

AUA Announces New Appointments

YEREVAN - Interim American University of Armenia Provost Armen Der Kiureghian announced three senior academic appointments to coincide with the university's new academic restructuring into three Colleges: Dr. Aram Hajian, Dean of the College of Science and Engineering, Dr. Thomas J. Samuelian, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Dr. Catherine Buon, Associate Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences for General Education.

Dr. Hajian received his Ph.D. in Engineering Sciences from Harvard University and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University. He joined AUA in the summer of 2007 as the Assistant Dean of the College of Engineering, becoming Interim Dean in 2008 and Dean of the same college in 2010. He has served as Chair of the Faculty Senate and of the Undergraduate Task Force and as member of several other academic governance bodies.

Dr. Hajian has taught several courses in Industrial Engineering and Systems Management and Computer and Information Science programs. He also served as a technical reviewer and member of several Armenian Government-appointed committees related to large-scale national engineering development projects.

Dr. Hajian is a co-founder and member of the Board of Directors of the Chess Academy of Armenia.

Dr. Samuelian has been in academia for over three decades, beginning his teaching career at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his Ph.D. in Linguistics in 1981. He has also taught at Columbia University and St. Nersess Seminary. In 1991 he earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School. After serving as a clerk in US federal court, he practiced international law in Washington, DC, Almaty, and Moscow. He is founder and managing partner of Arlex International

al CJSC, which has handled many of Armenia's largest complex investment transactions and contributed to legal reform and the development of the legal profession.

He is a licensed member of the Armenian bar. He joined the AUA Law faculty in 1998 and has served as the Dean of the AUA Law Department since 2006. Dr. Samuelian is the author of a number of books, articles, reviews, and translations in the field of Armenian language, literature and history.

Dr. Samuelian is team leader for the award-winning www.arak29.am portal, which features free Armenian language learning and linguistic tools, Armenian language-learning software programs, spell-checkers, Armenian cultural literacy educational software, Genocide reparations databases, translations, and articles on economic, literary, cultural policy, and environmental issues. He has served as President of the US-based Armenian Bar Association, President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Armenia.

Dr. Buon was born and raised in France. She earned a BA in English Language and Literature at the Université d'Angers, France, where she also obtained a BA in Teaching French as a Foreign Language. After moving to the US, she earned an MA in French and Francophone Literatures, and a PhD in Applied Linguistics from Louisiana State University.

After teaching French as a Foreign Language and English as a Second Language at the undergraduate and graduate levels for many years in U.S. universities, Dr. Buon's professional career took her around the world teaching English as a Foreign Language in the Middle East and Cyprus; training EFL teachers in Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia; and now in Armenia. She joined the AUA faculty in 2010 as Assistant Dean in the Department of English Programs and has served as Interim Dean since January 2012.