# HAIGAZIAN UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES FOUNDERS' DAY

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**Category:** Opinions

Mira Yardemian, Public Relations Dir., Haigazian University, Beirut, 14 October 2013

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This was followed by a power point presentation, "Tribute to the Founders", delivered by the Dean of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Arda Ekmekji.

Dean Ekmekji highlighted on the founding institutions, the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches of the Near East (UAECNE), and the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). After proudly acknowledging the collective efforts and initiative of the University's Board of Trustees and President, the faculty, staff and students, Ekmekji pointed out the importance of the development and growth of the academic institutions, through the establishment of its continuing education programs, the opening of new centers and conferences, publications, exhibitions, and signing of joint agreements.

University President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian delivered a speech for this commemorative celebration, placing particular significance on the human nature, which remains the same, despite the change of times.

"As we open a new academic page every year, by repeating so much, by restating of facts, we realize that each new student brings new life and each academic year has its opportune particularities," said Haidostian.

He considered that a university also changes with the change in the student body, but few things at a university will remain unchanged. In this context, Haidostian added that, "at Haigazian University, we aspire to inspire students to also be good viewers, good listeners, good readers, good thinkers, and, as a result, good learners."

In his inspiring speech, "There's an Everest in each one of us", sportsman, explorer, champion, sailor, record breaker, and Bank Audi's Corporate Ambassador, Mr. Maxime Chaya, shared with the audience his journey and philosophy of Challenge. Chaya said that the keywords for his challenging path are: passion, perseverance, belief, and determination. With these virtues he ensured that "everyone will reach his own Everest". Chaya, who recently returned safely from his latest adventure, that of sailing the Indian Ocean in 57 days, invited students to never give up, and be the real change-makers of the world.

On this special occasion, renowned Lebanese-Armenian Artist, Krikor Norikian offered Haigazian a unique oil painting entitled "Orange Atmosphere" dated 1993, thus enriching the University's collection.

To conclude this ceremony, President Haidostian presented Mr. Maxime Chaya, and Artist Norikian with plaques of recognition and appreciation, after which everyone rose to sing the Alma Mater.