**ASP Celebrates 40th Anniversary**

**MARDIK YARDUMYAN**

Mardik Yardumyan is the 13th Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State for the Fall 2016 Semester. Dr. Mouradian is teaching a three-unit course entitled “The Armenian Genocide and its Aftermath,” in addition to giving three public lectures under the general heading of “Genocide and Resilience.”

Dr. Mouradian’s course is focused on the organization and production of the book, *Fifty Years of Armenian Literature in France*, which retraces the literary history of the Armenians in France between 1922 and the present day. The book is a groundbreaking study of the Armenian literary scene in the French Diaspora.

**Member of Turkish Parliament Garo Paylan Brings Message of Equality for Minorities in Turkey**

**MICHAEL RETTIG**

For the past century, Turkey has pursued a policy of repression and homogenization towards its various ethnic minorities. The current Republic of Turkey has an egregious track record of human rights violations, with slogans such as “one nation, one flag, one state” drowning out those who would call for a more democratic Turkey. In spite of this, the voice of Garo Paylan has reinvigorated the opposition with his message of equality and liberty for minorities. Paylan, an Armenian MP in the Turkish Parliament and member of the Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP), made recent headlines for reading the names of Armenian MPs executed in the Genocide in the Turkish Parliament. Paylan and fellow HDP members were also targeted and physically attacked during Parliamentary talks over constitutional amendments.

On Tuesday, September 27, Paylan visited Fresno as a part of his nationwide tour to meet with Diasporan communities and leaders. He visited the Astar Armenian Cemetery before visiting the Ararat Armenian Cemetery before meeting with Diasporan leaders. He visited the Ararat Armenian Cemetery before meeting with Diasporan leaders.

**Armenian Series Publishes New Book by Beledian**

**STAFF REPORT**

Armenian Studies Program Director Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian announced that Krikor Beledian’s Fifty Years of Armenian Literature in France has been published by the Armenian Series of The Press, at California State University, Fresno.

Translated from the original French into English by Christopher Atamian, *Fifty Years of Armenian Literature in France* is a groundbreaking study of the Armenian literary scene in the important Armenian Diaspora community of France.

“Since the 1970s, Turkey has pursued a policy of repression and homogenization towards its various ethnic minorities. The current Republic of Turkey has an egregious track record of human rights violations, with slogans such as “one nation, one flag, one state” drowning out those who would call for a more democratic Turkey. In spite of this, the voice of Garo Paylan has reinvigorated the opposition with his message of equality and liberty for minorities. Paylan, an Armenian MP in the Turkish Parliament and member of the Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP), made recent headlines for reading the names of Armenian MPs executed in the Genocide in the Turkish Parliament. Paylan and fellow HDP members were also targeted and physically attacked during Parliamentary talks over constitutional amendments.

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**Ararat Orkusyan**

**STAFF WRIITER**

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 Armenian Studies Program Book/Video/CD Archival Gifts

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Prof. Sergio La Porta, and the Armenian Studies Program would like to thank the donors, authors, and publishers for the following books, periodicals, videos, and archival gifts, other offered personally, or to the Program.

Hagop James Antranigian, for a copy of the book From Hell to Heaven: Memoirs of the Armenian Genocide and the Armenian Volunteer Corps, (2015), 252pp., in English. This is the story of Armaneg Bedigian-Antranigian, who suffered from the effects of the Armenian Genocide for almost two years in the Keghi region of Erzerum.

Dr. Antranik Dakessian, Haigazian University, Beirut, Lebanon, for his book Ջրածնիք Հայոց Ցեղասպանության թեմ (1920-2005) (Beirut, Haigazian University Press, 2015), 173pp., in Armenian. This is the first book in Armenian written in Lebanon from the period of the Armenian Genocide until today.

Greg Devejian, Albuquerque, New Mexico, for a small collection of Armenian themed books.

Hrant Dink Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey, for the following books: the series The Sounds of Silence: Turkey’s Armenian Speak, Volume 1 (2012) (176pp., in English); Volume II, Diyabarik’s Armenian Speak (2013) (231pp., in English); Volume III, Arakian’s Armenian Speak (2015) (169pp., in English); Volume IV, Inij’s Armenian Speak (2016) (143pp., in English) all prepared by Ferda Balancar. Also for the book 2012 Declaration: The Seized Properties of Armenian Foundations in Istanbul (2012) (476pp., in Turkish and English), a comprehensive and important work, which documents the seizure of Armenian properties (foundations) by the Turkish government from 1915 forward. Each foundation property is mapped and its history thoroughly discussed.

Adrine Harutyunyan, Fresno, for a copy of the book Երաժշտությունը Երաժշտի կողմից, translated from Russian into Armenian by the donor (Yerevan, 2015), 631pp., in English. Three Comrades is a novel about the horrors of war, especially World War I, told through the eyes of the main character, Robert Lohkamp. Dedicated to the translator’s family, some of who survived the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

Dr. Gregory Ketskabian, La Canada-Flintridge, California, for a copy of Leaving Kayseri: A Journey of One Hundred Years (2015), 249pp., in English. Leaving Kayseri is the story of Dr. Ketskabian’s father experiences at the onset of the Armenian Genocide, taking the reader through the route of deportation, and their survival in the Syrian desert. They settled in Aleppo, Syria before ultimately immigrating to the United States.

 Boghos Armenak Lakissian, Glendale, CA, for a copy of his book Կարմիր-այս հարսնադար, translated from Russian into Armenian by the donor (Yerevan, 2015), 382 pp., in Armenian.

Dr. Zaven M. Messerlian, Beirut, Lebanon, for five of his books: The Foreign Policy of the United States of America and the Armenian Question (1900-2010) (Beirut, 2015), 157pp., in English; Before and After the Armenian Genocide (Beirut, 2015), 301pp., in English; Three Treaties: Alexandropol, Moscow, and Kars Treaties (1920-1921) (Beirut, 2015), 190pp., in English; The Evolution of the Armenian Question (1919-2010) (Beirut, 2015), 360pp., in English; and Uğurcuğur Աղասիանի Թաուսանդ Տասներկու Թաիդառի (Beirut, 2016), 440pp., in English, dedicated to the life and work of the author’s father Mgrdich Messerlian.

Philadelphia Armenian Genocide Project 100 and Carole Long Karabakhian, Philadelphia, PA, for a copy of From Horror to Hope: Stories of Surviving the Armenian Genocide (Philadelphia Armenian Genocide Project 100, Philadelphia, PA), 102pp., in English, which chronicles the story of 60 survivors of the Armenian Genocide, who settled in the greater Philadelphia area. The stories in the book are told from a variety of perspectives, including excerpts from survivors themselves, and others told by their children and grandchildren.

Dr. Aram Vengoyan, Davis, California, for a large collection of books relating to Armenian history, language, and literature.

Dr. Lilit Yernjakyan, Bakersfield, CA, for a copy of her new book Ալան Հովհաննեսի Երաժշտությունը, translated from Russian into Armenian by the donor (Yerevan: “Grityan” Publishing, 2015), 139pp., in Armenian, with Russian and English summaries. A study on the musical style and influences of the composer Alan Hovhaness.

Armenian Studies Program Faculty:

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Coordinator, Armenian Studies Program and Director of the Center for Armenian Studies, ASO Advisor, Hye Sharzhoom Advisor (barlowd@csufresno.edu)

Sergio La Porta, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies

Hagop Ohannessian, Lecturer, Armenian Studies Program

Khatchig Mouradian, Kazan Visiting Professor

Dickran Kouymjian, Berberian Professor Emeritus of Armenian Studies

California State University, Fresno

Armenian Studies Program

Spring 2017 Schedule of Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>General Education-Breadth, Humanities, Area C2</td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00A-11:50A</td>
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<td>B. Der Mugrdechian</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>10:00A-11:50A</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>B. Der Mugrdechian</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11:00A-12:15P</td>
<td>TuTh</td>
<td>B. Der Mugrdechian</td>
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<tr>
<td>ArmS 20-Arts of Armenia</td>
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<td>B. Der Mugrdechian</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9:00A-09:50A</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>H. Ohanessian</td>
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<tr>
<td>ArmS 10-Intro Arm Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9:00A-09:50A</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>H. Ohanessian</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2:00P-3:15P</td>
<td>TuTh</td>
<td>H. Ohanessian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arm 148-Mastpcs Arm Cult</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2:00P-3:15P</td>
<td>TuTh</td>
<td>H. Ohanessian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arm 148-Mastpcs Arm Cult</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>MW S.</td>
<td>La Porta</td>
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<td>Arm 148-Mastpcs Arm Cult</td>
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<td>3:30P-4:45P</td>
<td>TuTh</td>
<td>H. Ohanessian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.
Get a Minor in Armenian Studies.

Check on requirements for the Minor in Armenian Studies in the current catalog.

http://www.fresnostate.edu/catalog/subjects/armenian-studies/armenia-mn.html
Dr. Shemmassian Reflects on Musa Dagh Roots

FIFTY YEARS, FROM PAGE I
exile, one born after an event that was experienced and interpreted as a “national catastrophe.”

This work is a major addition to the study of Armenian literature with its in-depth analysis of the various figures and periods in Armenian literature in France. Among those figures are Arshag Chobanian, Minas Cherkaz, Shavarsh Misakian, Mgeredich Barsamian, Shavarsh Nartuni, Heath Zutterian, and Vaizhen Shaxshian, to name only a few.

Fifty Years of Armenian Literature in France is a work that provides a context for Armenian literature of the Diaspora, while at the same time focusing on the works of authors living in France.

The work is a valuable addition to the growing number of critical studies of Armenian literature produced in the Diaspora, said Prof. Der Margudian. “It provides a theoretical foundation for understanding the intellectual, emotional, and existential challenges faced by Armenian authors in France.”

Author and literary critic Krikor Beledian has lived in Paris since 1967, and has become intimately aware of the Armenian community in France, he is an accomplished writer in his own right as well as prolific critic.

Beledian has produced a comprehensive and fascinating overview of the Armenian literary landscape in France, one that will be of lasting significance to the study of Armenian literature.

Hye Oozh - Saturdays 9:00 AM - Noon
90.7 FM-KFSR
Hye Oozh is 90.7 KFSR’s weekly program dedicated to contemporary and traditional Armenian music and culture.

Current Hye Oozh DJs:
Tat'evik Ekezian • Vartush Mesropyan • Marine Vardanyan

La Porta Invited as Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Univ. of Tennessee

STAFF REPORT

Dr. Sergio La Porta was invited to be a Lindsay Young Distinguished Visiting Scholar in the Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in Fall of 2016. Dr. La Porta visited the University from September 11-17.

While there, he gave a class for undergraduates in the Religious Studies program, led a guided reading for graduate students in the Department of History; and presented a public lecture.

In the undergraduate class, Dr. La Porta introduced students to the narrative of Agathangelos and his presentation on the conversion of the Arsacids in Armenia.

In his guided reading, he shared an essay that he just completed on the relationship between history and prophecy in two Armenian historiographical sources, the History of Arstaks and Arvelart’s and the Chronicle of Matthew of Edessa.

Dr. La Porta’s public lecture was devoted to religious conflict and competition in 12th-13th century Anatolia and looked at several Armenian sources that shed light on interactions between Christian and Muslim religious communities in eastern Anatolia. Dr. La Porta was incredibly honored to have received the fellowship nearly 18 months ago and thoroughly enjoyed his stay in Knoxville.

He was particularly excited that he had an opportunity to meet every day with graduate students in the History Department, whom he found engaging and working on interesting topics.

Dr. La Porta also worked with Professor Tom Burman, the current director of the Marco Institute, and Dr. Alison Vayna, a specialist in the history of the Middle East at UT Knoxville, on a research proposal for a collaborative project.

Dr. La Porta was very impressed with the collegial and interdisciplinary atmosphere of the Marco Institute and the variety of research its faculty was engaged in.

Dr. La Porta added that he also enjoyed some very good meals and a beautiful hike through the Smokey Mountains.

Ghazarian Family Donates Book Collection to the Armenian Studies Program

STAFF REPORT

Dr. Vaatch Ghazarian of Pacific Grove, California, has donated 300 books to the Armenian Studies Program in memory of his father Mgrdich Ghazarian, who was the only male member of his family to survive the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

The collection is composed of books from both the late Mgrdich Ghazarian’s library and also from Dr. Ghazarian’s collection, accumulated over the past forty years.

Mgrdich Ghazarian was born in the New Village neighborhood of Pali, circa 1906. In 1926 he moved to Aleppo, Syria, accompanied by his mother, to stay with his aunt Pailoon, with the purpose of moving to America. In 1928, Ghazarian became one of the founders of the Palo Compatric Union, and was one of the enthusiastic leaders of the group.

He joined the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party in 1932, and became an active member and often his tailor shop would be a meeting place for the party. In 1933 he joined the Armenian Relief Committee. In 1949 he joined the AGBU and later became a founding member of the Tekeyan Cultural Association of Aleppo.

In 1952 he married Ashkeni Ustaiian, who was a teacher in Aleppo’s Cilicia school. They later moved to Antelias and remained there until his death on July 1, 1986.

Mr. Ghazarian did not have the opportunity to continue his schooling but his Armenian roots were strong and he constantly read and taught himself Armenian, during his language by reading Armenian newspapers.

He was a modest man, a fighter against injustice, and did not forgive anyone who tried to exploit national interests.

Photo: AIP Archive

Dr. La Porta at the University of Tennessee.
Armenian Students Organization Begins New Year with Plans to Expand Student Involvement

Diana Gasparyan
Staff Writer

The Armenian Students Organization welcomed a new executive body at the start of the school year; Tadeh Issakhanian-President, Elena Sarmazian-Vice President, Diana Gasparyan-Secretary, Molly Gostanian-Treasurer, and Arthur Khatchatrian-Public Relations. They will bring new and creative ideas, activities, and volunteer opportunities for the members.

Since its inception in 1974, the club has been dedicated to promoting awareness of the Armenian culture on campus.

"ASO is important because the future leaders of our Armenian community will come from this organization. The members learn how to become leaders and how to organize events," said President Issakhanian.

The semester began with members volunteering for the Grandparents’ Day Banquet at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church on Sunday, September 11. Volunteers sold raffle tickets and helped children fill out family trees for their grandparents. "I enjoyed working with the children as they explored their family histories," said Michael Rettig. "It is important that the youth understand who they are and where they come from."

The first social of the year took place on September 16 at Holy Trinity Armenian Church’s game room, the "Hyed-Out." A large turnout of members played foodball, air hockey, pool, and board games with their friends. I enjoyed the activities and the socializing. They are important because they allow us to share our culture and heritage together while having a good time," said senior Rafi Ajakian.

On September 21, ASO had a booth in the Free Speech area decorated with posters that gave information and facts on Armenia’s 25th Anniversary of Independence. Members applied temporary tattoos of the Armenian flag, which many students were excited to display. It was an effective way of getting people involved and raising awareness of Armenia’s independence. ASO will be holding many more exciting events this semester.

ASO Spotlight-Incoming Freshmen Officers

Tadeh Issakhanian
Staff Writer

It has long been said by many wise men, in many different iterations, that the youth is our future.

This is especially true when talking about a youth organization like the Armenian Students Organization (ASO), which constantly relies on incoming students to participate and take leadership roles.

The organization’s future is looking brighter than ever with the election of two freshmen, Molly Gostanian and Arthur Khatchcharian, into the ASO executive team.

Both Gostanian and Khatchcharian take on positions normally held by upperclassmen and graduate students. Gostanian, a freshman from Golden West High School in Huntington Beach and Khatchcharian, a sophomore from Fresno State, both hope to bring fresh ideas and energy to the club.

"I am Gyumretsi" said Arthur Khatchcharian, the executive board of the ACYO Seniors at St. Paul Armenian Church. Khatchcharian is proud to state "I am Gyumretsi and will usually speak in that dialect." Armenian was his first language and Armenian food his first love. His favorite foods in the world are “Putsots Dolma” and “Gata.” Khatchcharian’s goals include promoting the positive side of technology, while being an active Armenian community member and volunteer.

Both students have bright futures ahead and have shown the willingness and commitment to being leaders. The next four years will afford them the opportunity to grow as students, as individuals, as well as Armenian youth leaders.

ASO Executives Take Office

Left to right: Arthur Khatchcharian, Tadeh Issakhanian, Diana Gasparyan, Molly Gostanian, and Elena Sarmazian.

Diana Gasparyan
Secretary

What made you choose to be a part of ASO?
In high school, I wasn’t able to socialize with other Armenian students my age because there were so few Armenians. I chose to be a part of the ASO because it provides fun opportunities to socialize, volunteer and work with fellow Armenians. I also really enjoy being able to give back to the Armenian community.

Molly Gostanian
Treasurer

What makes ASO unique?
Fresno’s Armenian youth is different because we are a small community with big hearts to initiate change for our culture and we are very proud and dedicated to our efforts to do that.

Elena Sarmazian
Vice-President

What makes ASO unique?
We are unique in that most if not all of our members are pursuing an Armenian Studies minor or are enrolled in one or more Armenian Studies classes. ASO has been around since the 1970’s, which also sets us apart.

Alina Avakian
Major: Psychology

Major: Computer Science

What will you bring to ASO this year?
This year I plan on bringing a lot of fun socials to ASO in order to get our members more involved with the community and build friendships with each other.

What makes ASO unique?
Fresco’s Armenian youth is different because we are a small community with big hearts to initiate change for our culture and we are very proud and dedicated to our efforts to do that.

Major: Business Administration

What will you bring to ASO this year?
I hope to increase the number of students who become involved. I want to combine several different ideas in order to increase involvement at Fresno State as well as open a channel of communication and involvement between our ASO and other college Armenian groups across the state.

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Tadeh Issakhanian
President

Major: Executive Masters of Business Administration

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Major: Technology (CART) in Fresno, California

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Major: Communicative Disorders-Language Pathology

What made you choose to be a part of ASO?
I joined to decide ASO because I am a freshman and wanted to get involved. I saw the ASO booth on Club Day and I was excited to meet more Armenians and to make a difference in any way possible.

Major: Business Administration

What makes ASO unique?
We are unique in that most if not all of our members are pursuing an Armenian Studies minor or are enrolled in one or more Armenian Studies classes. ASO has been around since the 1970’s, which also sets us apart.

Major: Computer Science

What made you choose to be a part of ASO?
I joined to decide ASO because I am a freshman and I think it’s important for Armenians to unite and come together.

When Armenians come together they form their own Armenia, and every Armenian in our community should be part of our Fresno-Armenia. It’s especially important for our generation to protect and preserve our culture and language.
Dr. Mouradian Presents New Research on Armenian Genocide

Dr. Khatchig Mouradian, Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State, delivered his lecture titled “Genocide and Humanitarian Resistance in Ottoman Syria, 1915-1917,” as the first of his three-part public lectures series on “Genocide and Resilience.” The lecture, which took place on Tuesday, September 20, offered new insight into the Armenian Genocide and attracted many who were curious to learn more about the resistance pursued by the Armenians during World War I.

Early in his study of the Armenian Genocide, Dr. Mouradian realized the important roles of concentration camps in the perpetration of the Genocide. The Syrian desert region of Der Zor, for example was considered to be the “Auschwitz for Armenians.” Dr. Mouradian was especially intrigued by the fact that this was the largest massacre site during the Genocide and had been few scholarly studies of the region. Because of this, he began to focus more on Syria, narrowing his research to the period from when deportees arrived in Syria to the concluding massacres in Der Zor in 1916.

Researching this topic posed a few challenges and Dr. Mouradian explained how the usual sources, such as missionary accounts, consular accounts, and diplomatic material were typically nonexistent in the middle of a desert.

This was especially true in the case of Der Zor, since the Ottoman Turkish government had banned any reporting from the area. In addition, many documents in the Ottoman archives have not been easily accessible. “I used material from both Armenian and Ottoman archives, missionary accounts, and the Lebanese-Armenian daily newspaper Azazg from 2000 to 2007. He moved from Lebanon to Fresno in 2007 and took on the role of editor for the Armenian Weekly, until 2014.

In the same year, Dr. Mouradian received a Gulbenkian Foundation Armenian Studies diplomatic grants to reconstruct that history,” said Dr. Mouradian. “One previously unattacked primary source that Dr. Mouradian utilized in his research was the archives of the Armenian Vehsor Center in Istanbul. He discussed how the Church organized relief committees to help the arriving Armenians, who were in terrible condition. The minutes from those committee meetings contain valuable information pertaining to the help given to the deportees, such as purchases made, dates, and lists of the deportees they assisted. Furthermore, Professor Der Mugrdechian each other in a variety of fields. Furthermore, Professor Der Mugrdechian is collaborating with the Matenadaran on a conservation project aimed at restoring the Armenian Gospel of Tughrut, executed in 974 AD and located in Tughrut, Georgia. The Gospel was brought to Tughrut from Erzurum in 1829 by refugees who fled the Russian Turkish War.

While in Armenia, Professor Der Mugrdechian also attended the graduation ceremony of Mer Hooys. Mer Hooys is a women’s organization, which was established in 1945, by Armenian deportees in Istanbul. Mer Hooys end of the year celebration in Yerevan.

Mer Hooys end of the year celebration in Yerevan.

Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, director of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, is not only active in the Armenian community of Fresno, but also abroad. This past summer, Professor Der Mugrdechian was invited to Beirut by the Tekyan Cultural Association to give a talk to the Armenian community of Lebanon. In addition to visiting Lebanon, Professor Der Mugrdechian also traveled to Armenia and Turkey, where he is working on several collaborative projects.

In Armenia, Professor Der Mugrdechian visited the Mesrop Mashtots Matenadaran, a research center and repository of ancient manuscripts located in Yerevan. “We are exploring different ways of assisting each other, including the exchange of scholarly works, publications, and other material,” said Der Mugrdechian. The Matenadaran, the main research center of the Armenian Studies Program recently formally agreed to cooperate with the Armenian Academy of Sciences.

MOURADIAN, FROM PAGE 1
implementation of the Armenian Genocide, the humanitarian and international community, and the long shadow of the crime in Turkey and among Armenians.

The course also focuses on comparative aspects of genocide that are not exclusive to the Armenians, including resistance to genocide and the agency of victims of genocide.

Dr. Mouradian wants students to develop a better understanding of “why people dynamics play out in everyday life.

When asked what makes this course unique, Dr. Mouradian said that this is the first class he has taught where the majority of students are of Armenian heritage. “I want the students to understand their own connection with the past and the challenges the Armenian communities face to this day,” said Dr. Mouradian. “It is important for them to see their role and their place in this continuum and how they choose to define it in light of everything they learn and learn through the course.”

Dr. Mouradian is working towards several goals, one of which is turning his dissertation into a book. Another of his goals is documenting what remains of Armenian churches, monasteries, and cultural heritage.

He has visited historic Armenia twenty-four times since 2010, and has interviewed Turks and Kurds who have rediscovered their Armenian roots. He would eventually like to write a book about this topic.

Prior to his arrival in Fresno, Dr. Mouradian was the Program Coordinator of the Armenian Genocide Program at the Center for the Study of Genocide, Conflict Resolution and Human Rights at Rutgers University, where he also taught courses in the History and Sociology departments. In 2016 he completed his dissertation, entitled “Genocide and Humanitarian Resistance in Ottoman Syria, 1915-1917.”

Dr. Mouradian was the first Ph.D. recipient under Tamar Arikian, who is widely considered one of the leading international scholars on the Armenian Genocide.

Dr. Mouradian has been studying, writing, and lecturing on Armenian history since 2000. He was a junior editor of called the “Nakashian Children’s Support Center” to house the Mer Hooys program. After three years of hard work, Mer Hooys opened its doors to disadvantaged girls in 2003. This year, Mer Hooys celebrated the graduation of its first group of six girls from the program.

In July, Professor Der Mugrdechian visited the Ottoman Turkish Archives with former Kazan Visiting Scholar Dr. Umit Kurt. In addition, Professor Der Mugrdechian visited the headquarters of the Harat Dink Foundation and the Agos newspaper. There, Der Mugrdechian gained insight on the status of the Armenian community of Turkey.

Agos published an extensive interview with Der Mugrdechian about his work at the Armenian Studies Program and about the Armenian community of Fresno. Der Mugrdechian met with Delal Dink, director of the Dink Foundation, and daughter of the late Harat Dink and discussed a variety of projects of the Foundation. The Foundation has been active in promoting conferences addressing issues facing the Armenian community and they are documenting the voices of Armenians in Turkey through a series of publications.

The Harat Dink Foundation is currently working on establishing the first Armenian Studies Center in Turkey. “We are working together discussing how they can structure an Armenian Studies Center in Turkey. This will be the first time that there is a higher education institution that is more known for what the students are of Armenian heritage. The Syrian desert region of Der Zor, for example was considered to be the “Auschwitz for Armenians.”

Dr. Mouradian was especially intrigued by the fact that this was the largest massacre site during the Genocide and had been few scholarly studies of the region. Because of this, he began to focus more on Syria, narrowing his research to the period from when deportees arrived in Syria to the concluding massacres in Der Zor in 1916.

Researching this topic posed a few challenges and Dr. Mouradian explained how the usual sources, such as missionary accounts, consular accounts, and diplomatic material were typically nonexistent in the middle of a desert.

This was especially true in the case of Der Zor, since the Ottoman Turkish government had banned any reporting from the area. In addition, many documents in the Ottoman archives have not been easily accessible. “I used material from both Armenian and Ottoman archives, missionary accounts, and diplomatic material, and trying to escape were all forms of resistance, and how the Armenian people did not go down without a fight.

“People always say the last thing that leaves a person is hope. I would say that the last thing to leave a person is the will to resist.”

Dr. Mouradian also stated that most people continue resisting even when they have lost all hope, which is a universal trend in history.

Dr. Mouradian’s research highlights this “will to resist,” which changes the way historians have traditionally viewed the Armenian Genocide by giving the victims more agency. “I hope to help us think about the victims of the Armenian Genocide, not as the history of people being only oppressed, killed, and massacred, but as people who tried to resist.”

Research Fellowship to study the Armenian community in China, which began to develop in the late 19th century. Dr. Mouradian has lectured and participated in conferences all over the world, including Armenia, Lebanon, China, Syria, and Turkey.
Armenian Studies Library Houses Photograph Archive

CLAIRE KASLAN
STAFF WRITER

Over the years the Armenian Studies Program has received a generous amount of donations, such as manuscripts, books, newspaper clippings, and videos. These materials include Genocide survivor memoirs, newsletters from the Diaspora, and theological and literary works.

Malina Zakian, the Armenian Studies Program librarian and archivist, has been cataloging the numerous donations. Zakian and a graduate student are working on digitizing the historic photographs that the Program has received from the Armenian community.

These photographs will help preserve the rich history of the Armenian culture in Fresno and will educate the current generation on the history of the Fresno Armenian community.

Zakian has begun to evaluate the materials, assessing how they serve the research interests of the Program and how they reflect the history of the Fresno Armenian community.

The materials are then included on the online catalog of the Armenian Studies Program, found on the ASP website at fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies.

Prior to working in Fresno, Zakian did similar work for the Gulbenkian Library of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

She noted that in both of the communities she has worked in, the vast collections that each institution accumulated was in large part donated generously by the community. According to Zakian, “the collections tell a different kind of history than you might find written in books. They speak to the predilections, tastes, and interests of their communities, accumulated over time.”

These materials tell the story of a culture that Zakian is helping protect and conserve.

Dry-goods store, Interior, Shapazian Collection, ASP Archives.

The Armenian Genocide Museum at The Birds’ Nest Orphanage in Lebanon, opened in 2015. The Museum was established in the home of missionary Maria Jacobsen.

The Armenian Genocide Museum houses photographs and other materials telling the story of one of the Catholicosate’s monasteries in the Middle East, reaching a peak population of approximately 225,000–250,000 Armenians in 1975, on the eve of the Lebanese Civil War.

“All of the traditional institutions, which today we see in the community here in Fresno, already established their headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon by 1975,” stated Prof. Der Mugrdechian. In Lebanon, much like in Fresno, churches have been central in the effort to maintain a strong Armenian community. “The role of the church in the Armenian community, wherever it is in the world, is the same. It is a promoter of Armenian identity, a place for community interaction, and a center of social life,” said Der Mugrdechian. The importance of churches is perhaps more visible in Lebanon than in any other diasporan community as Lebanon is home to 14 Apostolic Armenian churches, 10 Armenian Catholic churches, and 8 Armenian Evangelical churches.

Professor Der Mugrdechian visited the Armenian Catholic Monastery in Bzommar, which has become the headquarters of the Armenian Catholic Church worldwide and also houses one of the largest collections of Armenian manuscripts in the world. There, Der Mugrdechian had the opportunity to meet with Very Rev. Father Antranig Grunian, editor of the Haigazian Armenological Review and one of the important scholars in the field of Armenian Studies, and with Monsignor Gabriel Muradian, head of the monastery.

Additionally, Der Mugrdechian traveled to Antelias, headquarters of the Armenian Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia, and

Raffi Apkarian
Senior, Chemistry

Ppopo, which is the traditional preparation of grape molasses to celebrate the harvest. It is a great event that brings Armenians together in all aspects. The celebration is a way to share our culture by singing traditional songs and reciting poems. I love how everyone lets loose, eats, drinks, and is purely happy to be together.

Alien A Arakelian • STAFF WRITER

As an Armenian, what annual events do you look forward to and why?

As an Armenian I look forward to the anniversary of the Genocide because it is a time when Armenians come together and we are able to celebrate our triumphs and mourn our losses. We all come together to remember our history and what our people and families have gone through to get where we are today. The remembrance of the Genocide has made the Armenian culture more widely known in today’s society.

Arien Pilavian
Junior, Plant Health Crop Production Management emphasis

As an Armenian I look forward to the Armenian Genocide memorial events that we organize. They really are a way of showing the world, where Armenians have come from, and how strong we still are in today’s society.

Claire Kaslan
Freshman, Business-marketing

The Armenian Genocide Museum at The Birds’ Nest Orphanage in Lebanon.

Bikfaya, the summer residence of the Catholicos. In Bikfaya, Prof. Der Mugrdechian was privileged to be granted an audience with the Catholicos, His Holiness Aram I, with whom he discussed the current state of the Armenian community in Fresno and learned of the challenges facing the Armenian community in Lebanon. His Holiness presented Der Mugrdechian with the gift of one of the Catholicosate’s recent significant publications, The Catholicosate of Cilicia—Historical Monuments, Treasures (Antelias, 2015).

Equally important to maintaining an Armenian identity in diasporan communities is the education system. “One of the most important aspects of rebuilding communities was building schools,” said Prof. Der Mugrdechian. “After the Genocide, Armenians placed a priority on education. They built schools and Lebanon is the best example of that because so many schools were built there,” continued Der Mugrdechian. At its peak, Lebanon had 56 Armenian schools with approximately 21,000 students. “Beirut became the intellectual hub of the diaspora, with the publication of books and newspapers in the Armenian language,” said Der Mugrdechian.

Today, there are many challenges facing the higher and lower education systems in Lebanon. Prof. Der Mugrdechian visited Haigazian University, where he met with President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian and discussed some of these challenges. Two of the big challenges facing education today are that there are too many spaces and not enough students, and that tuition is expensive relative to the income of the people in Lebanon.

“As against all odds, however, Armenian education is still being pursued in Lebanon. Considering the turmoil, the civil war, all the economic disturbances, and political instability that we think otherwise. However, maintenance of Armenian schools is a really important priority for Armenians in Lebanon,” said Prof. Der Mugrdechian.

Professor Der Mugrdechian’s talk highlighted the continued viability of the Armenian community in Lebanon, despite the adversities faced. Much like in Fresno, the Armenians of Lebanon strive to maintain their identity and communal life.
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Der Mugrdechian Interviewed on “The Central Valley Ledger”

Left to right: Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian and host Sevag Tatesian. Photo: ASP Archive

Staff Report
Fresh off of his trip to Armenia, Lebanon, and Turkey, Armenian Studies Program Director Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian was invited to appear on July 7 on “The Central Valley Ledger,” an evening live broadcast Clovis area public affairs program airing on KFPR 90.7 FM, CMAC-Concast 93, and AT&T 49. The program is recorded with a volunteer crew from Fresno State’s Mass Communication and Journalism Department and the local Community Media Access Collaborative in Fresno and Clovis.

The host and producer of the long-standing program, Sevag Tatesian, is no stranger to the Armenian Studies Program. Tatesian is a Fresno State graduate and received his minor in Armenian Studies in 2004. Professor Der Mugrdechian discussed the reason for his trip and spoke about his experiences in the Middle East. He also talked about the Pope’s visit to Armenia.

“Many people heard that the Pope visited Armenia, but the professor was able to elaborate on the significance and reason for the visit,” said Tatesian. “Our Catholic students and faculty get to always explore Prof. Der Mugrdechian’s insight on topics.”

It wasn’t the first time Professor Der Mugrdechian has appeared on the program. He has appeared three times previously and covered various topics including: the Armenian Genocide, Christianity and the Armenians, as well as the Armenian-American community of Fresno.

“Enjoy having the opportunity to present a look at the Armenian communities of the Diaspora, especially those of Lebanon and Turkey. My trip to Beirut was an opportunity to learn about this important Armenian center and about what is happening in the community,” said Der Mugrdechian.

Past guests on the program also have included Dr. Dickran Kouyoumdjian and Dr. Sergio La Porta of the Armenian Studies Program. Past guests have included the following:

- The Armenian Studies Program has successfully published 6 titles including the latest work, Fifty Years of Armenian Literature in France, and earlier works such as Armenian Poetry of Our Time, David of Sassoun: Critical Studies on the Armenian Epic, and Vahan Tekeyan: Selected Poems.
- With passionate and accomplished scholars spearheading the department and immense support from the Fresno community, it is no wonder that the Program includes so many unique components and features. “Our Program is one of the most prestigious and active Programs in the world, and this success is based on two fundamental factors: we have renowned professors who have dedicated their lives to the success and vibrancy of the Program, and we have an amazing community that values the memory of history and the vision this provides to the individual,” said Dr. Saul Jiménez-Sandoval.
- It is clear that since its inception, the Armenian Studies Program has continued to expand its roles and responsibilities to share knowledge about Armenian history, culture, and language through various modes. The Program makes a significant contribution to academia, to the Armenian community, and to the lives of every student who pursues Armenian studies.
- With all the progress that has been made within these 40 years, it will be interesting to see what new projects and initiatives the Program will pursue next. “Today, together with my colleagues Dr. La Porta, and Prof. Ohannesian, I feel that we are continuing to make great strides,” said Prof. Der Mugrdechian. As for the first director, Dr. Kouyoumdjian takes pride in observing the successes of ASP from Paris. “It is encouraging to just sit back and observe how the program gets better and better,” said Dr. Kouyoumdjian.
- The Armenian Studies Program will celebrate its 40th Anniversary at their Annual Banquet on Sunday, March 19, 2017. You can visit their website at http://fresnostate.edu/artshum/armenianstudies/ and connect through Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ArmenianStudiesFresnoState/ and Twitter at @artshumstudies.
On April 24, Paylan referenced the Armenians in Parliament who had been killed in 1915. His fellow MPs, who considered him to be the first Armenian in Parliament, were astonished that there had been Armenians in such positions a century earlier. Paylan touched on this for the Armenian Studies Program November Events and sent to:  
California State University, Fresno  
5245 N. Backer Ave PB4  
Fresno CA 93740-8001  

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Armenian Studies Program  
November Events  

The Fresno premiere screening of “If Only Everyone”  

Friday, November 4, 2016  
5:30PM  
in conjunction with CineCulture  
Peters Educational Center Auditorium  
(West end of the Save Mart Center)  
Free admission. Free parking.

“Armenian Educational Life in Lebanon: Haigazian University”  
Dr. Paul Haidostian  
President, Haigazian University  

Monday, November 14, 2016 • 7:30PM  
University Business Center, Room 191  
Free admission. Free parking with parking code.

“The Tale of Two Midwives: The Notebooks of Siphora and Nutritza Shnorhokian of Aintab, 1890-1930”  
Dr. Khatchig Mouradian  
Kazan Visiting Professor  

Wednesday, November 30, 2016 • 7:30PM  
University Business Center, Room 191  
Free admission. Free parking with parking code.

couragously fighting for the rights of Armenians, Kurds, and every other oppressed people in Turkey. His visit gave a face to this struggle and rallied Armenians around the world in support of his dream for a free and democratic Turkey.

PAYLAN, FROM PAGE 1  
arriving at Fresno State as a guest of the Armenian Studies Program to share his unique perspective on current events in Turkey. The program was organized as a dialogue between Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Prof. Sergio La Porta, Paylan, and the audience.

Paylan began his presentation by describing his childhood as an Armenian growing up in Turkey and the road that led him to become an advocate for democratic principles. Paylan remembered that his first awareness of the Genocide came when he asked his grandmother if she ever had siblings. He would ask her several times, but she would always grow silent. Finally, an uncle hinted to Paylan that “something bad had happened.” Paylan realized that “something bad” still affected the present when he was called giaour, or infidel, in the streets. “I realized there was something bad about my identity, and I grew angry about what happened to my ancestors.” Streets with names such as “Talat” and “Enver Pasha” were constant reminders about what happened to his people, and further fueled his frustration.

Paylan described the fear that Armenians in Turkey felt when it came to discussing their past. “We had to be silent. Whenever we raised our voices about this, people, and further fueled his frustration.”

“Dink had the courage to tell the people that something bad had happened in this land, without needing to call it genocide, and because of that crime, all of us are suffering. Then they took him from us as well.”

Dink’s assassination in 2007 deepened Paylan’s frustration, and he became more entrenched in his Armenian identity. It was in this pain that he noticed Turks and Kurds were also angered by Dink’s death and desired justice. “When I noticed that I was suffering because of Dink, I realized that a lot of people were suffering alongside me. I wanted to take care of all of the minorities who suffered. So I went into politics and we started a party that believes in equality.”

Paylan helped to form the People’s Democratic Party with liberals of all backgrounds. It was this solidarity among Kurds, Turks, and Armenians who believed in democratic ideals that tempered his anger and lead him to activism. Paylan’s party actively advocates for the rights of minorities, and is the only party in Turkey that has formally acknowledged the Armenian Genocide.

Paylan stressed that the only way for Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide is if the nation becomes a true democracy. It is through Parliament that Paylan hopes to bring about change. He drew parallels between his goals and those of Armenians in Parliament before the Genocide; “they only asked for their rights; for local democracy.”

Paylan touched on these more recent crimes in discussing Erdogan’s oppressive campaign against the Kurds. According to Paylan, Erdogan is taking advantage of the attempted coup to persecute those who oppose him. Paylan stated that Erdogan replaced a number of democratically elected mayors in the eastern provinces with governors.

According to Paylan, Erdogan’s harsh treatment of the Kurds only exacerbates the problem and results in more Kurds taking up arms for their rights. “It is a vicious cycle of Turkey persecuting Kurds and Kurds going to the mountains to fight. Parliament is the place to solve the problems. I have buried too many people.”

In response to a question about what the Diaspora could do to support his efforts, Paylan reminded the audience that he is also part of the Diaspora. “I am from Malatia. You are my relatives, so we are living in the diaspora as well. Our responsibility is the same; we have to do this together.”

Paylan’s visit to the U.S. has been instrumental in bridging the divide between Armenians in Turkey and the Diaspora. He noted that Diasporan Armenians are often ashamed of those who remained in Turkey for not being vocal enough about their heritage. “Sometimes we had to be silent. It’s so hard to be an Armenian in that fascist land where we suffer.”

Paylan and the HDP are courageously fighting for the rights of Armenians, Kurds, and every other oppressed people in Turkey. His visit gave a face to this struggle and rallied Armenians around the world in support of his dream for a free and democratic Turkey.