

**To Our Beloved
Professor
Dr. Gregory
Areshian's
Memory**

“Dr. Areshian’s curiosity and understanding of the intersection of humanity and cultural expressions was truly unique. The ability to mirror this insight of cultural heritage onto challenges and opportunities facing humanity today made Dr. Areshian a most valuable humanitarian guide, urging us to see beyond the present to solve the problems of tomorrow. AUA is forever grateful for the light that Dr. Areshian gave us which will light the paths of our students.”

Dr. Karin Markides, AUA President

“I knew Dr. Areshian for more than 40 years. While doing our PhD at Saint Petersburg State University, I found him to be a brilliant, intellectual, and thoughtful researcher with a vast knowledge in various areas of humanities. He was the symbol of our generation through his relationship to his research and pedagogical activities. He left an enormous scientific legacy behind him, which will inspire future generations who are interested in archeology and humanities. I lost my best friend whom I will remember forever.”

Albert Stepanyan, Adjunct Lecturer at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

“Greg lit up the halls of AUA and his classroom with an abundance of knowledge and laughter. He brought history to life for his students and mentored and guided so many of us. His legacy is distinguished and far-reaching. And he will be missed by generations of students, scholars, and faculty alike.”

Dr. Sharistan Melkonian, Dean of General Education

“Our family is devastated to hear about the passing of historian, archaeologist, and anthropologist Dr. Gregory Areshian. We were blessed to visit Artsakh with him last year, where we got to witness firsthand his immense knowledge, passion, and love for Armenia and her history and future. Seeing Artsakh and Armenia through his eyes was an experience of a lifetime. I loved watching David and Shahan follow him through the journey — walking sticks in tow, all of us waiting to hear the next revelation about our people and land. This is a tremendous loss for our nation, our people, and our UCLA and American University of Armenia communities. May he live in eternal light. I know his legacy will continue to carry for generations to come.”

Madlene Minassian, Adjunct Lecturer at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

“I was very sad to hear the news. Professor Areshian was always full of enormous energy and positivity, even more so than all of his young students combined. We lost our friend, our professor, our Dr. Areshian, but the world lost a renowned archeologist, historian, scholar, great thinker and a very unique mind. Until today, I remember this: ‘Uratians were Armenians, but Armenians are not Uratians.’ He will always live in our memories as a very bright light.”

Gabriel Hovhannisyan (BAB '17)

Professor Areshian wasn’t only my professor; he was my best friend and mentor. He was always excited about every achievement I made and was so thrilled and curious about my plans. I always felt like I was talking to my grandfather rather than my professor. Every initiative that I have made since I met him was first discussed with him, and then implemented. Every visit to his office felt like a visit to another universe where things worked the way Professor Areshian wanted them to work. One of the most memorable and life-changing meetings that I had with him was in July last year. During our long conversation, he gave me a piece of advice that changed my worldview and made me look at things from a different perspective. He said,

‘Margarita, you need to clear your mind to not overthink things and see them the way they are.’ Then, he advised me to read Paruyr Sevak so that I understood what he meant. Later, when we discussed Sevak, he told me how Sevak taught him to play billiards, which made me jealous.”

Margarita Dadyan (BAEC '20)

“I feel so lucky that I had the opportunity to travel with Dr. Areshian and listen to the stories about his archeological investigations in Armenia. He was a great and knowledgeable professor and an amazing friend for his students. I will really miss that legendary (I guess already 17-year-old) stick that he had, although he was climbing the mountains better than all of us combined. We went to different museums, climbed many mountains, and visited the Areni cave with him, where their group found the oldest shoe in the world. But this I kept in mind: When we were at the Erebuni museum, he told us that hopefully his picture will be next to those of prominent archeologists. I promise that I will take care of that, Dr. Areshian. You will always stay in our hearts.”

Maria Yeritsyan (BAEC '22)

“Getting to know Professor Areshian was one of the best experiences in my life. I have passed 3 courses with him not only because I loved his lectures, but also because he was a very special person, extremely kind and wise. He taught me so far above and beyond his course material. I can say that he was one of the people who shaped my mind. Apart from being a legendary archaeologist, he was a distinctive human, time spent with whom is precious for me. Forever grateful for the chance to know Professor Areshian.”

Meri Arsenyan (BAEC '21)

“Gentlemen with a pleasant smile on his face. Humble and modest, despite the paramount wealth of knowledge he possesses. Respectful and deserving enormous respect. That is how I will remember Dr. Areshian. If not for him, I doubt I would have ever had a chance to visit Surb Gevorg church in Garnahovit.”

Gevorg Goyunyan, Vice President of Finance / CFO

“During the Inaugural PSIA conference, between the sessions Dr. Areshian once suddenly left his colleagues and joined our table of volunteers (MPSIA students) to have a coffee break and discuss his views with us. He said: “You are the carriers of the knowledge combined and delivered to you by these scholars. What do you think about the future of Armenia based on the spectrum of thoughts that you have just received?” Immediately we began the most memorable informal discussion with the professor about the political history of Armenia, the present day, and the future. Perhaps that was a remarkable lesson for me and my classmates as Dr. Areshian showed his voluntary willingness to share his knowledge and experience with us. We saw a great pedagogue with a huge devotion towards future generations.”

Mikayel Avetisyan (MPSIA '21)

Dr. Areshian was an amazing person. His calm smile radiated kindness and peace. He was a sage, a wonderful professor, an expert archaeologist, and a wise peer. May he rest in peace. He will be greatly missed.

Tatevik Avetisyan, adjunct lecturer, EC, CHSS

“Professor Areshian was the smartest person that I have ever faced in my life. Talking to him during classes and was an enjoyable experience. The knowledge that he gave me during the office hours was unique and hard to find on the internet and other sources. Besides his knowledge and academic experience Mr. Areshian was an exceptional professor for me for his personality. Always kindest, most positive, full of energy and devotion. Not only AUA, but the world lost a Great archeologist, historian and human being.”

Best professor hands down. Never a wasted moment in his class. His lectures were always clear and to the point. Was lucky to know him outside the university. Just a great person with a great heart. He cared about others, cared about helping young people, cared about teaching. Truly, the world lost an important person.

Michael Shatto, Student

“Gentlemen with a pleasant smile on his face. Humble and modest, despite the paramount wealth of knowledge he possesses. Respectful and deserving enormous respect. That is how I will remember Dr. Areshian. If not for him, I doubt I would have ever had a chance to visit Surb Gevorg church in Garnahovit.”
Gevorg Goyunyan, Vice President of Finance/ CFO

Viktoria Ter-Harutyunyan (BAB 2021)

Dr. Gregory Areshian, thank you for being a brilliant scholar, inspiring teacher, and the kind and humble person you were with us. You were a personality from another era, and a blessing to your students and community. In addition to your rich academic and scholarly legacy, you left with us the precious memory of you as a kind and generous person, courteous in your transactions and encouraging inspirer to your students, being a bright yet humble teacher, scholar, and historian. May God rest your soul in peace and eternal light.

Araz Markosian, Librarian at AGBU Papazian Library at AUA

He was the best teacher I have ever had. His lessons were like a deep relaxation experience during the week. I am very proud that I had an opportunity to study from the great, humble, intelligent patriot. His deep understanding of history will help the entire generation, how to build our bright and glorious future of Armenia.

*Rafael Bagdasaryan, AUA student.
Class of 2019.*

I had the privilege to be one of professor Areshian's students, and taking his class was one of the best decisions in my life. He was always ready to help us, guide us, supported our thirst for knowledge, and was more than happy to share his exciting adventures and stories, which I will cherish forever. He even promised to take interested parties with him to excavation sites; it's a shame that we never made it there.

Professor Areshian was one of the kindest, wisest people I have ever known. I've learned so much from him and will always remember him as many others, whose hearts he touched.

Maria Armenakyan (BAB 2023)

I took his "Introduction to Archaeology" course in my very first semester at AUA. At that point I was still terrified of public speaking, and when he announced one day that we would all have to do individual presentations, I knew I had to approach him after class and ask if it would be possible for me to do a written assignment instead. I had prepared many arguments to support my case, but he just smiled at me with warmth and understanding in his eyes and said, "Of course." Another time, he was about to start the lecture, when instead he just looked around at all of us and then started talking about how he loves seeing us, that we are each so unique and we inspire him, and so on. Everyone in that room was blushing, because somehow - even when he was talking to us as a group - he managed to make it feel personal. I think that everyone in his courses felt loved. At the end of the semester, a friend of mine and I approached him to say our "thank you" -s for the course and for being such a great professor and before we could finish our speeches, he just opened his arms and hugged the both of us. He truly was such a kind and warm man, in an out-of-the-ordinary way.

Christina Nercessian, BAEC 2019

"Starting in 2015, AUA's Summer Program got the much needed makeover when Dr. Areshian agreed to teach Global Perspectives and Site Stories. He brought so much energy, knowledge, and excitement to that program that transcended so well with students. Many of my favorite stories in Armenia and at AUA include Dr. Areshian and our summer program. On one visit outside of Yerevan, Dr. Areshian asked our bus driver to stop at the side of the street so that we could all walk along to a recent archaeological dig. The sky was clear blue and there was not a cloud in the sky. Within a few minutes walking away from our bus and towards the dig, we got stuck in a massive downpour. Dr. Areshian adeptly moved everyone into a Yeraz truck he saw on the side of the street. Despite us all being soaked, he kept our spirits high by telling stories of his previous digs. During another outing, we visited the National Gallery. While a typical visit lasts about 1 - 2 hours, Dr. Areshian spent more than four hours speaking in detail about the hundreds of items he had selected to talk about. The young students, although extremely engaged, tired quickly and looked for rest whenever they could. But not Dr. Areshian. As he proved during that and all subsequent visits, he was full of energy. So much so that the participants called him the

Energizer Bunny. He just kept going and going.

Dr. Areshian, your legacy in Armenia, in the field of archeology, and at AUA will live on forever. You are a true educator that inspired and loved your students. They (we) of course loved you more. You will live on through all of us."

*Arina Zohrabian, Director of
Admissions*

Dr. Gregory Areshian was a living legend, and He will remain a legend even after his death.

We will miss Dr. Areshian, a great scholar, a great colleague, and best friend and consultant of the library. Hasmik Galstyan, Head of Circulation and Reference Services at AGBU Papazian Library As soon as this spring semester had begun, I was looking forward to being enrolled in professor Areshian's class. My peers always spoke highly of his classes and him as a professor, but I did not comprehend it before being engaged in his first class. The significance of knowledge about science, history, geography, literature, and numerous other fields our professor held in his memory has continuously amazed me. Nevertheless, I want to mention my privilege of being his students and witnessing his high interpersonal qualities as

well. During one of our online classes (despite his age, he well-mastered this transformation), he explicated us a characteristic of gratitude, how to be thankful for what we hold, even throughout the pandemic, because some people are experiencing the virus or are suffering from not being able to meet their beloved ones. Indeed, he will forever occupy a special place in our hearts as the most generous and the wisest scholar.

Syuzanna Markosyan (BAB 2023)

“A humble giant, a youthful enthusiast in a body of a gray-haired man—Dr. Areshian shared with us both his youthful curiosity and the wisdom streaming from painstaking labors of a true scholarship. He brought to the University the great historical narratives, the sense of chronology, the sense of vast spans of human existence. He connected the youth to the past, thus connected us to our present and to that which we’ll choose as our future. ‘The future is pluralistic,’ he would say, ‘it’s the realm of choices, and once you make the choice you change it and narrow it down to a single path.’

I’m so fortunate to be one of your students, Professor, to have all those warm memories of our conversations at your office; and yet I’m so unfortunate to miss the

chance of so many more meetings, so many words of wisdom and friendly guidance. I knew you’re there, I thought you’d always be there—a senior friend to all your students, who opened the door of your office with a sweet and calm assurance that you got our back! Yes, your legacy will live on forever, because the light (of knowledge) doesn’t limit itself to our perception of time. But the deep void created by your loss will exist next to that light as well, as you brought too much to the world to leave unnoticed.

It remains our duty—the youth you taught—to honor your contribution to the world by carrying a little of your light in us and choosing the right future from the bundle of choices.”

Nare Hovhannisyan (BAEC '17)

Gregory was a beautiful, gentle man who continuously radiated peace and solace with his optimism and cheerful demeanor. He was enamored with his students and they, in turn, absolutely adored him. He was devoutly dedicated to AUA and his country.

We shared the same office for five years and became good friends. We would often share stories about particular students with whom we both had the pleasure of working while sipping lattes, which he would always insist on treating me to.

During office hours there would often be a line of a dozen or more students going out the door, all dying to speak with him for however long they needed. He never hurried them along.

Gregory was a courteous and tolerant human being, and he approached everyone equally with utmost respect. He was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. And despite his brilliance and deep knowledge about history, culture, and archeology—which was his life’s work—he was humble and unpretentious. He yearned to pass on that knowledge to anyone with whom he crossed paths. Being around him was a continuous, enriching learning experience, not only about the past but also about the pleasures as well as tribulations of life. Being a workaholic, he was a doer but never a complainer.

One of Gregory’s goals was to foster a nurturing environment for a new generation of academics, namely historians and archeologists. He occasionally lamented that few youth in Armenia were currently pursuing life-long careers in academia. Nevertheless I can safely state that, based on the talent he has attracted and cultivated during the last five years, his program is firmly in progress.

I am honored to have worked alongside this extraordinary man, this pillar of academia and role model. He was my anchor at AUA.

And I will always love him.

*Christian Garbis
Lecturer, English &
Communications, CHSS*

I first met Professor Areshian in the Fall 2016 when I took his Study of History course. I vividly recall how on the first day of the semester he entered the classroom with his usual kind attitude and said that this was going to be an intensive course about the development of historical thinking in the course of nearly five thousand years and that all those not interested in reading hundreds of pages about historical research should drop the course. All those who did not drop the course, including me, had the pleasure to immerse into the study of history and be exposed to Professor Areshian’s captivating passion and admiration for history.

My dearest Professor Areshian was not just an interdisciplinary historian, as he liked to call himself, he was a devoted educator, a groundbreaking archeologist, a gentle and kind soul. During the past four years, I had the pleasure to take some of his courses as well as work with him as his teaching associate. He was a genuinely caring person, and I was lucky to be among those students that he took under his wings, nurtured their passions and gave his unconditional

support and guidance. I remember how during a tour that we have organized for some of AUA donors, Professor Areshian told that he was five years old when he first touched an archeological artifact from Karmir Blur and how it sparked his curiosity.

The last time I spoke with him was a few weeks ago and I was really glad to hear that he was occupied with new research projects and was impatiently waiting for the new academic year. The memory of his wisdom, intellect and kindness will live forever in my heart and I will miss him more with every passing day.

Lusine Sarsgyan (BAEC '18)

Dr. Areshian is a legend. I took two classes with Him and unfortunately did not manage to take the third one. Being His student is a pride. I am sure He was the favorite of many students, and I do not know anyone and do not believe in the existence of someone who doesn't love Him. He is not only an excellent scholar but also the kindest and the most positive person I know. He was exceptional. I was always wondering how all the young students were losing their energy during the field trips and museum visits, but He never did. He was so enthusiastic that I never recall a minute when He wanted to sit down and take a rest. Also, He was so knowledgeable and knew so many interesting stories, which made me jealous of his family members, as they would always have the chance to listen to him.

Our university will never be the same without Dr. Areshian and his kind and caring smile.

Lyubov Oganova (BAEC 2021)

THANK
YOU
for the
MEMORIES