetings, articles on occasion of anniversaries of famous Armenian astronomers and ArAS members, acceptance of new ArAS members, achievements of the Armenian astronomers, astronomical education in Armenia, Armenian archaeoastronomy, as well as science articles (reviews) on important studies.

So, if you want to share your studies with the scientific community, send us your articles to melin.asryan@gmail.com. They will be reviewed for the publication in ArAS Newsletters next issues.

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