



# ASA NEWS

FALL 2016

*Armenian Students' Association of America, Inc.*  
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## **2016 Scholarship Recipients**

This year the ASA awarded **\$100,850** in scholarships to **17** deserving students of Armenian descent enrolled in colleges and universities in the United States of America. The scholarships range from **\$4,000 to \$7,500**.

### ASA Scholarship Recipients 2016

Linda Asadourian	Columbia University of Dental Medicine	DMA
Talin Bagdassarian	New York University	Masters-Politics
Armauni Wright-Barsamian	Dartmouth College	Masters-Finance
Yvette Barseghian	Touro University	Dr. of Pharmacy
Geena Lee Bournazian	William & Mary Law School	Law
Matthew D'Antuono	Brown University	Biology-PreMed
Michael D'Antuono	Gordon College	Math and Economics
Daniel Emirzian	Northwestern State University	Masters-Sports Adm
Tara Fairbanks	Fuller Graduate School of Psychology	PhD Clinical Psych.
Michael Gallagher	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Electrical Engineering
Stepan Gevorgyan	Bentley University	Masters-Accounting
Nazar Ilishev	DePaul University	Masters-Cinematic Production
Varteni Jamakorzian	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Science	Dr. of Pharm
Ethan Miller	Yale University	Masters Environmental Science
Anthony Keshishian	Univ. of California, Berkeley	Masters-Structural Engineering
Taleen Simonian	Boston University	Journalism
Marc Vartabedian	Univ of California-Berkley	Masters-Journalism

Scholarship Applications for the 2017-18 academic year are available on our ASA website: [www.asainc.org](http://www.asainc.org) or contact the ASA Office at 333 Atlantic Avenue, Warwick, RI 02888, e-mail: [headasa@aol.com](mailto:headasa@aol.com) or phone 401.461.6114. Deadline for submitting your completed application and all documentation is **March 15, 2017**.

## ***ASA Silver Awards***

The Armenian Students' Association (ASA) Silver Medal Award Committee selected eight (8) high school seniors to receive the Silver Medal Award.

The following students were selected to receive this award: **Aren K. Antresayan** of Hopewell Junction, NY graduate of John Jay High School enrolled at C. W. Post; **Matthew Leon Boghossian** of North Scituate, RI graduate of Providence Country Day enrolled at Xavier College; **Samara Jacqueline Gallagher** of Hampton, NH graduate of The Governor's Academy enrolled at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; **Paul John Hazian** of Cranston, RI graduate of Cranston West High School, enrolled at Providence College; **Brian Q. Laukaitis** of Cortlandt Manor, NY graduate of Walter Panas High School, enrolled at Springfield College; **Elise J. Papazian** of Lincoln, RI graduate of LaSalle Academy, enrolled at Loyola University Maryland; **Natalie G. Ryan** of Clarksville, MD graduate of Howard Country Public Schools, enrolled at University of Maryland; **Emily Shakay Selverian** of Blue Bell, PA graduate of Wissahickon High School, enrolled at Pennsylvania State University, Smeal College of Business.

**The Silver Medal Awards** are given annually to high school seniors who have demonstrated outstanding scholastic ability.

***ASA Gold Medal Award*** is recognized as the highest Scholastic Award within the ASA. Any member of the ASA who is an undergraduate student and is at least a sophomore in an accredited college or university within the United States is eligible for consideration for this award.

The following students were selected to receive the award: **Michael C. D'Antuono**, a student at Gordon College and **Michael Hamilton Gallagher**, a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Applications for Gold and Silver Medal Awards can be obtained at: [www.asainc.org](http://www.asainc.org). Deadline for submitting applications and all documentation is May 1, 2017.

## ***Journalism Internship***

The Armenian Students' Association, Inc. is pleased to announce that **Olya Yordanyan** and **Manoug Mardirossian** were awarded ASA, Inc. Journalism Internship grants for 2016.

Olya Yordanyan is interning at the Armenian Mirror-Spectator. She is a graduate of Yerevan State University with a major in International Affairs. Presently Olya is a graduate student at Boston University completing work on her Master's Degree in Journalism.

The Armenian Weekly's intern is Manoug Mardirossian of Waltham, MA. He is an undergraduate student at Boston University majoring in communications.

This is the fifth year that the ASA Inc. Board of Trustees has made these awards in its Journalism Internship Program available. The Internship carries a stipend of \$150 a week for six weeks.

Applications for the Journalism Internship can be obtained at: [www.asainc.org](http://www.asainc.org). Deadline for submitting applications and documentation is May 19, 2017.

## **Poetry Project**

The Armenian Students' Association of America, Inc. announces the winners of its 6<sup>th</sup> annual poetry competition. Once again, the ASA, Inc. partnered with the Armenian Poetry Project for the writing competition named in honor of the late Arthur Halvajian, a former trustee who led its Board in sponsoring the first competition.

Congratulations to the 2016 winners and thank you to those who helped make it possible by contributing to the organizing and selection committees' efforts.

Rose Marie Maljian/Akian of Belleville, New Jersey won the \$300 prize in the 23+ age group for her entry, ***Rest you Peaceful Children of Antoura*** (written in Armenian). Elizabeth Dovlatyan, a student at the A&M Hovsepian School in Pasadena, California garnered the \$75 prize in the 12-17 age category for her entry, ***The Wind and the Pomegranate***.

Honorable mention in the 12-17 age group went to Lorents Assadourian of California for ***Experiencing Vegas***. Michael Minassian of Texas, ***I Hear the Old Woman's Song***, and Aram Luke Nahabedian of California, ***First and Last Love*** (written in Armenian) received honorable mentions in the in the 23+ age group.

Tsoleen Sarian of Massachusetts, Christopher Janigian of Rhode Island and Lola Koudakjian rounded out the organizing and selection committee. Manoog Kaprielian, a member of the ASA Inc. Board of Trustees served as the liaison of the group.

The Armenian Poetry Project, led by Lola Koundakjian, is a research and documentation site of 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Armenian poets and poetry. Its website is: <http://armenian-poetry.blogspot.com/>

Information on the ASA Arthur Halvajian Poetry Project and its past winners can be found on the ASA website: [www.asainc.org](http://www.asainc.org). Deadline for 2017 competition is May 19, 2017.

***ASA New Mentorship Program*** has already resulted in the successful advancement of an applicant to a graduate program at NYU Medical School. Out of a field of 1,200 candidates, **Emilya Bagdasarian** was not only accepted, but also received a \$100,000 grant. Emilyya, a St. John's graduate came to the ASA and was connected to and mentored by, Michael S. Varadian, Esq., a professional health administrator, who is the Executive Director, RI Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals. He remarked, "It was a pleasure to impart my experience and advice to such a motivated, talented and receptive individual."

## ***ASA Coordinates Inaugural Convention of Armenian Campus Organization of Canada and the U.S.***

ASA was proud to coordinate a June 6-8, 2014 landmark achievement which was held at the Revere Hotel in Boston for a program which had origins in Canada but had never been held in the United States. Members of the ASA Board of Trustees were present as four forums were presented by Dr. Dikran Kaligian, Andreas Jouhourian, a retired UN officer from Paris, Gregory Arzoomanian, ASA Board

Treasurer and M. Manoog Kaprielian, ASA Board Secretary. Letters of support to the assembled included: the AGBU, Armenian Prelacy, and Diocese, NAASR and AUA. Of note was the importance of establishing an Armenian presence on as many campuses and connecting to their respective Armenian communities to assure continuity. All attending acknowledged the need to stem the systemic in-roads of Genocide denial as it may exist in Turkish studies and to dialogue with classmates. Thus highlighting the importance of establishing an Armenian presence on as many campuses and wherever possible bridging connections to off campus Armenian communities to assure continuity. Nancy Nahigian Tavitian's presentation was based on her experience while attending Northwestern University Kellogg School of Business. At a subsequent reunion, Nancy shared a most straight forward engagement with former classmate, Ali Babacan, who had become an important Turkish minister. The ASA strongly supports those who take any opportunity to prevail in celebrating Armenian heritage as well as advance the future of the Armenian people.

This is an extremely promising front for the future of our students, people and nation. ASA, Inc. also would also like to extend appreciation to donors: Aram Garabedian, M. Manoog Kaprielian, Joyce Yeremian and John Najarian.

### ***ASA on the Campus Front***

The ASA National Office and Board Members are regularly receiving requests for assistance from college students eager to start Armenian campus clubs. ASA recognizes the importance of these students of Armenian ancestry whether local, out of state or from throughout the world to connect to the greater Armenian Community and churches off campus wherever that possibility exists.

***In Memoriam*** After a long struggle with cancer, **Robert (Bob) Semonian** of Watertown, Massachusetts a longtime member of the Armenian Students' Association passed away in June. At the time of his death Bob was serving on the ASA Board of Trustees, and was an enthusiastic supporter and devoted member of the ASA. He will be missed by all who knew and worked with him.

We also extend our deepest sympathies to the family of **George Yacoubian** of Broomall, Pennsylvania. George's involvement in the ASA began while a student in college as an active member of the Philadelphia Branch. He went on to serve as Branch President, Central Executive President, Convention Chairman, Board of Trustees Chairman and Chairman of the ASA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and Benefactor. As George liked to say "Once and ASA er always an ASA er."

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The Armenian Students' Association, Inc. encourages educational pursuits by Armenians in America and the raising of their intellectual standards, provides financial assistance in the form of scholarships to deserving Armenian students, develops fellowship among them, cultivates in them the spirit of service in the public interest, and acquaints them and the entire American community with Armenian culture.