

Renowned Graduates of Yerevan State University

The decision to establish a university in Armenia was successfully realized and now Yerevan State University, having always played an exceptional role in higher educational system of the Republic of Armenia, stands at the peak of its 90th anniversary. Being founded at the beginning of the 20th century it gave rise to the majority of higher educational institutions in Armenia. Today more than 13 000 students are specializing at 21 faculties. Out of 1200 YSU lecturers 200 have doctoral degrees and more than 500 are Candidates of Sciences. More than 30 Academicians of NAS of RA are lecturing at the University. During its 90-year-old fertile history YSU educated a great number of outstanding scholars, professionally competent and highly skilled specialists promoting sciences, the Humanities as well as cultural and industrial progress in the republic. Among them were such notable and remarkable personalities as Gevorg Jahukian, Edward Aghayan, Edward Jrbashian, Hrachik Simonian, Armenak Mnjoyan, Sergey Mergelian and many others representing different branches of sciences and the Humanities.

Gevorg Jahukian (1920-2005) was an outstanding linguist, Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of Armenian SSR. For more than forty years this great scholar immensely contributed to the formation of Modern Armenian Linguistics, being the initiator and the author of various scientific achievements. More than twenty voluminous monographs, a great number of articles and etymological researches, over one hundred and thirty scientific publications are the striking illustration of his fruitful research work. Jahukian's contribution to the sphere of



Gevorg Jahukian

General Linguistics is beyond any appraisal. G.Jahukian lectured at Yerevan State University for almost half a century. Under his guidance many young scholars have defended their Ph.Ds and Doctoral theses.

The great scholar was honoured not only in our country but also in Europe and the USA. Being a member of European and American scientific organizations he did his best to represent the achievements of the Armenian linguistic school to the international scientific community. In 1997 Gevorg Jahukian was acknowledged as “the international man of the year” by Cambridge International Biography Centre.



Edward Aghayan

Another great name in the field of linguistics is **Edward Aghayan** (1913-1991) - a linguist, Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of Armenian SSR.

Ed. Aghayan is the founder of new linguistic trends and methods in the field of Armenian Studies. His various scientific works are a great contribution to such branches of linguistics as general linguistics, history of Armenian linguistics, history and comparative grammar of the Armenian language, dialectology and contemporary Armenian. Ed. Aghayan is also an outstanding lexicographer. His *Defining Dictionary of Contemporary Armenian* in two volumes published in 1976 is still considered to be unique in Armenian lexicography.

Apart from being an outstanding scholar Edward Aghayan was a man of high principle and was deeply respected by his students and colleagues. He left a huge army of disciples who successfully continue their teacher's work in various fields of Armenian Studies. Most of them are well known scholars today.

Edward Jrbashian (1923-1999) – a literary critic, Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of Armenian SSR, a name that will never be forgotten.

In 1945 Edward Jrbashian entered Yerevan State University, the faculty of Armenian Language and Literature. After graduating he became a post-graduate student simultaneously lecturing Theory of Literature and History of Armenian Literature. For a long time Ed. Jrbashian was the head of the Chair of Theory of Literature and Aesthetics, later he headed the Chair of Foreign Literature and Theory of Literature.

Ed. Jrbashian is the author of more than ten books and 250 articles. Most of his publications are devoted to the issues of the theory of literature. Jrbashian thoroughly studied the peculiarities of the Armenian poem, its syllabic features and gave its classification. He has a number of valuable researches on Av. Isahakian, V. Terian, M. Nalbandian, M. Metsarents, D. Varuzhan, R. Sevak, G. Sundukian and Gh. Alishan - well-known names in Armenian literature. The outstanding scholar has made a great contribution to the investigation of H. Tumanian's life and literary career. Jrbashian newly interprets the artistic peculiarities of Tumanian's poems and other works. The great scholar has closely studied the history and theory of the formation and development of the new Armenian poem, the literary trends of Eastern and Western Armenian literatures of the 19th and 20th centuries with their variety of genres and ideology. Jrbashian's studies devoted particularly to the literary heritage of E. Charents and A. Bakunts are really noteworthy and valuable.



Edward Jrbashian

*Hrachik Simonian*

The present review wouldn't be complete without mentioning another outstanding personality, a true scholar and distinguished historian. **Hrachik Simonian** (born in 1928) is a Doctor of History, Professor, Academician of NAS of RA.

After graduating from the Faculty of History of Yerevan State University H.Simonian devoted himself both to scientific and public activities. In earlier stages of his work the field of his scientific interests was Armenian Diaspora. The result of his thorough examinations was the book "Armenian Diaspora in its Social-Political Fight", published in 1968. Since the late 1970s the scholar concentrated on different problems of Armenology. And after a number of publications his monograph "On the History of Turkish-Armenian Relations"(1991) came out, which was followed by a more profound and valuable work – "Andranik's Time". This work is absolutely a new word about the life and military career of the national hero. His latest book is "The Massacre of Armenians in Cilicia (April, 1909)" (2009).

The list of the scientific research works of the well-known scholar is rather impressive – more than one hundred researches among them twenty books and monographs.

In addition to doing research H.Simonian has lectured at the faculties of History and Philosophy of YSU and other higher educational institutions of the republic since 1964. His brilliant reports made in Moscow, Leningrad, Tbilisi, USA, France, Germany aimed at befittingly presenting the achievements of the Armenian scientific world. Some of his researches were published in Czechoslovakia, USA, Lebanon.

Owing to highly qualified scientists, significant researches related to different scientific branches have always been carried out in YSU. In the field of chemistry the name of **Armenak Mnjoyan**, a Doctor of Chemistry, Professor, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of Armenian SSR, is worth mentioning. The main field of research of this outstanding chemist was the synthesis of new efficient medicines and the study of their influence upon the human organism. The talented chemist and organizer of scientific activities is truly considered to be the founder of the modern scientific school of synthesis and research of physiologically active materials. Due to his great efforts a considerable number of medical substances came into being and are successfully used for the treatment of cardiovascular, neurological, infectious and other diseases as well as for the treatment of cancerous growths.

*Armenak Mnjoyan*

A.Mnjoyan is the author of more than 260 scientific publications a number of monographs among them. He was not only a scientist devoted to his scientific work but also a talented teacher. A great number of chemists and pharmacologists are still guided

by his great scientific ideas. After his death in 1972 Yerevan Institute of Soft Organic Chemistry was named after Armenak Mnjoyan and was awarded the order of Red Banner of Labour.



Sergey Mergelian

The field of mathematics in Armenia has always had eminent names that are well known not only in our country but worldwide. Among such talented mathematicians is **Sergey Mergelian** (1928-2008) - Doctor of Physics and Mathematics, Professor, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of Armenian SSR.

Sergey Mergelian showed unique mathematical abilities still at school. In the 8th form he became the winner of Mathematics and Physics Competition in the Republic. Some months later he successfully passed the examinations of the 9th and 10th forms and entered Yerevan State University which he graduated in three and a half years. In 1949 when 21-year-old Sergey Mergelian was defending his Ph.D thesis he was unanimously awarded the degree of a Doctor of Physics and Mathematics. Soon afterwards the talented mathematician proved his well-known theorem on the polynominal proximity and such expressions as “Mergelian’s theorem” and “Mergelian’s set” found their stable place in the treasury of Mathematical sciences.

Great is S. Mergelian’s contribution to the establishment and further development of the internationally acclaimed Armenian scientific school of Mathematics. He also played an irrefutable role in the spread of computational technique and technology and cybernetics in the country.

Mergelian was also engaged in pedagogical activity. Numerous mathematicians were educated by his excellent lectures read at the faculties of Mechanics and Mathematics and Applied Mathematics of YSU.

In 2008 for his active and fruitful scientific and pedagogical work the outstanding mathematician was awarded the Medal of St. Mesrop Mashtots.