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ArAS Newsletter



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LOCAL NEWS

Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory Annual Meeting 2022

On December 20, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) held an annual meeting, which was devoted to the BAO 2022 scientific and organizational activities.

At the meeting, BAO director Areg Mickaelian presented BAO 2022 achievements and established cooperations.

You can find the presented report online:

<https://www.bao.am/reports/2022.pdf>

Judging by all the indicators BAO remains one of the most efficient scientific institutes in Armenia.

According to tradition, at the end of the meeting the Armenian Astronomical Society (AAS, ArAS) Annual Prize ceremony, the Galileo Teacher Training Program (GTP) International Certificate Award Ceremony and Scientific Journalism Award were held.



BAO Annual Meeting 2022

The Winners of the Armenian Astronomical Society Annual Prize and GTTP International Certificate

On December 20, the name of the recipient of the Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS) 2022 award was announced during the annual meeting of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO).

ArAS prize 2022 was awarded to Naira Azatyan, BAO Junior Research Associate for his active scientific and organizational endeavors.

It should be noted that the prize is named after the famous astronomer Yervand Terzian.



Naira Azatyan

Naira Azatyan and Gayane Baleyan, were awarded the Galileo Teacher Training Program (GTTP) International Certificate, officially becoming “Galileo Teacher”.

During 2022, Naira and Gayane took an active part in different astronomy education programs,

including School Lectures program 2022 “From School to Space” organized by ArAS and BAO.

It should be noted that the Galileo Teacher Training Program was initiated during 2009’s International Year of Astronomy, and named after the famous 17th century Italian astronomer and physicist. It is aimed at teaching astronomy by innovative methods. The certificate is awarded to the people who have contributed the most to astronomical education in Armenia.



Gayane Baleyan

Scientific Journalism Award Winners

The results of the annual Scientific (Astronomical) Journalism Competition 2022 are known.

Being the initiator of scientific journalism in Armenia, BAO has been organizing the Scientific (Astronomical) Journalism Competition almost every year since 2009, aiming to promote the development of scientific journalism in Armenia and encourage journalists of the field.

This year only two categories found their recipients: “Best author of audio/video materials” - Zara Ghazaryan (New Armenia) and “The most active journalist of the year”- Amalya Gabrielyan, and Haykuhi Brseghyan (with the last category having two winners). The winners were awarded certificated and the prize of 75,000 AMD for each nomination. Apart from that, the winners had the opportunity to visit Victor Ambartsumian house-museum and 2,6m telescope.



Scientific Journalism Award Ceremony 2022. BAO.

BAO Researcher – Recipient of the “Competition to Encourage Young Scientists for Publication of Scientific Articles” 2022

Hayk Malkhasyan, researcher at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory, was recognized as one of the winners of the “Competition to encourage young scientists for publication of scientific articles” of the “Support Program for Young Scientists”.

Hayk Malkhasyan is the head of the BAO “Cultural Astronomy” department. One of his most important recent works is the study devoted to Zorats Karer megalithic monument in cooperation with the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia.

It should be noted that the purpose of the competition is to encourage the publication of articles in prestigious international scientific journals in all fields of science, to contribute to the increase of the quality scientific output of RA and its internationalization. The complete list of the beneficiaries of the competition.



Hayk Malkhasyan

ANNIVERSARIES

Gabriel Kojoyan's 95th Anniversary

Prof. Gabriel Kojoyan was one of the outstanding Diaspora Armenian astronomers and well-known American radio-astronomers of the 20th century. He had a serious contribution in astrophysics, as well as in astronomical instrument-making.

Gabriel Kojoyan was born on December 11, 1927 in Providence (Rhode Island, USA). He was Harry and Nazley (Petikian) Kojoyans' son. He graduated from Brown University (1952) getting bachelor's degree in the field of electrical engineering. Later in 1957, he graduated from Rhode-Island University getting master's degree in the field of nuclear physics. G. Kojoyan lived in the state of Wisconsin for 22 years, later he moved to California. He got a doctorate of sciences in physics (1966, University of California, Berkeley). Kojoyan worked in Tracerlab (1966-1967), at



Gabriel Kojoyan

NASA Ames (1967-1968), at the University of Massachusetts (1969-1971), at the Technical Institute of Massachusetts (MIT, 1972-1973) and at Pahlavi University of Shiraz in Iran (1975-1976).

In 1976 and 1978 he also worked at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory as a visiting professor under V.A. Ambartsumian's supervision, investigating Markarian galaxies. Since 1978 he worked at Eau Claire University of Wisconsin; he was a professor of physics and astronomy. He was one of the favorite lecturers; he was especially known for his enthusiasm and often for non-traditional approach to the subject.

Kojoyan's scientific interests refer to the extragalactic and galactic radio astronomy, which was the primary field of his researches. Other fields of his researches were the physics of elementary particles, solar physics and non-linear optics. During the last years of his life he also worked on the problem of quantum points at the centre of Optical Sciences of the University of Arizona. He initiated, projected and constructed a coordinate measuring device of great exactness in common with his group at Eau Claire. In particular, that device measured the exact positions of hundreds of galaxies, which were later observed in Green Bank and Arecibo. These works were published in the American high-ranked Astronomical Journal. Kojoyan managed the realization of projects of a number of other devices. One of his significant works was the coordinate measuring of Markarian galaxies, which was realized in common with Byurakan

astronomers. And before his death he took the initiative of the project in measuring the coordinates of objects of the Second Byurakan Survey as well.

Kojoyan's scientific works always brought forth spacious projects where his pupils could also be included and have a success. He often helped his students with his own resources. At present Kojoyan's pupils are well-known professors and scientists of numerous American universities and research institutes. Kojoyan traveled to many places of the world due to his works; from Canada to Peru and from Europe to Middle East, published many scientific works. Kojoyan was a member of American Astronomical Society. He was a member of the Union for Armenian Relief and Armenian Youth Union in Providence and Boston as well.

Gabriel Kojoyan passed away on May 17, 1998 at the age of 70 from heart attack.

Emil Mirzabekyan's 100th Anniversary

Emil Mirzabekyan was born in 1922 in Yerevan. He participated in the 2nd World War. In 1950, he graduated from the Yerevan State University and in 1951 started working at the Arm. SSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Physics.

Later he entered Moscow P.N. Lebedev Physics Institute PhD courses and defended his PhD thesis under the supervision of the famous radioastronomer Prof. S.E. Khaykin. In 1955-60, he worked at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO). Since 1960 he was the Director of the Arm. SSR Academy of Sciences newly founded Institute of Radiophysics and 11 Electronics organized by him on the basis of BAO Department of Radioastronomy. In 1971 he was elected corresponding-member of the Arm.

SSR Academy of Sciences, in 1974 – academician, in 1974-76 he was the academician-secretary of the Arm. SSR Academy of Sciences Physical Technical Sciences and Mechanics Division, and since 1976 – the Vice-President of the Arm. SSR Academy of Sciences. Mirzabekyan lectured at the YSU, where the Department of Radiophysics was opened on his initiative. His research works were devoted to studies of supersensitive radio detecting systems at the ultra-high frequencies (UHF) range. He was the founder of UHF radiophysics in Armenia. He created a new type of electromagnetic radiation exploration devices and he was the first to study the polarization of the solar radio emission. His studies found broad practical applications in various spheres of economy. The supersensitive detecting systems created by Mirzabekyan and his fellows are being applied in space explorations. In 1961 Mirzabekyan became a member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU). He was a Deserved Figure of the Arm. SSR science and engineering (1974), Deputy of the Arm. SSR Supreme Council X convocation. He was awarded with orders of Red Star, Patriotic War 2nd degree and October revolution.

Emil Mirzabekyan deceased after heavy illness at the age of 58 years, on September 16, 1980 in Moscow.



Emil Mirzabekyan

OTHER NEWS

Calendar of Celestial Events 2023

We are happy to let you know that [Calendar of Celestial Events 2023](#) is already available on Armenian Astronomical Society's (ArAS) website. The calendar is bilingual: Armenian and English. Go ahead and sync your calendar with the cosmic events:



ArAS News is the electronic newsletter of the Armenian Astronomical Society. It was distributed to all ArAS members from the beginning of 2002, 4 times a year, typically at the end of each trimester. In 2009-2014, 8 issues annually and since 2015, 12 issues annually have been released.

ArASNews publishes information materials on ArAS, Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory and the Armenian astronomy in general, reports on ArAS Annual Meetings and participation of the Armenian astronomers in important international meetings, articles on occasion of anniversaries of famous Armenian astronomers and ArAS members, acceptance of new ArAS members, achievements of the Armenian astronomers, astronomical education in Armenia, Armenian archaeoastronomy, as well as science articles (reviews) on important studies.

So, if you want to share your studies with the scientific community, send us your articles to melin.asryan@gmail.com. They will be reviewed for the publication in ArAS Newsletters next issues.

[ArAS Newsletter issues](#) are available online.