

# **NOUVEL HAY** MAGAZINE

*SANS FRONTIÈRES*

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**L'Université US en Arménie : ARPA**



Table ronde de l'Institut ARPA sur  
 " Université américaine d'Arménie : plans pour l'avenir "  
 Panélistes : Alina Gharabegian, Zaven Akian et Bruce Boghosian. Modératrice : Ani Shabazian  
 Samedi 27 juillet 2024, à 11h00 PDT

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### ARPA Institute Panel Discussion

On  
**American University of Armenia: Plans for the Future**  
 Panelists: Alina Gharabegian, Zaven Akian and Bruce Boghosian. Moderator: Ani Shabazian  
**Saturday, July 27, 2024, at 11:00 AM PDT**



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**Abstract:** World-class academic programs at American University of Armenia (AUA) allow students to get the education they need to succeed in their careers and to realize their potential. AUA's accreditation by the WASC Senior College and University Commission, one of the seven regional accrediting organizations recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, ensures that the highest of American education standards are met. The AUA is a private institution offering global education. Affiliated with the University of California, it is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission. Founded in 1991, AUA provides high-quality graduate and undergraduate education encouraging civic engagement, promotes democratic values, and fostering scholarships in a setting that values and develops academic excellence, free inquiry, integrity, scholarship, leadership, and service to society. The University offers a total of 19 programs. Discussed will be the current status and future direction of the university and its impact on Armenia and the nation.

**Alina Gharabegian** is provost of the American University of Armenia (AUA). She received her PhD in English from the City University of New York. Dr. Gharabegian was a Professor in the English Department at New Jersey City University, where she served as department Chair from 2014-2017. In 2018-2019, she served as the Interim Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at the AUA, on a Fulbright scholarship organized and chaired the international conference, "Armenia's Transformation in a Comparative Context: Restarting Democratization?" She has also served as Advisor on Academic Affairs at the Zoryan Institute. Alina has 25 years of teaching and academic leadership experience in institutions in California, New York, and New Jersey. Her numerous scholarly publications and creative essays can be found in journals.

**Dr. Bruce M. Boghosian** is the sixth president of the AUA and served as the third president, when he oversaw the creation, accreditation and inauguration of AUA's undergraduate program – the first American-accredited bachelor program in the former Soviet Union. Bruce was a Professor of Mathematics at Tufts University and has served as chair of Mathematics there. He also was simultaneously with the Physics and Computer Science departments. Dr. Boghosian is a fellow of the American Physical Society has received Tufts' Distinguished Scholar Award, is a Diasporan member of the NAS, Armenia, a recipient of the "Order of the Republic of Armenia" from the Prime Minister, a recipient of the "Gold Medal" from the Ministry of Education and Science, and many others. Dr. Boghosian's interests include mathematical fluid dynamics and kinetic theory, and their application in the social sciences, including wealth distribution, wealth inequality, the onset of oligarchy, and opinion dynamics. He is on the editorial boards of 3 journals and has held visiting positions in many EU universities and at the Central Bank of Armenia.

**Zaven P. Akian** born in Beirut, emigrated to the United States in 1960 to attend the School of Engineering at NY University. In 1961, he transferred to Adelphi U to earn a BA in Mathematics with a minor in Physics; thereafter, he received an MS in Applied Math and MBA from UCLA. Following a career as corporate executive, Zaven acquired Western Filter and Fluidyne, founded Puroflow and co-founded Integra Tech. Zaven and Sonia's support to AUA include the naming of the Zaven P. & Sonia Akian College of Science & Eng., the Akian BioScience Lab., the Akian Art Gallery and recent plans for the Akian Family Bldg of the

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### College of Science & Eng. Above all, the scholarships awarded through Zaven P. & Sonia Akian Scholarship endowment have enabled over 600 students to attend AUA, benefiting the students and Armenia. Zaven is a Trustee of AUA's BoT, Chair of its Finance Comm., and serves on other boards.



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**Ani Shabazian, Ph.D., B.A., History and Psychology, UCLA; M.A. Human Development and Psychology, Harvard University, 2ed M.A. UCLA, PhD, Urban Schooling.** Ani has served on the faculty of several universities, trained in orphanages in Budapest, Hungary and Reggio Emilia, Italy. She has been the Executive Director of the UCLA Infant Development Program and now she is a Loyola Marymount University tenured Associate Professor School of Education and Director of the Children's Center. Dr. Shabazian has received the UCLA Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award and the LMU Crimson and Blue Distinguished Teaching Award. She has done trainings, conference presentations, and has peer-reviewed journal publications. Ani has authored three books and co-authored an international orphanage assessment, that is an international research tool and developed into an AFP by Duke University. Further, Ani has traveled with Whole Child International, UK, developing training programs for vulnerable children. Ani has served as a Governance Board member for the Ararat Charter School, the Paros Foundation, the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief, and with the Ministry of the Diaspora for vulnerable children in Yerevan and Gyumri. She has served on many university committees, now serves on the Board of Trustees of the Hovnanian School and on the Board of Directors of Child360

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