

Lebanon

Haigazian University Receives A \$700,000 Grant From USAID

On Thursday the 5th of June, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Michele J. Sison presented a check of \$700,000 to Haigazian University President, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, to finance scholarships for deserving students. This funding provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will support needy undergraduate students, in addition to establishing a new fund for the graduate studies program.

Ambassador Sison, accompanied with USAID Director, Raouf Youssef met with a number of students, faculty and administrators.

"One of the United States core values is education, and Haigazian University has grown in size and academic offerings, becoming the place of world class education, right in the heart of Beirut", noted Sison.

Sison considered that the educational funds allow students from throughout Lebanon to study and contribute to the continuous development of Lebanon. "Our support to Haigazian University, assists students as they make Lebanon, the region and the world a better place", Her Excellence commented.

With a feeling of fulfillment, President Haidostian thanked the delegation, and considered this event as a historic celebration of partnership between Haigazian University and the USAID.

"Partnerships are usually not accidental. Good partnerships are based on values that transcend the instant situations. They point to a quality of relationship, a meeting of a developmental outlook, and a plan to match needs and resources," Haidostian noted.

Haidostian also stressed the nature of the donation, highlighting the

motto of the USAID "From the American People" saying, "even though leaders of countries, organizations, and universities plan, manage, and implement various types of support, the long term impact is created when people help people."

Haidostian shared the example of Elizabeth Webb, an American congregational missionary, whose house on the University's street became a 10-room-college named Haigazian in 1955. He also gave tribute to such families as the Mehagians and the Philibosians, who, following the unimaginable hardships of the Armenian Genocide, became part of the American social and cultural fabric, and turned a history of disaster into a story of service, thus becoming instrumental in establishing Haigazian University.

"I cannot help but see today's support for our students and university through USAID as a continuation of the same benevolence and culture of reaching out to others on their journey of development", Haidostian concluded.

The delegation enjoyed a tour in the Barsoumian Library, followed by a reception.

Following this occasion, President Haidostian noted with thanks the ongoing and direct support of major organizations such as the AMAA, the Philibosian Foundation, The Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary, the WCM, as well as the generous financial aid to students provided annually by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Fund, the Robert Boghossian and Sons Foundation, and the Marash Patriotic Union, and others. He further called upon all to join Haigazian's drive for excellence in education and service.

Meridianian Student Achievement in Science Fair and Talent Search



SHERMAN OAKS -- On Sunday, March 30, 2008, 17 students from Meridianian School participated in the 7th AESA (Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America) Science Olympiad that took place at California State University, Northridge. The following students received prizes and obsidian medals especially made in Armenia: Arteen Galstyan (6th) Honorable Mention in Life Sciences, Lori Shirajian (7th) 3rd Place in Physical Sciences, and Angel Abajian (8th) Honorable Mention in Physical Sciences. Gift cards were awarded to Arteen Galstyan (6th) and Shaunt Anserlian (7th) for answering the Science Trivia questions. This year AESA presented the teacher award to Mrs. Lina Arslanian, Meridianian School Science/Math Department Chair, for her outstanding commitment in promoting and mentoring students, as well as \$300 to the school to be utilized towards the purchase of science materials.

On April 16, 2008 10 excited students visited the LA Convention Center to set up their projects and be ready for the LA County Science Fair. Meridianian School once again shined with two winners. Armen Arslanian and Lori Shirajian, both 7th grade students, won Honorable Mention places in the Engineering Applications and Physics (Electricity & Magnetism) categories, respectively. Lori also won a special award from the American Corrosion Society. Upon the recommendation of the LA County Science

Fair Committee, Armen and Lori participated in the State Science Fair on May 19-20. Armen won the Honorable Mention place in his category.

The John Hopkins University Talent Search identifies top academic students and provides challenging educational programs. Students who have scored in the 95th percentile or higher on a state or nationally normed standardized reasoning test are eligible to participate in this experience. Angel Abajian and Rosie Somoundjian from 8th grade; Shaunt Anserlian, Hasmik Hmayakyan, Christine Kasmajian, and Lori Shirajian from 7th grade; Alexander Barsegyan, Andy Danayan, Areg Demirjian, Souren Grigoryan, Ani Kechichian, Vahe Tirakyan, and Alexi Yegoyan from 6th grade participated in this contest taking the SAT/SCAT tests. All Meridianian students performed above their grade levels, 7th and 8th grade students competing with 12th graders and 6th grade students competing with 9th graders. Both on national and statewide levels, Angel scored in the 60th percentile in the SAT Writing, Rosie in the 50th percentile in the SAT Critical Reading, and Alexi in the 50th-70th percentile of the Spatial Test (based on figural tasks). Vahe and Areg qualify for Summer Academic Programs and/or Distance Education Courses based on their SCAT Verbal scores.

Meridianian School Faculty and Administration are proud of the students' accomplishments. Congratulations to all and their parents.

HAPPY FATHERS DAY ! HOW TO BE A GOOD FATHER

It takes a lot to be a good parent, but there are many ways in which you can be a good Father in particular.

1. Fatherhood is a big responsibility but it is also a lot of fun. Show your kids that you enjoy being their father.

2. Consider your role as a father: A father provides financial and emotional stability for his children, and should care for them also. A father should give his children affection and warmth. Don't be afraid to tell your child "I love you, I'm proud of you." A father shows support and love through actions as well as words.

3. Build on tradition by considering your roles and responsibilities.

4. Respect your children's mother : Mutual respect between parents is very important. How you treat your child's mother will influence the way in which the child will view his or her own role when they become parents.

5. Spend time with and take responsibility for your children : Time goes so fast. If you don't establish an intimacy with your children when they're young, it'll be difficult to catch up when they're older .

6. Be a teacher by both word and example : Children will not grow up miraculously knowing what's right from wrong. They have to be taught. Make choices and decisions in front of them and explain why. Tell them about bad choices you made in the past and teach them that it's ok to make mistakes. That's how they will learn.

7. Show affection so they can do the same to others.

8. Be sure that a father's job is never done : Although it is important to encourage our children to be independent financially and emotionally, still it doesn't mean that our job as a parent is done. It is very important to let them know we're always there, that we'll always care and that they're valued.

Being a parent is one of the most fulfilling experiences a person can have. There is a natural instinct that seems to come to a new parent, but there is always a good advice that can help. The most important thing however, that any parent can give their child, is "The Sense of Being Loved".

WHAT MAKES A DAD

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then He combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete And so,
He CALLED it ...DAD