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## Armenian Students Succeed at AESA 13th Science Olympiad

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Students at the AESA 13th Science Olympiad

NORTHRIDGE, Calif.—California State University, Northridge, was the site for the 13th Science Olympiad on Sunday, March 23, 2014. This annual event organized by the Science Olympiad Committee of the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA) brings together Armenian students from different middle and high schools to showcase their completed science projects.

Eighty-two Armenian students with sixty-eight projects from nine schools took part in this one and only science competition created for middle- and high-school Armenian students in the United States. The day began with interviews of the participating students by an expert panel of judges. Their projects were judged based on creativity, scientific thought and data analysis thoroughness, presentation, and clarity. The award ceremony started with more than 200 students, parents, educators and science enthusiasts in attendance. The keynote speaker Dr. Aida Rechdouni—a board-certified Anatomic and Clinical Cytopathologist and Ocular Pathologist, Chief Pathologist and Medical Director of SCGA Laboratories—gave an informative presentation on the anatomy, physiology, and optics of the human eye. Dr. Marina Guevrekian, Founder and Chair of the Science Olympiad Committee for 11 years, gave an

inspiring tribute in memory of the late Helen Dabaghian, an accomplished scientist and a Science Olympiad Committee member for 12 years, since its inception. Helen played a key role in the establishment and growth of AESA's Science Olympiad. In honor of her selfless dedication and enduring efforts, the Committee established the "Helen Dabaghian Judge/Mentor Award" to be bestowed to a mentor and/or judge in appreciation of his/her volunteer work during the preceding year. Dr. Karoline Rostamiani, an accomplished scientist, was honored as the first recipient of this award.

After welcoming remarks by AESA President Vasken Yardemian, Committee Chair Jenik Gharabegian praised all of the participating students for their hard work in preparing their science projects as well as everyone in the audience for their part in making this event possible. The table of student winners appears below. Each of the student winners was decorated with a medallion made in Armenia of native obsidian and will receive a monetary award.

In addition to the honors awarded to student participants, two non-student awards are given each year, for teacher appreciation and for school of the year. These selections for teacher and school are based on number of student participants, total number of participating projects in each category and level, and the point value of each student award. The Teacher Appreciation Award was bestowed on Mrs. Anna Mkrtychyan and Mrs. Anna Tavitian from AGBU Manoogian Demirdjian School; they will share the \$300 award. The School of the Year Award was earned by Ferrahian High School; the school will receive a trophy and \$300 to support the purchase of scientific instruments for the school's science laboratory.

The AESA encourages all students of Armenian descent in grades 6 through 12—whether in public or private schools—to strongly consider participating in the next AESA Science Olympiad.

#### **AESA Science Olympiad Student Winners:**

##### **JUNIOR PHYSICAL SCIENCES**

<b>Award Name</b>	<b>Student Name</b>	<b>School</b>
Dr. Vrejouhi Darian Honorable Mention Award	Liana Melikian	Mountain Avenue Elementary
Mrs. Seda Hovnanian in Memory of Harmik Hovnanian Honorable Mention Award	Nanor Bedrosian	Merdinian School
Prof. Harotune and Berjouhi Kallayan Honorable Mention Award	Johnny Kamakian	AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian
Minaskianian & Nazeri Families Honorable Mention Award	Daniel Yacoubian	St Gregory Alfred and Margret Hovsepian
In Memory of Melanie Ookhtens Third Place Award	Nicholas Haroutiounian	Merdinian School
Abrahamian Family Third Place Award	Vachag Voskian	AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian
Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Grigorian Second Place Award	Tania Buickians, Lynette Bonyadi	Vahan and Anoush Chamlian School
Guevrekian Family First Place Award	Hagop Chinchinian	AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian

##### **SENIOR PHYSICAL SCIENCES**

Mr. Simon Guevrekian in Memory of George Guevrekian Honorable Mention Award	Lily Dermendjian, Angelica Gevoglanian, Arpi Beshlikyan	Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School
Prof. & Mrs. Mihran Agbabian Third Place Award	George Khabbaz	AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School

Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Atoian Third Place Award	Adam Vahan Smith, Khachik Avagyan	Holy Martyrs Ferrahian
Mr. Sarkis Barkhoudarian Family Second Place Award	Arteen Galstyan	Holy Martyrs Ferrahian

**JUNIOR LIFE SCIENCES**

In Memory of Dr. Chahen Khandjarian Honorable Mention Award	Arpa Boghozian	Carden Hall
Shahmirian & Gregor Families Third Place Award	Hrag Ganoumian, Sevoulig Bastilian	Holy Martyrs Ferrahian
Mr. & Mrs. Zaven and Sonia Akian Second Place Award	Kevin Petrossian	AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian
Dr. Emmanuel Aaron Shirajian First Place Award	Alina Lahian	Vahan and Anoush Chamlian School

**SENIOR LIFE SCIENCES**

Friends of Helen Dabaghian in Memory of Helen Honorable Mention Award	Vagarshak Avetisyan, Shant Reganyan	Holy Martyrs Ferrahian
In Honor of Amalia Guevrekian Honorable Mention Award	Talar Kassabian	Rose and Alex Pilibos Armenian School
Mr. Krikor Vahan Bezdikian Honorable Mention Award	Nicole Arslanian	AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian
Helen Dabaghian Family Third Place Award	Vahe Yacoubian	AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School
Sarafian & Godoshian Families Second Place Award	Alec Mesropian	AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian

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