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ARMENIAN  
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

# ArAS Newsletter



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## LOCAL NEWS

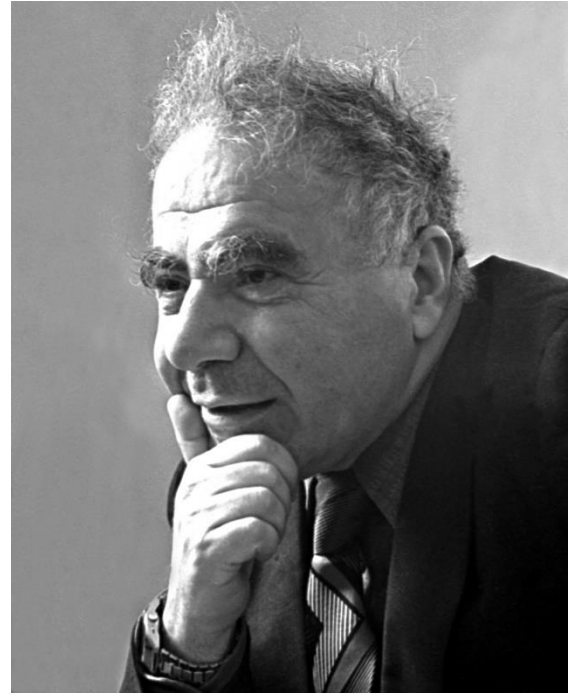
### Viktor Ambartsumian Memorial Day

On 12 August marked the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Viktor Ambartsumian, the prominent Armenian astrophysicist of the 20th century and founder of the School of Theoretical Astrophysics in the Soviet Union.

On Viktor Ambartsumian Memorial Day the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory's staff members visited Pantheon to pay homage to the great scientist.

It should be noted that BAO's pantheon, which was created in 1965, received the status of a "Newly discovered monument of local significance" by the decision of the expert commission of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia only in 2021. V. Ambartsumian was born on 18 September, 1908. He is one of the greatest scientists of the XX century, the greatest Soviet astrophysicist and the founder

of the theoretical astrophysics school in the USSR that has fundamentally contributed to various fields of astronomy and astrophysics, cosmogony, theoretical physics, mathematics, and philosophy. His revolutionary works on stellar evolution and activity of galactic nuclei turned over the development of astrophysics. Ambartsumian was also a great organizer of science, important political and public figure.



Viktor Ambartsumian

## Armenian Students Win Medals in the 17th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics

Armenian high school students have earned three bronze medals at the 17<sup>th</sup> International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA), which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from August 17-26.

The competition featured 232 students from 53 countries, each represented by up to five participants. The Olympiad consisted of four parts: theoretical, observational, data analysis, and planetarium.

This year, Armenia's team comprised four students from the A. Shahinyan Physical-Mathematical Special School achieved the following results: Arsen Aghayan, 12th grade - Bronze Medal; Gor Hasratyan, 11th grade - Bronze Medal; Emil Musheghyan, 11th grade - Bronze Medal; Narek Galstyan, 11th grade - Certificate of Commendation.

The team was guided by Hrant Topchyan from the Yerevan Institute of Physics and Karen Baghdasaryan from Yerevan State University (YSU).

In the previous 16<sup>th</sup> International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics held in Poland, the Armenian team secured one silver and one bronze medal.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### IAU 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly

On 6-15 August, the 32nd General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) took place in the prestigious Cape Town International Convention Centre in South Africa.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> GA is the first to offer full online participation with a focus on providing a positive experience for those joining from around the world. It's a platform where astronomers from different countries get together to share their experiences and knowledge. The program includes 5 Symposia, 12 Focus Meetings, and 6 Working Group Meetings.

The researchers of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory were also among the participants. Areg Mickaelian, the Director of BAO and acting president of ArAS, was an onsite participant. The GA also hosted the Astronomy Prize 2023 award ceremony. BAO researcher Naira Azatyan, who participated in the event online, was among the winners. Due to that circumstances her certificate of his award was handed to her by Areg Mickaelian already at the Scientific Council meeting of the BAO.



Left: Areg Mickaelian. Right: Naira Azatyan

## ANNIVERSARIES

### Hayk Abrahamyan's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On August 25, Hayk Abrahamyan, research associate in the department of Astronomical Surveys celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He was born on August 25, 1984. Graduated from the Yerevan State University (YSU), Department of Astrophysics (2009). He has been working at the BAO .

The main topics of Abrahamyan's research are active galactic nuclei, radio galaxies, quasars and blazars.

During his career, he actively participated in various projects, astronomical schools and international conferences, including the General Assemblies of the International Astronomical Union (2018 and 2022) and the European Astronomical Society Meetings (2007, 2016, 2023 and 2024). H. Abrahamyan has published 65 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 30 articles in conference proceedings, electronic catalogs and other publications.

In 2013, he was awarded the Armenian Astronomical Society annual prize for Young Astronomers, and in 2020 the RA President's Poghosyan Award, when working in Areg Mickaelian's group. In 2015, he was awarded the Galilean Teacher Training Program (GTTP) certificate. In 2016, he won a grant from the Armenian National Scientific and Educational Foundation (ANSEF).

Hayk Abrahamyan is a member of the Armenian and European Astronomical Societies and the International Astronomical Union. Since 2024, he has been a member of ArAS Council.

We warmly congratulate Hayk Abrahamyan on his birthday and wish him success.



Hayk Abrahamyan

## OTHER NEWS

### Call for Educators

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) and Radiolab offer a unique opportunity for educators and their students to dive into the wonders of science and creativity! They can explore the mysteries of the moon through an engaging and authentic experience that will spark their curiosity and imagination.

What's on offer?

- Creative Challenges
- Authentic Science Experience

Learn More & Get Involved! Discover how you can integrate this exciting opportunity into your classroom and inspire your students to reach for the stars! [Click here](#) for more details.

# Name a Quasi-Moon



A contest from Radiolab  
and the International Astronomical Union

*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](mailto:melin.asryan@gmail.com). They will be reviewed for the publication in ArAS Newsletters next issues.

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