

## Yerevan State University installs First Psi Chi Chapter

*Professor Hrant Avanesyan & Diana Sargsyan*

Armenia is an ancient land, where Noah's Ark landed on Mount Ararat, and its capital city of Yerevan (founded in 782 BC) marked its 2,800<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018.

On August 20, 2020, history was made in Armenia, when Yerevan State University (YSU) installed the nation's first chapter of Psi Chi--the International Honor Society in Psychology.

Since its formation at Yale University in 1929, Psi Chi has grown into the world's largest honor society, with over 750,000 student and faculty life members at over 1,100 schools in the USA, and (since 2009) over 20 schools world-wide. YSU is the first Psi Chi chapter in the entire Transcaucasus region and may now become a model for neighboring schools and nations.

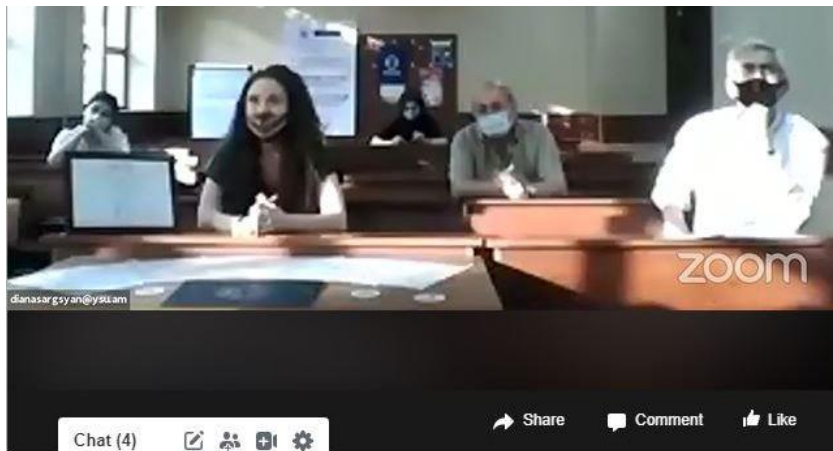
On August 20, the YSU installation ceremony was chaired by YSU Professor of Psychology **Hrant Avanesyan**, using zoom technology to involve leaders from many cities to install this chapter, and induct eight YSU students as life members of Psi Chi. A yearlong dedicated effort of handful of professionals made this happen, especially Drs. Avanesyan, Kalayjian and Zlokovich.

Participants in Yerevan were YSU Vice-Rector **Elina Asriyan**, Dean **Aleksandr Bagdasaryan**, Dr. **Diana Sargsyan**. From Psi Chi: Executive Director **Martha Zlokovich** (Missouri), President **Deborah Harris-O'Brien** (Washington DC), Associate Director of Membership **Lisa L. Norman** (Tennessee), **Dr. Ani Kalayjian** (ATOP Meaningfulworld, New York/New Jersey), **Professor Harold Taoshian** (New York). This 40-minute installation now appears online (See Note 1 below). A report appears in Armenian (Note 2 below).

In 2019, Yerevan State University marked its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an international psychology conference (Note 3 below), which led to plans for a new Psi Chi chapter at YSU. The new YSU members were invited to visit the USA and New York City in the future, to share the work now being done in Armenia (Note 4 below).

- Notes: 1. <https://www.facebook.com/diana.sargsyan.946/videos/1811163045701106>  
2. <http://www.yzu.am/news/hy/The-YSU-branch-of-Psi-Chi-has-been-founded>  
3. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OURUgroSqlSuMvbKXKOMY21j1NV7LiE5/view>  
4. [https://fordham.zoom.us/rec/share/uZ11JaPy8UNOfq\\_d80zNWqM80Ii5aaa81HAa\\_qUOn0c48RRtBY2leFcG5KHEbOEs](https://fordham.zoom.us/rec/share/uZ11JaPy8UNOfq_d80zNWqM80Ii5aaa81HAa_qUOn0c48RRtBY2leFcG5KHEbOEs)





**Psi Chi Chapter at Yerevan State University installation ceremony**

Date **2020, August 20, at 18.00** (by Armenia time), at **10.00** (by NY time)

Vice-rector of YSU, **Elina Asriyan**

Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Psychology, **Aleksandr Bagdasaryan**

Psi Chi Executive Director, **Martha Zlokovich**

Psi Chi President, **Deborah Harris O'Brien,**

Associate Director of Membership, **Lisa L. Norman,**

Initiators of Psi Chi's entry into Armenia, **Psi Chi Ambassador Ani Kalayjian**

**8 YSU students** received certificates of membership in Psi Chi

Advisor Psi Chi Chapter at Yerevan State University, **Hrant Avanesyan**

Co-Advisor Psi Chi Chapter at Yerevan State University, **Diana Sargsyan**

