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Launch Of New 'University Grants' Programme

Five successful applicants receive grants of €1,000 each



In the autumn of 2011 the Kalaydjian Foundation successfully launched its new programme of grants to talented students studying full-time towards undergraduate degrees at accredited universities. The programme is aimed at providing assistance to gifted students in need of financial support for their tertiary education and covers all accredited universities in Cyprus, Europe, Russia, Armenia and North America which charge for tuition.

In December 2011 five successful applicants received their grants under this programme. Three are enrolled in universities in the United Kingdom and the other two are in full-time education in Cyprus.

The 'University Grants' programme allows up to five eligible applicants annually to receive €1,000 each per academic year for the duration of their studies, such duration not to exceed 4 years. This amount is granted to students who fulfill certain criteria including academic achievement, financial need, graduation from a *Narek* school and overall positive assessment. Grants are made based on the decision of the members of the

Management Committee of the Foundation and are communicated to the applicants before the end of each calendar year.

The Kalaydjian Foundation hopes that the 'University Grants' programme will allow a significant number of individuals to receive financial aid and thus continue with their tertiary education. Parallel with its 'Support for Education' programme, whereby an annual grant is provided to all *Narek* graduates studying at private secondary schools in Cyprus, and together with the postgraduate scholarship it offers through the American University of Armenia, the Kalaydjian Foundation believes that the opportunity now exists for successful applicants to receive the level of education that is imperative for the 21st century.

The criteria for granting this aid are stringent and follow the general guidelines set by various other philanthropic institutions and higher education bodies. The Kalaydjian Foundation confirms that any information submitted with an application will be kept strictly confidential. Parties interested in a university grant for the academic year 2012-13 should contact the Kalaydjian Foundation or call Mr. Hagop Kasparian on 22 429306. Applications must be made by the 15th of October 2012.

The 'University Grants' programme is in memory of Arousiak and Alice Rafaelian in recognition of their major contribution to the Kalaydjian Foundation.

The Kalaydjian Foundation, a non-profit philanthropic organisation, was founded in 1984 by Bedros and Aram Kalaydjian. The Foundation's Grand Benefactors are the sisters Arousiak and Alice Rafaelian and Mr. Arto Matossian. More information about the Foundation can be found at www.kalaydjianfoundation.org.

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The Kalaydjian Foundation's 'Support For Education' Programme

The Kalaydjian Foundation's 'Support for Education' Programme, whose aim is to provide targeted support for education in today's highly challenging economic environment, continued successfully into its third year, with a record number of Armenian Cypriot families receiving financial assistance for their children's secondary education.

The programme was first announced by the Kalaydjian Foundation in early 2009 and involved the provision of grants to all Armenian Cypriot students who are graduates of *Narek* elementary schools and are currently enrolled in private secondary schools on the island. The assistance was granted to all eligible applicants irrespective of their family's income level.

Given the severe economic downturn in Cyprus in recent years, the Kalaydjian Foundation has now raised the amount of its annual grant to €450 per student, and calls on all families which would be interested in receiving this grant in 2012 to submit an application to Mr. Hagop Kasparian by the 30th of September 2012 at the latest. Mr. Kasparian can be contacted on 22 42 93 06. Application forms can be downloaded from the Foundation's website.

The Kalaydjian Foundation's "Support for Education" programme is in memory of Bedros and Aram Kalaydjian, the two brothers who founded the Foundation in 1984.

AUA Application Process For Armenian Cypriot Students Now Open

In 2009 the Kalaydjian Foundation announced the start of its new scholarship programme to provide free post-graduate education to gifted Armenian Cypriot students. The primary aim of this programme is to allow talented students, who would otherwise not have the chance to continue their education, the opportunity to receive a Master's degree and therefore enhance significantly their career prospects. To that end, the Kalaydjian Foundation signed a collaboration agreement with the American University of Armenia (AUA) in Yerevan whereby scholarship students would be able to study for a post-graduate degree for free.

The American University of Armenia is a US-accredited educational institution affiliated with the University of California and is located in Yerevan. AUA's academic programme provides English-language graduate education in Business and Management (MBA), Industrial Engineering, Information and Communication Technologies, Political Science, Health Sciences and Law.

The Kalaydjian Foundation currently provides a scholarship to any Armenian Cypriot student whose application is accepted by the AUA. The Foundation's scholarship covers the entire cost of tuition over two years.

Donation Of Vehicle To The Kalaydjian Rest Home

The Kalaydjian Foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to Mr. Barkev Mihranian for his generous donation of a saloon vehicle to the Kalaydjian Rest Home in memory of his wife Elisabeth and his daughter Nadia. This benevolent gesture by Mr. Mihranian points to his interest in the welfare of the residents of the Kalaydjian Rest Home.

The Kalaydjian Foundation is committed to making a real difference to the lives of Armenians in Cyprus, and therefore highly appreciates the support and help it receives from concerned Armenians such as Mr. Mihranian.

The AUA's recruitment for the academic year 2012-2013 ends on the 31st of March 2012. Interested parties should contact the Kalaydjian Foundation or Mr. Hagop Kasparian on 99 23 34 53 in order to receive an application form and information relating to the scholarship.



Launch Of New Website

Late last year the Kalaydjian Foundation launched its new upgraded website, introducing many dynamic and innovative features and options. In addition to providing basic information about the Foundation's history and activities, the website allows its visitors to download the application forms for its various programmes, as well as its annual bulletins. It also has an online donation facility whereby friends of the Foundation can make personalised contributions in support of the Foundation's various philanthropic activities. The new website can be viewed at www.kalaydjianfoundation.org

The Armenian Cultural Centre In Larnaca - *a grand new home for Armenian culture, ethnology and art*



From its inception, this lofty and ambitious AGBU project received the full support of the Kalaydjian Foundation which, through its sponsorship and guidance, played a key role in making the Centre's creation both a reality and a huge success. The project was also supported by substantial donations from several Armenian Cypriot families and was under the overall supervision of the Larnaca Chapter of the AGBU, under the leadership of its Chairman Mr. Stephanos Kamakian.

The Centre promotes, highlights and fosters the history and culture of the Armenian nation in general and the Armenian community of Cyprus in particular, and organises and supports events such as conferences, workshops, performances, presentations and symposia, with the aim of deepening the understanding and appreciation of the cultural and artistic heritage that bonds all Armenians together.

The Centre was designed by architect Merouzhan Sarkisian of Limassol and boasts

a rich library of rare books and journals, including several 19th century publications. The building's main hall can accommodate up to 80 people and hosts a variety of events, including musical performances. The upstairs includes a bedroom with en-suite bathroom designed specifically to accommodate foreign dignitaries. The roof garden meanwhile can host up to 100 people and will be the venue for outdoor events and gatherings.

The building's construction began in January 2010 and ended in December of the same year. The Centre was inaugurated by President Demetris Christofias on Thursday the 5th of May 2011. The opening ceremony was attended by over 200 participants, included the mayor of Larnaca, along with two previous mayors, many Counselors of the Larnaca Municipality, several members of the House of Representatives, and representatives of all the political parties represented in the House, as well as Armenian and Greek Cypriots from Larnaca, Limassol and Nicosia.

Participating also in the ceremony on behalf of the President of the AGBU, Mr. Berge Setrakian, and the AGBU Central Board, was Mr. Vazken Yacoubian, member of the Board, who had flown to Cyprus from Syria for the occasion.



In his opening statement, Mr. Roupen Kalaydjian of the Kalaydjian Foundation thanked the President not only for his generous agreement to personally inaugurate the new AGBU Centre, but also for his decades-long support for the Armenian community of Cyprus, culminating in his unveiling of the Armenian Genocide Memorial on Larnaca's seafront.

After Mr. Kalaydjian's statement, the Archbishop of the Armenian Prelature of Cyprus, His Eminence Varoujan Hergelian, conducted an official blessing of the new building.

Mr. Vazken Yacoubian conveyed, on behalf of the President of the AGBU and its Central Board, his gratitude to President Christofias for his agreement to personally inaugurate the Armenian Cultural Centre. He also stressed the excellent relations that have always existed between the AGBU and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. Furthermore, he stated that the Centre in Larnaca aimed not only to preserve and promote Armenian culture but also to highlight the positive role that Armenians have played in the island's development.

The Chairman of the AGBU Larnaca Chapter, Mr. Stephanos Kamakian, thanked all the parties involved in the project, including the AGBU Central Board, the Kalaydjian Foundation, the AGBU Larnaca, Limassol and Nicosia Chapters, and several prominent Armenian Cypriot families, as well as benefactors from abroad, who with their generous sponsorship and guidance, as well as financial support, had made the realisation of the project possible.

Mr. Tigran Kalaydjian, the Chairman of the Kalaydjian Foundation, presented President Christofias with a commemorative gift, a book about the history and culture of the ancient Armenian territory of Artsakh.

Addressing the large gathering, the President of the Republic of Cyprus stated that the AGBU had honoured him "with its invitation to celebrate the inauguration of the Armenian Cultural Centre." He added that the Centre, beyond its cultural character, proved that Armenians, as an integral part of the Cypriot people, contributed positively and substantially to the broader economic, social and cultural development of the island.

Referring to the centuries-old friendship between the Armenian and Cypriot peoples and their common struggle for peace and justice, as

well as the excellent relations between the republics of Armenia and Cyprus, the President recalled the importance of Larnaca as the first port of call for the thousands of Armenian refugees fleeing the Genocide of 1915-1923. He also paid tribute to and expressed his admiration for the philanthropic work done by the AGBU for over a century. In conclusion, the President announced that as an acknowledgement of the importance of the creation and operation of the Centre, the Government had decided to donate the sum of €15,000, as a further token of support.



The ceremony was concluded with the unveiling by the President of a plaque and the cutting of the ribbon, followed by a reception and media interviews.

The Armenian Cultural Centre is located at 13 Killis Street, opposite the Larnaca Archeological Museum and the ruins of the ancient city of Kition. More information can be found at www.armenianculturalcentre.org.

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