

HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

24th Year

May 2003

Vol. 24, No. 4 (82)

Supplement to The Collegian

ASO Marks Armenian Genocide Day With Commemorative Events

ZHANNA BAGDASAROV
AND MARINE EKEZYAN
STAFF WRITERS

To mark Armenian Genocide Week, the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) began its commemoration of the 88th anniversary of the 1915 massacres with several activities on campus. The Armenian Genocide refers to the 1.5 million Armenians who were slaughtered by the Ottoman Turkish government from 1915 until 1923. This event continues to be remembered by Armenians throughout the world on April 24 of every year.

Beginning on Wednesday morning, April 23, the ASO displayed informative posters and distributed fliers to curious students. On the evening of the same day, the remembrance activities continued with a screening of two films, *Dark Forest* by Roger Kupelian and *The Handjian Story* directed by Denise



Armenian Genocide Commemoration at the Free Speech Area. L to R: ASO President Sevag Tateosian, Fresno City Councilman Tom Boyajian, and Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program.

Gentilini. Each film lasted for forty-five minutes and sparked emotional responses from the audience.

This was followed by a silent candlelight vigil. Community members along with Fresno State students walked with lit candles from McLane Hall toward the Free Speech area, where the Fr. Vahan Gosdanian, pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, conducted a requiem service (*hokehankisd*) in both Armenian and English. The prayers were in memory of the fallen souls of the 1915 massacres. Sevag Tateosian, president of the Armenian Students Organization, commented that "It was a successful night and we will continue the vigil as an ongoing tradition."

The next day, April 24, the Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, brought out community members and students to

SEE GENOCIDE PAGE 5

4th Annual Armenian Film Festival A Hit



Paul Chaderjian

MITCHELL PETERS
STAFF WRITER

On the rainy evening of Friday, March 14, the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization at California State University, Fresno, held the Fourth Annual Armenian Film Festival. With the showing of eight short films, the festival proved to be entertaining and educational.

The event featured the short films of rising Armenian writers,

producers and directors. The Festival was held in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the University Business Center, on the campus of Fresno State. The festival attracted a standing-room-only audience from the Fresno community including students, couples and families.

The films screened, which ranged from 8 to 30 minutes in length, included: *Post-Soviet Media in Armenia* (2002) (U.S.), *For Which it Stands* (2002) (U.S.), *Jagadakeer . . . Between the Near & East* (2001) (U.S.), *Armenia: The Country, the Culture* (2001) (U.S.) by Vatche Arabian, *The Lighthouse* (2001) (U.S.), *The Song of Stones* (2002) (Armenia), *Piano* (2001) (Armenia) and *Je M'Appelle* (2001) (France) by Stephané Elmadjian. *The Handjian Story* (2002) (U.S.) by Denise Gentilini, *Dark Forest in the Mountains* (1999) (U.S.) by Roger Kupelian, and *Cold Supper* (2002) (Armenia) by Sirakan Aboyan were screened the next morning in Prof. Kouymjian's film class.

With a diverse selection of topics, these films explored many different aspects of Armenian culture: charming fictitious stories, artistic works, and subjects that touched the heart.

"We picked the most interesting films and tried to make the program as full of variety as possible," said Tatevik Ekezyan, Vice-President of the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State, who helped organize the festival, "We wanted to touch on a lot of different subjects," she continued.

Of the eight films, two in particular seemed to be audience favorites. *Piano*, directed by Nika Shek, reveals the warmhearted story of a man whose neighbor children call *Piano*. The story setting takes place in Yerevan, Armenia.

"It was so natural, a real story," said audience member Vatche Soghomonian. "Everything was superb within the film."

The second film which received much praise was *The Lighthouse*, directed by Carissa D. Vanitizian. This 18 minute film was produced as a work of journalism to explore and uncover corruption within Armenia's health care industry. The film featured Dr. Hrayr Hovaguimian, a kindhearted, humorous man, who was successful in using honest business practices to beat the system.

The directors of the screened

SEE FILM FESTIVAL PAGE 7

Dr. James Waller Discusses Reasons Why People Commit Genocide



L to R: Dr. Al Howsepian, Director of the Center for the Study of Consciousness, Dr. James Waller and Barlow Der Mugrdchian.

HAKOP TATARYAN
STAFF WRITER

April is the month for commemorating the Armenian Genocide and it was only fitting that Dr. James Waller gave a lecture on the psychology of mass murder and genocide, during this month. At 7:30 pm on April 10, the Department of Psychology joined with the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization in presenting Dr. Waller. The Center for the Study of Consciousness, Spirituality, and Culture of the University of California, San Francisco-Fresno Medical Education Program, the Eli Lilly Com-

pany, and Whitworth College also co-sponsored the event.

More than 175 people showed up to hear Dr. Waller discuss his recently published book *Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Can Commit Genocide and Mass Killing*. Dr. Waller is Edward B. Lindaman Chair and Professor of Psychology at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington.

Waller is a widely recognized scholar in the field of Holocaust and genocide studies and has held international fellowships in Europe and the United States. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky and his academic spe-

SEE WALLER PAGE 6

ASP Administrative Assistant France Ziegler Recognized for 5 Years of Service to University

STAFF REPORT

Frances Ziegler, Armenian Studies Program Program Administrative Assistant, was honored at the 37th Annual Staff Awards Luncheon on Thursday, April 3. She was recognized for her five years of service to the university and received a certificate.

Mrs. Ziegler has been with the Armenian Studies Program since 1997, and has proven to be an invaluable addition to the Program. She provides administrative support for the faculty and directs the office staff.



Frances Ziegler

Photo: Randy Vaughn-Dotta

Mailing updates

**Do you receive duplicate mailings
of Hye Sharzhoom?**

Have you moved or are planning to move?

**Contact the Armenian Studies Program office
at 559-278-2669
to make any address corrections or updates.**

Armenian Studies Program Book/Video/CD/ Donations

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and the Armenia Studies Program would like to thank the donors, authors and publishers for the following books, periodicals, videos, and archival gifts either offered personally or to the program

Vahé Baladouni & Margaret Makepeace, editors, *Armenian Merchants of the Seventeenth and Early Eighteenth Centuries. English East India Company Sources*, Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, vol. 88, pt. 5, Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1998xxxv, 294 pages. The reference work contains 265 documents with a very useful glossary and index. Donated by Prof. Vahé Baladouni.

Ghazar Jahgetzi, *Theology the Desirable Paradise* (in Armenian), reprint of the 1735 edition, Jerusalem: St. James, 2002, 704 pages, donated by His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

Mr. Karnic Kouyoumdjian, Lawrenceville, NJ, for the copy of the book *My Patriarchal Memoirs* by Zaven Der Yeghiayan.

Mr. Carl Mahakian, Rancho Mirage, CA, for all of the books & archival materials pertaining to William Saroyan.

Mr. Marcgk Marrtinn Maarritschalloeovsz, Fresno, CA, for the copy of his booklet *The Entrance to Heaven and the Exit of the Hell and May God Protect and Keep an Eye on Us* by Antranik Guerbidjian

Tigran H. T. Sawalaniantz, *History of Jerusalem* (in Armenian), 2 vols. in one, translated from grabar by Bishop Mesrob Nshanian, Jerusalem: St. James, 2000, 1387 pages, a reprint of the 1931 edition. Donated by His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

Mrs. Roxie Shanenian, Fresno, CA, for the painting of "The Armenian Coat of Arms."

Hmayeak Shems, *Erker* (Works), Erevan: The Museum of Literature and Art, 2002, 509 pages. Donated by Prof. Vahé Baladouni.

Hmayeak Shems, *For the House of Torkom*, translated by Vahé Baladouni & John Grey, Armenian Writers, vol. 1, Merrick, NY: Cross-Cultural Communications, 1999, 47 pages, beautifully printed with an engraving. Available at cccmia@juno.com. Donated by Prof. Vahé Baladouni.

Hmayeak Shems, *Patmut'ivn hay grakanut'ean* (History of Armenian Literature), Erevan: The Museum of Literature and Art, 2002, 319 pages. Donated by Prof. Vahé Baladouni.

Hmayeak Shems, *Erker. Hmayeak Shems khosk'erov* (Songs with Words by Hmayeak Shems), collected by Vahé Baladouni, Erevan: The Museum of Literature and Art, 2001, 118 pages, the scores and words of a large number of art songs. Donated by Prof. Vahé Baladouni.

Mr. Martin Tourigian, Drexel Hill, PA, of the paintings, sheet music, and archival material.

Arman Vartanyan, Istanbul, Turkey, for the copy of his book *Lav me (A Favor)*.

HYE SHARZHOOM

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California State University, Fresno

Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2003 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education				
Social Sciences, Area D3, for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after Division 9-Other Cultures, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	10:00-10:50A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Division 7-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm 1A Elementary Armenian	4	11:00-11:50A	MTWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Arts, Area C1 for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
• Arm S 20 Arts of Armenia	3	9:30-10:45A	TTh	Staff
Smittcamp Honors College Course				
• Arm S 20 Arts of Armenia	3	9:30-10:45A	TTh	B Der Mugrdechian
Upper Division Courses				
• Arm S 108A Arm History I	3	9:00-9:50A	MWF	Staff
• Arm S 120T Armenians in Fresno	1	5:00-10:00 P	Fri	B Der Mugrdechian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Armenians in Fresno will meet Friday, September 19 and Saturday, September 20, 2003</i>				
• Arm S 120T Armenian Church	1	5:00-10:00 P	Fri	B Der Mugrdechian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Armenian Church will meet Friday, October 10, and Saturday, October 11, 2003</i>				
• Arm S 120T	3	3:30-4:45 P	TTh	Kazan Visiting Professor

**For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669
or visit our offices in the Peters Business Building, Room 384.**

ASP Annual Fund

additions as of April 10, 2003

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Frances C. Ziegler, *Program Administrative Assistant*

Hye Sharzhoom is a supplement of The Collegian and the newspaper of the CSUF Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program and is funded by the Associated Students. Articles may be reprinted provided Hye Sharzhoom is acknowledged. Hye Sharzhoom welcomes prose, poetry, articles and other material from its student readers. For further information concerning the newspaper or the Armenian Studies Program:

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W. Saroyan on Iceland National Radio

INGIBJÖRG THORISDOTTIR
SPECIAL TO HYE SHARZHOOM

In December of 2002 Ingibjörg Thorisdottir was trying to put something about William Saroyan and the Armenians on public radio in Iceland and so contacted Dr. Dickran Kouymjian for suggestions. He sent them. She then asked if the radio station could interview him, and after agreeing, Professor Kouymjian was interviewed for about an hour. A part of that narrative, was part of the eventual show. Ed.

From 1991 to 1994 I was a drama student at Fresno State. During that time I came to know the Armenian writer William Saroyan through taking a course in Armenian studies with Dr. Dickran Kouymjian. I thought Saroyan's work was beautiful. His thoughts simple, yet so deep. His complex, but yet simple, characters were just fascinating. His background as an Armenian was as dramatic as was his life.

When I came back home to

Iceland I really wanted to translate some of his work. I found out that some of his work had already been translated by great Icelandic writers such as Nobel-prize winning author Halldór Kiljan Laxness and one of Iceland's best poets, Gyrdir Eliasson. It wasn't until this year, almost ten years later, that I finally decided to make a radio program about Saroyan's life and work. Needless to say I contacted Dr. Dickran Kouymjian to get his opinion and of course he was very pleased to assist. I got many books about Saroyan from the Icelandic National Library and interviewed many Icelanders who knew his work. I called Dr. Kouymjian in Paris and when I had enough material I made a radio program filled with Armenian music and readings from Saroyan's short stories.

The Icelandic National radio station is widely listened to all over the country. I got prime-time spots on two Sunday mornings, the best time for airing a program such as this one.

Many people who listened to the program contacted me. Actors,



Ingibjörg Thorisdottir

people at the University, and friends thought that the program was very interesting. People asked me which of his works had been translated and where his books were sold. Some are encouraging me to write some more about Saroyan and how I came to know his work. One day maybe I will.

Saroyan has therefore gained more readers and fans outside the U.S. in a far away island in the north.

Peace be with you all.

Neery Melkonian Presents Work of NK (Nagorno-Karabagh) ARTS in Shushi



Photo: Dickran Chekian

Neery Melkonian

GEVORK ARISTAKESYAN
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, March 5, 2003 the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization hosted a special presentation by Neery Melkonian of NK ARTS.

NK ARTS is a non-profit organization that was started by Melkonian in the spring of 1999, to introduce the rich culture of Nagorno-Karabagh (Artsakh) to the world. Nagorno-Karabagh is an independent republic in the Caucasus, where its predominantly Armenian population fought a six-year war with neighboring Azerbaijan for its independence.

As an artist, Melkonian wanted to get involved in Armenia or Karabagh, and chose to begin her project out of a feeling of social responsibility. The Minister of

Culture of Karabagh had been a guest of Melkonian's in New York, and invited her to Karabagh.

Because of the region's natural beauty and its historical monuments Karabagh was an ideal site for developing cultural tourism.

The plan was to develop an annual cultural festival in the city of Shushi, so in 2001 NK ARTS held its first annual arts festival. More than 1200 people enjoyed

the music and the arts that were presented.

NK ARTS consists of five branches, of which the Shushi festival is the conduit. The goal is to make the festival into an international destination for world festival goers. The Karabagh government has been helpful to NK ARTS, providing logistical support and transportation.

One of these five branches was the establishment of an artisan workshop in the village of Nungi. Nungi has a population of about 400 people and has been known for 200 years as a dynamic ceramic center. Only one ceramics master Vartan still remains and makes pottery as it used to be made; using his advice, they restarted the activities. The government provided the old workshop. No electricity or running water are available at the site. A horse operates the clay mixer

just like old times.

Each branch of the project has an outside director as a way of linkage. Jeff Ryan, a potter from the United States, lived in the village for a year, supervising the revival of the pottery operation. Apprentices were hired and trained and are paid as full-time workers. NK ARTS will distribute the ceramics produced in the workshop in the United States. The pottery which they produce can also become something which will be useful in Armenia because of the building boom in Armenia and Karabagh and the need to produce roof tiles and bricks.

Future projects for NK ARTS are to introduce Karabakh's traditional folk-remedies to the West. The use of herbs for organic treatments has a long history in Karabakh, and some of these treatments are unknown in the United States. A professor from Armenia has already begun to identify some of the compounds which could be used commercially.

This year NK ARTS will also be producing a documentary film on Nagorno-Karabakh, which will be shown on cable television channels such as The History Channel and Discovery Channel.

NK ARTS' goal is to motivate the people to feel proud and dignified, provides the people of America with knowledge on Karabakh's arts and cultures, and it also gives Nagorno Karabakh recognition in the world community.

The second year of the Shushi Festival, held in 2002, was devoted to Film. The third year of the Festival will be devoted to theater and dance and will be held in September 2003.

The lecture, which was part of the Spring Lecture Series of the Armenian Studies Program, was held in the Alice Peters Auditorium.

ASO Continues Strong

ALEX BUNCH
STAFF WRITER

During the fall 2002 semester, the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) got off to a great start, and has continued its success in the spring 2003 semester. The first event in the spring was a meeting at Dominion Pizza, located at Cedar and Shepherd. Students ate pizza like there was no tomorrow, and the conversations were going non-stop. Everyone was greatly enjoying themselves. After eating and socializing the ASO general meeting was held. We discussed possible events for the spring semester and everyone was pleased with what the ASO was planning.

The next major event was the ASO Winter Dance. The dance was held at the Smittcamp Alumni House, located on campus. The food was great, and the dancing was non-stop. Everyone had a good time. Another dance should be planned for next year, because it was a success.

Yet another fun event to attend was the 4th Annual Armenian Film Festival. Some great films about Armenia were shown. They were picked well and not only were they interesting, but they were educational as well. We learned some-

thing about Armenian history, including genocide and the Armenian church. We learned about the current conditions in Armenia, specifically relating to healthcare and the current media. In regards to healthcare, there are many people, specifically children, who need special treatment, which is very costly. During one of the films, there was an Armenian cardiologist who was explaining to us about what problems there are and possible solutions. The first solution is money. Money is needed to buy medical supplies to provide the best treatment.

This final activity was not full of joy, rather it is important and serious; remembering the Armenian Genocide of 1915. Not an easy subject to talk about. For many people, this brings about many emotional feelings, and who can blame them? The genocide is still considered to be a contemporary issue and many people are connected to it in one way or another.

Finally, the ASO is currently planning to end another successful year by having an outdoor BBQ. Of course being Armenian, you know there will be plenty of delicious food. Look for further announcements for dates and times. I hope to see you all there!

ASO Volunteers for Valley Public Television Telethon



ASO members at KVPT telethon.

SEVAG TATEOSIAN
EDITOR

On Thursday, March 13, members of the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) along with advisor Barlow Der Mgrdechian teamed up with K.V.P.T. (Valley Public Television) in an effort to raise pledge funds for the operation of the station. K.V.P.T. is the public television station serving the San Joaquin Valley.

This was the first time that the ASO helped the station in raising pledges on a live telethon. However, the station is a very strong supporter of Armenian issues and has shown many videos on Armenian oriented topics. Furthermore it has, on many occasions, had several Armenian organizations throughout the community help them with raising funds for their station.

Two films were shown from 8:00-11:00 pm. The first was *The Armenian-Americans* and the other was *Armenia: Story of Survival*, both produced, directed, and written by Andrew Goldberg for WLIW

21 Public Television of New York. There were several pledge breaks during and in-between the two movies, where the ASO students that were manning the phone lines, could be seen. Peter Nazaretian of Fresno was the host for the evening.

It was a night that those who took part in will remember for a long time. The actual studio itself was exciting. As the ASO members entered the studio, all of them had a smile on their face. This was because the studio looked exactly like one from the backstage of a major motion picture. This made the students feel like movie stars for the night.

Overall, the event was a great success. The ASO surpassed the pledge-goal that was set for the evening. In fact, that night was one of the most successful pledge-nights for the station. Most importantly the ASO members had a wonderful time with each other and a powerful bond was formed by those who took part. As the night ended, most of the students asked, "When can we come back?"

Seniors Graduate with Armenian Studies Minors

Name: Jeffrey David Simonian
Age: 22
Major: Ag Business



What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to work for the family business as a produce salesmen.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

In ten years, I see myself as a successful businessman working on starting a family.

What was the most influential part of your college experience?
My friends, professors, and my parents were the greatest influence during my college experience.

How has the Armenian Studies Program affected you?

The Armenian Studies Program has taught me a lot about my heritage. Furthermore the program has made me look at the person I am and the person I want to be.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?

College brings about abundant amounts of opportunities; take advantage of as many of them as possible.



Name: Arpik Paraghamian
Age: 24
Major: Mass Communication and Journalism, specialization: print media

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation I plan to do the things I didn't have time for when I was in school, like travel with my husband and spend more time with my family. I will also continue to pursue my writing career.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

There are only two things I really want to do by the age of 30: buy a house and have kids. Whatever life brings after that I will be open to.

Name: Ara Mekhitarian
Age: 22
Major: Business, Information Systems



What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation I plan to move to Los Angeles and acquire a position in corporate banking with Wells Fargo.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

In ten years I plan to be married and have a family. Career wise, I would like to have obtained an MBA and moved into a senior officer position.

What was the most influential part of your college experience?

In the summer of 2001, I traveled to Armenia along with seventeen other students under the direction of Professor Barlow Mugrdechian. I had always wanted to visit my homeland, and actually see in person what I had spent years studying in my Armenian courses. It was great to visit the historic churches and landmarks. This experience I will never forget.

How has the Armenian studies program affected you?

My Armenian studies courses were by far the most enjoyable of my classes. I built strong relationships with my professors and classmates while developing a greater understanding of my culture and heritage. I would like to give a special thanks to Barlow Der Mugrdechian, who in the past five years has been a great mentor.

Name: Eric Mouradian
Age: 22

Major: Business Administration with a certificate in entrepreneurship

What are your plans after graduation?

My current employer, Wells Fargo Bank, has offered me a fulltime position; I plan on accepting the position, working and studying for the GMAT test to get into the MBA program here at Fresno State.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

I see myself married while simultaneously advancing with Wells Fargo.

What was the most influential part of your college experience?

The most influential experience was my trip to Armenia. Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian took 18 Armenian students to Armenia to tour the country. I will never forget that experience.

How has the Armenian studies program affected you?

The Armenian Studies Program has taught me a lot about my culture. It has opened my eyes to how we have survived for so long. The most intriguing aspect about the program was the amount of non-Armenians in the classes. This was a great way to educate non-Armenians about our affluent history.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?

Take your time, and have fun!



Name: Timothy Luke Kuckenbaker
Age: 22
Major: Political Science

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan on enrolling in the Teacher's Credential Education Program here at Fresno State.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

I see myself as an influential history and a student government-leadership teacher, while simultaneously coaching varsity basketball.

What was the most influential part of your college experience?

The courses I took from Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian. If you haven't taken any courses from him you don't realize how much he influences you to attend lectures, folding Hye Sharzhoom papers, being on time, not eating in class, oh yea, he will also encourage you to succeed. Thanks Professor Der Mugrdechian. Just as influential was Dr. Dickran Kouymjian. Each conversation I had with him resulted in me growing as a person.

How has the Armenian studies program affected you?

I have gained more knowledge about my Armenian heritage and culture than I could ever envision.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?

Even if you're not working on Armenian Studies minor, everyone should consider taking an Armenian Studies course at least once. And lastly don't forget to turn off your cell phones in class!!



What was the most influential part of your college experience?

What influenced my college experience were the few good professors I came to know during the past five years. I learned more from them than I expected.

How has the Armenian studies program affected you?

Armenian students in this area are lucky to have the Armenian Studies Program. Not many universities offer such a program and many Armenians grow up not knowing what they should about the rich culture they come from. Minor in Armenian Studies is one of the best decisions I could have made.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?

I would advise incoming freshmen to take advantage of all the services the university has to offer, like the four-year plan, or else they will be here forever.



Photos: Randy Vaughn-Doitia

2002-2003 Scholarships & Grant Awards

The Armenian Studies Program awarded scholarships and research grants from seven different endowment or scholarship funds and research grant for a total of \$45,000. These scholarships encourage students to pursue minors in Armenian Studies and to enroll in the various course offerings. We ask our students and our supporters to tell their friends and relatives about the Armenian Studies scholarship program and encourage them to apply.

Applying has become simplified and is entirely online through the Program website at <http://www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies> and the University website at <http://www.csufresno.edu>.

Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarships

Marine Ekezyan, Fresno, Biology; **James Karibian**, Fresno, Business ad. entrepreneurship; **Kara Samuelian**, Fresno, Liberal studies

Yervant, Rose and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grant

Anna Abramyan, Fresno, Nursing; **William Aceves**, Clovis, Business ad.-marketing; **Rita Alves**, Fresno, Liberal studies; **Thomas V. Bagdasarian**, Fresno, Psych.; **Dikran Chekian**, Fresno, Business; **Anthony J. Creek**, Fowler, Mass comm. and journ.; **Gilbert Elasmir**, Fresno, Business ad.; **Lauren D. Garry**, Fresno, Pol. science; **Razmik Hakopian**, Fresno, Undeclared; **Anna Hakopyan**, Fresno, Pre-nursing; **Kevin Kandarian**, Fowler, Ag. business; **Nyrie Karkazian**, Fresno, Journalism; **Vahe Kesablian**, Fresno, Health sc.; **Bryan G. Kirkorian**, Fresno, Economics; **Sebouh P. Krioghlian**, Fresno, Biol; **Tim Kuckenbaker**, Clovis, Pol. science; **Ernest R. Martirosyan**, Fresno, Undecl.; **Ara Nalbandian**, Fresno, Comp. science; **Azniv Orinakyan**, Fresno, Liberal studies; **Vahan Papyan**, Yerevan, MBA; **Armen Postoyan**, Fresno, Business ad-Intl. business; **Tatyana R. Ryabova**, Clovis, Econ.; **Arthur Stepanian**, Fresno, Undeclared; **Hakop K. Tataryan**, Fresno, Accounting; **Sevag Tateosian**, Fresno, Crim.; **Akop Torosian**, Fresno, Biology; **Robert Torosian**, Fresno, Crim.

Koren and Alice Odian Kasparian Scholarship

Natasha Azarian, Fresno, Ling.; **Jayson Emerian**, Fresno, Mech. engineering; **Tamara Karakashian**, Fresno, Liberal studies; **Ara Mekhitarian**, Fresno, Business ad.-info. systems

Charles K. and Pansy Pategian Zlokovich Scholarship

Zhanna Bagdasarov, Fresno, Psychology; **Iley Ballinger**, Fresno, Geomatics engineering; **Irina Boyadjian**, Fresno, Liberal studies; **Alex Bunch**, Concord, Biol; **Joseph Dobbins**, Fresno, Comp. science; **Tatevik Ekezyan**, Fresno, Biol.; **Lisa Fazio**, Fresno, Business ad.-info. sys.; **Ashley Fredericks**, Fowler, Business ad.-marketing; **Narine Goukasian**, Fresno, Social work; **Evelina Gyulnazaryan**, Sanger, Nursing; **Carina Karakashian**, Fresno, Bus ad.; **Talene Kasparian**, Selma, Bus ad.-entrepreneurship; **Staci Kellas**, Clovis, Liberal studies; **Lucas Lichtenwaldt**, Tehachapi, History; **Ara Mekhitarian**, Fresno, Bus ad.-info.sys.; **Paul Shapazian**, Fresno, Undec.; **Justin Surabian**, Reedley, Bus ad.-info. systems; **Christopher Torosian**, Fresno, Ag. business; **Michael Torosian**, Fresno, Ag. business; **Nancy Vartanian**, Modesto, Economics

The Pete Peters Endowment

Barseg Abanyan, Fresno, Health sci.; **Christina Ajamian**, Fresno, Kinesiology; **Natasha Azarian**, Fresno, Ling.; **Tatevik Ekezyan**, Fresno, Biol; **Jacklin Gharibian**, Fresno, Art; **Gabriel Halls**, Sanger, History; **Tamara Karakashian**, Fresno, Liberal studies; **Ara Mekhitarian**, Fresno, Bus ad.; **Tobias Riday-White**, Berkeley, History; **Taguhi Semirdzhyan**, Fresno, Phil.; **Christopher Tozlian**, Fresno, Business ad.; **Marjorie Visser**, Clovis, Comm. disorders

Telfeyan Evangelical Fund, Inc.

Eric Mouradian, Fresno, Business ad.-entrepreneurship

The Harry and Mary Topoozian Armenian Studies Merit Scholarship Fund

Christopher Tozlian, Fresno, Business ad.

April 24, 2003 Activities

GENOCIDE FROM PAGE 1



Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

ASO members gather at the Armenian Martyrs Monument in the Free Speech area-April 24.

the Free Speech area, where those who attended showed their support by wearing either black or red armbands.

ASO president Tateosian opened the ceremony by welcoming Fresno City Council Member Tom Boyajian, who spoke on behalf of the community and expressed his attitudes about the commemoration. He stated that even though many Armenians were killed during the massacres, the Armenian people overcame that tragedy and grew stronger. He presented Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian with a plaque, which stated the Fresno City Council recognition of a Day of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide. He thanked Der Mugrdchian for his continued work with the Armenian Studies Program.

This was followed by a short speech made by Associated Students Senator Tim Kuckenbaker.

Afterward, two students expressed their feelings through po-

etry. Gevork Aristakesyan provided a moving example of the passion felt by many Armenians toward their homeland, by reciting a poem *Hayrenik*, in Armenian, written by Fresno resident Sarkis Gavlyakan. A second poem, *The Dance*, written by Armenian poet Siamanto, and recited by Lori Garabedian, gave the listeners a depiction of the reality of the past incidents. The poem provided a description of the barbaric actions on the part of the Ottoman Turks; it

s p o k e
a b o u t
y o u n g
A r m e -
n i a n
g i r l s
t h a t
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f o r c e d
t o
d a n c e
n u d e
f o r
t h e
T u r k -
i s h
g e n -
d a r m e s
b e f o r e
t h e y
w e r e

bathed in kerosene and burned to death.

After presentations, in a continuing Fresno State tradition, people were handed carnations to place onto a model of the Martyrs Monument, located in Yerevan, Armenia. Two *duduk* (traditional Armenian instrument) players,

Vartan Frnzlyan and Kajik Martirosyan, played several somber music as each person paid his/her respects. Several people took a moment of silence around the monument and prayed for lost loved ones.

It was a day for everyone to recognize and take the time to remember the truth of the 1915 genocide. This day helped many realize that a strong nation is built upon its ability to rise up from such a tragic circumstances.



L. Gevork Aristakesyan

Monument to Komitas Vardapet Unveiled in Paris in Memory of Armenian Genocide Victims

STAFF REPORT

A monument to the prominent Armenian composer Komitas, commemorating the victims of the 1915 Armenian genocide, was inaugurated April 24 in central Paris. The six-meter high monument was unveiled on the banks of the Seine, by Paris mayor Bertrand Delanoë. The idea of erecting this monument was born in the early 1980s, but it began materializing in 2001, when France officially recognized the Armenian genocide.

Mayor Delanoë said "To recognize that this genocide took place and to do so without any aggressiveness towards the Turkish people of today, to put this great monument in the heart of Paris to the memory of all the victims of the genocide and also of all Armenians who died for France is a way of saying: truth will not divide us, truth will bring us together."

The large base of the statue has inscriptions on each of its four sides. On the front in French it says:

"In homage to Komitas, composer and musicologist, and to the 1,500,000 victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 carried out in the Ottoman Empire."

On the back, it says about the same in Armenian. On the right side the inscription says in French:

"Until the Genocide of 1915, Rev. Fr. Komitas collected and transcribed the traditional folk songs of the Armenian people;

California Legislature Designates April 24, 2003 as "Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide"

Sacramento—The California Assembly yesterday passed Senate Joint Resolution (SJR)1 (Poochigian, R-Fresno), which was the final legislative hurdle for the State Legislature to officially designate April 24, 2003, as the "Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide" and request the United States Congress to also commemorate the Armenian Genocide. The bill passed both the Assembly and Senate this week with overwhelming support.

"I am pleased with California's long-standing record of recognizing the Armenian Genocide," said Senator Poochigian. "Commemorations such as this are important to the families of those who perished or were tortured and driven from their historic homeland by the regime in control of the Turkish Ottoman Empire."

April 24 is the date on which Armenians around the world hold solemn observances of the Genocide in recognition of the day in 1915 when a group of Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arrested and killed.

The Armenian Genocide became the world's standard of atrocity until World War II. That is when Adolph Hitler gave reassurance to his followers about his Holocaust plans when he said, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" For decades, California has recognized the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23 when nearly 1.5 million men, women, and children were systematically tortured and murdered or taken on death marches in the Syrian desert.

"While the Genocide took place long ago and far away, the lives of so many living Californians have been touched by it, and the issue of its commemoration is more important than ever," implored Poochigian. "There are growing attempts to revise the history of this period. It's so important to reject the devious schemes of Genocide deniers. The continued recognition of this crime against humanity is crucial to ensuring against the recurrence of genocide and educating people about such despicable acts." California is home to the largest population of Armenians in the United States.



Photo: Dickran Kouymjian

Komitas Vardapet

thereby he was able to save an heritage of universal importance."

On the left side it says in French: "To the memory of voluntary Armenian fighters and Armenian members of the resistance who died

for France." (Details of the inscriptions and photo were provided by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program, Fresno State)



Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

L to R. Duduk players Kajik Martirosyan and Vartan Frnzlyan during the April 24 commemoration.

A Journey to Greece and "Anatolia"



Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, center, with students from the American College of Thessaloniki.

DR. DICKRAN KOUYMIJIAN

A remarkable Greek-American-Armenian adventure began in December 2002 when Armenian Studies was called to a meeting with Richard Jackson, President of the American College in Thessaloniki, Greece. It was Pres. Jackson's second visit to our campus and as Barlow Der Mugrdechian and I found out, our President, John Welty had visited Thessaloniki along with Dr. Berta Gnozalez head of our University exchange programs.

The remarkable aspect of that meeting was discovering that the American College, known as ACT for short, was once Anatolia College in Marsovan, Turkey, transferred after the Genocide (1923-4) to Greece by the Missionary Board. My mother had always told me and my brother Armen, that her father, Dikran Calusdian, after whom I was named, had been a teacher at Marsovan College. A packet of material, some in Armenian, on ACT offered to us by Richard Jackson had in it a photocopy of Anatolia College faculty with Xs marking those who had been killed during the Genocide. When I saw, I said, spotting one young professor with a closely cropped full beard, "That looks like my grandfather!"

During the meeting in Dr. Gonzalez's office we discussed various exchange proposals between

CSUF and ACT and Pres. Jackson also spoke of a Michael Dukakis Fellowship that brought visiting scholars to Thessaloniki. I expressed an interest if my schedule allowed such a visit. He promised to check on my grandfather's name in the archives of the school.

The twelve day adventure was full of surprises and lots of work. The forty acre campus of the American College, on the heights overlooking Greece's second city, with its magnificent port, is up in the hills just above the city. The space is now shared by two institutions with a single president: Anatolia College, a junior high and high school, the successor to the original one in Marsovan (Mersifon as the Greeks called it) and a four year liberal arts college, ACT, started 25 years ago by the then president Dr. William McGrew.

I gave my first guest lecture to combined Modern History classes on "Armenia and Armenians in Modern Historical Perspective." I tried to compare modern Armenian history with modern Greek history and spent sometime explaining the genocide and its consequences.

Just after, at about 9 PM there was a formal reception for us at the President's house with some of the administration and members of the Armenian community of Thessaloniki. We were told there were still some 2-3,000 Armenians in Thessaloniki and we did visit the church in the center of town; apparently there twice that many new comers recently arrived from Armenia.

Monday morning began with a are those who carry out the actual murder."

Many of us could not imagine ever killing or even harming another human being, but Waller stated "humans are the weapons of genocide." Anytime there is a mass killing, it requires that one person kill another. Waller's book is mainly concerned with the psychological state of a person who murders or demands the murder of other human beings.

The architects, who order the annihilation of some group, never actually kill hands-on; rather it is the hands of the "pawns" and the "rank and file" that do the killing. Much of the killings of the Armenians was done with farm equipment and weapons that require excessive energy on behalf of the perpetrator; one can only imagine the motivation necessary to repeatedly strike someone to death. It is Dr. Waller's premise that "each and everyone of us has the capacity to commit murder," and most people, given the circumstances, are capable of mass killing.

But how can this be? What is it that invokes evil in human beings that leads to such malevolence? Dr. Waller suggests that all of the atrocities that have taken place have had some common characteristics: in-

lecture to an American College art history class on early Armenian architecture and its comparison to the early Byzantine architecture of Thessaloniki, especially to the early churches of St. Demetrius and St. George. In the early evening I was invited to present a paper to the Liberal Arts Faculty Colloquium on the subject "When Does a Genocide End? The Armenian Case." The two hour affair also included a lively discussion session.

Wednesday was crowded with activities on and off campus in order for us to be free to tour around on our last two days. In the morning I led a class in Anatolia College of seventh and eighth graders on William Saroyan. Someone had heard that I had known the writer and coincidentally the English literature class was reading a story "The Miraculous Phonograph Record," included in their English reader with the usual explanatory notes for students studying English as their second language.

In the early afternoon, one of the more unusual episodes unfolded around an old manuscript. Shortly upon our arrival, we were told by Richard Jackson and others about a rare medieval Armenian Bible, a treasure of the Anatolia College, kept in a safe on campus. I was asked if I would look at it and provide more information than the school had, of course I agreed with pleasure. I finally got to see the book and immediately reported that it was a Gospel book, not of the 11th-12th century as believed, but certainly of the 17th century or slightly later. I made a formal presentation of the manuscript to a group of Armenian students, adults and interested faculty, and used the occasion to give those present an illustrated lecture on how early Christian Gospels were copied, organized, and illustrated. After the slide show we all huddled in the conference room around the manuscript (with a modern red leather binding) and I started turning the pages one by explaining sec-

involvement of deep-seated ideologies, extraordinary statesmen, and the comfort of being in a mob. However, it is virtually impossible to predict the occurrence of genocide by seeking these characteristics in governments or leaders. Because genocides are usually multi-causal, it is also hard to curb future attempts. The one remedy in curtailing genocide in the future may be in how we as a society learn and deal with it. "We must analyze and understand those who advocate the annihilation of a group," states Dr. Waller.

The Armenians and the Jews were citizens in Turkey and in Germany respectively. But it didn't take much for ordinary Turks to hop on the bandwagon and ostracize the Armenians from humanity, in preparation for the genocide. Similarly, in Germany, there was a rise in anti-Jewish sentiment. Dr. Waller suggests the notion that all human beings are inherently for "their own kind," and are skeptical of all others, which ultimate may lead to hatred.

The Armenian Genocide of 1915 was the first of the twentieth century. However, because justice was not meted out to the perpetrators, the Holocaust, and other genocides soon followed.

tion by section the work and its illustrations.

In the evening we were taken to the new Byzantine Museum for lecture jointly sponsored by the Museum, ACT, and the local Armenian Hamaskaine Cultural Association. I gave a slide lecture on the miniatures of the Armenian version of the History Alexander the Great and the origins of its iconography. I centered much of the talk on the oldest illustrated Armenian version from the late 13th or early 14th century manuscript now with the Mekhitarist Fathers on the Island of San Lazzaro in Venice.

We came with expectation and

left with joy in our hearts, excited that I too had taught in the same institution that I had always believed my maternal grandfather had been a teacher in before he was killed during the first weeks of the Genocide of 1915. The American College is a wonderful place. The graciousness of the administration and faculty, the beauty of the campus, its long academic tradition and its fine facilities, the open friendliness of the Greeks and the Mediterranean life style, make ACT a perfect institution for our CSUF students interested in studying abroad or for our Fresno State faculty to visit and lecture at.

Habitat for Humanity Armenia



L to R: Larissa Printzian, Vartan Tovmasyan, and Gohar Palyan of Habitat for Humanity Armenia.

STAFF REPORT

Representatives of Habitat for Humanity Armenia visited Fresno State to meet with students and to raise awareness about their organization.

Volunteers Vartan Tovmasyan, Gohar Palyan and Santa Cruz Habitat for Humanity office manager Larissa Printzian visited Barlow Der Mugrdechian's *Introduction to Armenian Studies* and *Armenian Language* courses on Wednesday, April 23.

Tovmasyan introduced students to the Global Village project of Habitat for Humanity, which enables volunteers to spend two weeks in Armenia assisting in the building and renovating of homes. In 2002 two teams of volunteers, one from the United States and the other from Great Britain, worked in Armenia.

All of the work is done by volunteers, who also interact with the people they work with. When construction is completed, volun-

teers join the festivities and the home blessing. This year, 3 teams of volunteers will visit Armenia, in the months of July, August, and September.

Habitat for Humanity Armenia is a non-government charitable organization that supports community development in the Republic of Armenia by assisting and building and renovating simple, decent, and affordable homes.

Habitat for Humanity Armenia was registered in Armenia on March 22, 2000 and has 90 local volunteers. They have dedicated 36 homes in Armenia, where 192 people live and are currently working on 16 more homes.

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller.

For more information on Habitat for Humanity Armenia and the Global village program, go to the www.habitat.org/gv or www.armenianhabitat.am web sites or call 1-800-HABITAT.

"After all, who to this day remembers the annihilation of the Armenians?" was Hitler's quote when considering the consequences of annihilating the Jews and others in Poland. Although scholars all around the world have recognized the Armenian Genocide, we as a society must properly address prior incidents in order to prevent future atrocities. If the Ottoman Turkish government had been properly dealt with for their actions, future attempts of genocide would be rare, for fear of punishment. Quite possibly the Ho-

"After all, who to this day remembers the annihilation of the Armenians?"
Adolph Hitler

locast and future genocides would have been avoided.

In the month of April the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust and the Rwandan Genocide are commemorated. Dr. Waller's book takes an in-depth look at the psychological state of a person willing to commit mass killings and participate in genocide.

We as a society must work hard to curtail future genocide. And a good place to start is by recognizing the Armenian Genocide and making it a national day of commemoration.

WALLER FROM PAGE 1

cialization includes experimental social psychology and the history of psychology and science.

The word "genocide" as adopted by the United Nations in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, December 9, 1948, refers to the planned and systematic annihilation of a "national, ethnical, racial, or religious group." Waller began with a brief chronology of events in the twentieth century that have come to be known as "genocide." First he discussed the killings in Rwanda, where in 1994, eight hundred thousand people were killed in a span of one hundred days. He then spoke of the ever-infamous Holocaust, where some six million Jews were slaughtered. And he discussed the Armenian genocide of 1915, in which one and a half million Armenians were murdered.

"Perpetrators of genocide come in three forms," said Dr. Waller. "First there are those who come up with the notion that permits or advocates the murders; the leaders. Second there are the bureaucrats, who are concerned with how the implementation will take place and the aftermath, and thirdly

Armenian Studies Program Fourth Annual Film Festival Awards

The awards were based on an audience survey taken during the Film Festival and during Dr. Dickran Kouymjian's Armenian Film class.

Best Film

- 1st *Piano* Director: Nika Shek
- 2nd *The Lighthouse* Director: Carissa D. Vanitzian
- 3rd Tie *Dark Forest* Director: Roger Kupelian
- The Hadjian Story* Director: Denise Gentilini

Best Director

- 1st Nika Shek, *Piano*
- 2nd Roger Kupelian, *Dark Forest*
- 3rd Tie Paul Chaderjian, *Post Soviet Media in Armenia*
- Carissa D. Vanitzian, *The Lighthouse*
- Kevin Shahinian, *For Which It Stands*

Best Original Theme

- 1st *The Lighthouse* Carissa D. Vanitzian
- 2nd *Piano* Nika Shek
- 3rd *Les Films de Saché* Sarkis (Zabunyan)

UC Santa Barbara Middle Eastern Conference



L to R: Barlow Der Mugrdechian, S. Peter Cowe, Gayane Hagopian at UC Santa Barbara conference.

STAFF REPORT

The Center for Middle East Studies (University of California at Santa Barbara) held its Fifth Annual Middle East Studies Regional Conference on Saturday, March 22, 2003.

Dr. Peter Cowe, Narekatsi Professor of Armenian Studies at UCLA, organized a workshop on "Issues in Language Pedagogy: Armenia" as part of the conference. Participating in the workshop were Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno and Dr. Gayane Hagopian of UCLA/UC Berkeley.

The workshop discussed the current state of teaching Armenian language at institutions of higher learning in the United States.

Dr. Hagopian spoke about current linguistic studies which examine the roles of various factors in how well a student learns. Her well researched presentation gave valuable ideas to the participants about

how to develop new strategies for teaching Armenian.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian compared two popular textbooks which are currently being used in college classrooms to teach Modern Western Armenian: Dora Sakayan's *Modern Western Armenian* was compared to Thomas Samuelian's *A Course in Modern Western Armenian*. Der Mugrdechian's presentation focused on the areas where the textbooks excelled and also areas where improvement could be made. His suggestions also provoked much conversation about the available textbooks and supplementary materials in the classroom.

Dr. Peter Cowe was the chair of the panel and also was a discussant who provided valuable background on the teaching of the Armenian language. He also facilitated discussion for the panel. Among the useful suggestions which were made was a proposal to organize an association of Armenian language teachers.

**Listen to Fresno State's
Armenian Radio Show**

Hye Oozh
Every Saturday
morning from 9:00AM-12:00noon

FM 90.7
D. Js

• Sevag Tateosian • Armen Postoyan • Tatevik Ekezian

FILM FESTIVAL

FROM PAGE 1

films, who are from the U.S., Armenia and France, have impressive educational backgrounds focusing on cinema, and have also worked on an assortment of other projects. Writer and director Paul Chaderjian, presented and discussed his film *Post-Soviet Media in Armenia*. Chaderjian's carefully crafted documentary reveals the controversy and difficulties within post-Soviet media within Armenia. He has worked on a number of projects and will graduate from Fresno State with a Master of Arts

degree in Mass Communications in May.

In its fourth year, the Armenian Film Festival strives to celebrate the diversity of all people everywhere and explore the value each individual brings to the University and Armenian community.

"We at the Armenian Studies Program feel it is important for people to see a different form of expression rather than just books or lectures. It is also important for people to see film, which is another significant medium of art," said professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

With free admission for all,

the film festival was sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program, and generously funded by the Diversity Awareness Program of the University Student Union.

With another successful year, the Festival was able to bring a sense of Armenian culture to the Fresno Armenian community, and relate to people on all different levels. We hope to see you all there next year.



SAS Journal, Vol. 12 Released

STAFF REPORT

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, President of the Society for Armenian Studies announced the release of volume 12 of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*. Four articles, 25 book reviews, and a communication are part of JSAS 12, which also contains information about the Society for Armenian Studies and its publications.

Der Mugrdechian, of the Armenian Studies Program at Cali-

fornia State University, Fresno was editor of JSAS 12, leading a collaborative effort to publish the volume.

For information on how to obtain a copy of volume 12 of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, or any back issues, contact the Secretariat of SAS, located at the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, 5245 N. Backer Ave PB4, Fresno CA 93740-8001 or call 559-278-2669.

**JSAS 12
VOLUME 12
2001, 2002 (2003)**

**Journal
of the
Society for Armenian
Studies**



Dr. Kouymjian-Old and New Films Discussed in Armenian Film Class

CHRIS TOZLIAN
STAFF WRITER

They sat there, 18 students, for hours at each meeting, at times watching films that were produced 50 years before the birth of some in the audience. The films came from different time periods, different cultures, each having a different theme. Many were fantastic, a few were not, and a couple simply seemed to make no sense. Such was the experience of those who enrolled in this semester's *Armenian Studies 120T-Armenian Film* class.

My introductory words may be a bit misleading since all who enrolled in the Armenian film class thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The course was taught by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, who has taught this class several times at Fresno State. The enrolled students made up a diverse class, ranging in ages from 18 to 80, each with a varied knowledge of Armenian culture and a varied exposure to film appreciation.

The class met for three weekends: February 28 & March 1, March 7 & 8, and March 14 & 15; the Friday sessions met from 4pm until 10pm, and the Saturday sessions met from 9am until 5pm.

Like other classes taught by Professor Kouymjian, the Armenian film class pushed its students to think in new ways. The students viewed films from each decade, beginning with "Auction of Souls" (1919), and ending with the current decade. One of the most beneficial aspects of the Armenian film class was the way in which the films viewed related to current social topics such as racism, the looming war in Iraq, socio-economic problems, and women's rights. Of course, the students also viewed a number of films that dealt with Armenian-related topics such as the Genocide.

Compelling topics such as these made the hours pass quickly. The students not only enjoyed the films, but also learned much from them.

Throughout the three-weekend class, there was no consistent genre of films viewed. Due to the lack of widespread involvement of Armenians within the film industry in the United States, and the lack of films made in Soviet Armenia without a redundant pro-communist message, the class was exposed to films produced in Armenia, France, and the United States. Though the films viewed were written and produced in very different cultures and times, the one commonality was that all films viewed involved Armenians, either as the subject matter (e.g. "Color of Pomegranates"), as the director (e.g. Rouben Mamoulian), or as the lead actor (e.g. Eric Bogosian). Interspersed between each film was an open forum, which often led to a discussion of culture and various interpretations of the film shown.

Each person in the class had his or her favorite film... some of the favorites included Rouben Mamoulian's "Love Me Tonight" and Atom Egoyan's "Next of Kin."

When asked about what she learned upon completion of the three-weekend course, freshman Cara Samuelian said that she now viewed films in a different way. Samuelian says she has a fonder appreciation for film, and says that she will now give more attention to the art involved in the making of films.

Freshman Alex Bunch, a pre-med major, said that his favorite portion of the class was the time spent viewing documentaries on Armenian issues. "As an Armenian, I am always interested in the history of my people... and having Armenian documentaries in an Armenian film class only makes sense

to me," Bunch said.

Many of the documentaries viewed in this film class deviated from the usual Armenian topic of Genocide and destruction; such topics included the state of mass media in the Armenian republic, a look at the widespread violence during the battle over the Nagorno-Karabakh region during the 1990's, and the healthcare sector in Armenia.

The highlight of the Armenian film class this semester was the 4th Annual Armenian Film Festival, which coincided with the third weekend of the film class. Taking place on March 14, the film festival gave the students an opportunity to utilize their newly acquired knowledge in judging the best of the films shown. After two weekends of exposure to Armenian films, the class was able to gather with others who appreciate Armenian films and put their newly learned skills to the test.

Armenian Film was a particularly enjoyable class, which allowed people from different backgrounds to gather together and view films that spanned 80 years of history. This distinct time period saw the rise of communism, the rise of post-modernism, and the fall of the Soviet Union. The volatile time period in which these films were created produced many fine films filled with themes capable of transcending both time and culture. Those who attended the class not only learned much about film, but also much about culture-making this class very worthwhile.



Dr. Bournoutian to Speak in Fresno

MANDY ESTRADA
STAFF WRITER

It is uncommon to find a scholar with the ability and capacity to read Armenian, Persian, and Russian and who can conduct research on primary documents in those languages. Among the few with this knowledge, is Dr. George Bournoutian, who has been voted as "Outstanding Professor" for six years in a row at Iona College for his scholarship.

Bournoutian is an authority on Eastern Armenian studies, from the 16th to the 19th century. He was born in Iran but currently resides in Dumont, New Jersey. He received the first Ph.D. in Armenian History at U.C.L.A. Presently, he is senior professor of Middle Eastern and Eastern European History at Iona College in New York as well as a visiting professor of Armenian history at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Bournoutian is also the author of 11 books, all of which can be found in the Henry Madden Library at Fresno State. Four of his books have received excellent reviews in the *Times Literary Supplement*. Others have been positively reviewed in the important journals of the field such as *IJMES*, *MEJ*, *BSOAS*, *SAS*, and *SIS*. Bournoutian has also served as moderator and commentator on films, including Atom Egoyan's recent film *Ararat*.

Professor Bournoutian often leads student travel tours to foreign countries such as Armenia, China, Iran, and Australia. He fre-

quently travels domestically as well as internationally in order to give lectures at community centers and churches, where he deals with a multitude of topics (historical, political, or religious) on Armenia, Iran, Russia, and Eastern Europe.

Fresno State will be welcoming Dr. Bournoutian on May 16 to give a lecture on the Russian Empire and its relations with the Armenian Church in Russia and the Transcaucasus. He will be discussing several main points on the topic. He will first describe the distinct reactions of Peter the Great, Empress Anna, Elizabeth and Catherine the Great to the Armenian Church in Russia. Secondly, he will describe the rivalry between Karabagh and Ejiatsin for control of the Armenian communities in Russia and how Russia approached this situation.

He will conclude his lecture by explaining the Russian government's response to political and religious changes taking place in the empire.

Dr. Bournoutian will also be presenting this lecture in several other locations in California and around the country. His lecture in Fresno is part of the Spring 2003 Lecture Series of the Armenian Studies Program and is co-sponsored by the Armenian General Benevolent Union of Fresno and the Armenian Students Organization.

This lecture promises to be highly intriguing as well as informative. The event is open to students and all community members, so be sure to mark your calendar.

**The Armenian Studies Program
and Armenian General Benevolent Union, Fresno
present**

Dr. George Bournoutian

Professor of History, Iona College, New York

**"Russia and the Armenian Church
in the 17-19th Centuries:
Religion, Politics, and Nation Building"**

Friday, May 16, 2003

7:30 PM

Alice Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191
University Business Center • Fresno State campus
Admission is free

ASP Benefactor Henry S. Kazan Passes Away

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN
ADVISOR

Armenian Studies Program benefactor Henry S. Kazan passed away on Saturday, April 19, 2003 at the age of 96. Mr. Kazan was born on September 9, 1906.

Victoria and Henry Kazan, of East Quoque, New York and Juno Beach, Florida have made significant contributions to the Armenian Studies Program and the California State University, Fresno over the past seven years.

The Kazan Visiting Professorship became the second endowed position in the Armenian Studies Program, in addition to the Haig & Isabel Berberian Professorship in Armenian Studies, held by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Program, since 1989.

Victoria and Henry Kazan met in New York and married there even though both were from Sebastia, the modern city of Sivas, in east central Turkey. They were among the rare Armenians who had left the Ottoman Turkish Empire before 1915 and thereby survived the Genocide. Henry Kazan was from the village of Zara, about 30 miles east of Sebastia. At age eight, he and his mother were sent to America by a grandfather who booked passage in steerage. He just missed the annihilation of the Armenians. Everyone left in Zara was killed; there were no survivors.

Growing up as an immigrant boy in the Armenian ghetto of Manhattan's east side, Henry Kazan quickly mastered English and American ways and picked up "street smarts" swiftly. He was an outstanding student, but had to stop going to day school in order to support the family. He continued his studies at night, finishing high school and then enrolling at New York University and completing a BA in History entirely through night school courses. He didn't stop there, earning his law degrees, both LLB and JD, again at night, at St. John's University, after which he was admitted to the New York Bar.

After serving in the US Army during World War II, he worked in the coal mining business in Penn-



Henry S. Kazan

sylvania and then landed the final job of his career with the NuTone Company, maker of electrical household products and lighting fixtures. Through tenacity and hard work, he eventually became a regional sales director and an important NuTone stockholder.

Victoria and Henry Kazan were "hooked" on higher education. Three of their nieces and nephews, who they treat as their own children, hold Ph.D.s and are academics in the humanities and social sciences. Henry Kazan would have been a history professor if he had had a choice. Perhaps this helps explain why the Kazans felt so strongly about endowing a visiting professorship and they could think of no better way to invest some of his and Victoria Kazan's money than in a permanent endowment for teaching and research in precisely those subjects, which have shaped their lives for the past eight decades.

When asked why he and his wife came so far to enhance Armenian Studies at Fresno State, Henry Kazan said. "The reason I am here is simple. Fresno State has the best and most active Armenian studies program in the country. I was approached by my alma mater New York University, but they could not offer me what I wanted. . . . For the last several years, I have been trying to combat the Turkish government's saying that there was no genocide. I know there was one. I escaped it by 15 months."

Kazan added, "The endowed visiting professorship is my way of helping ensure that the Genocide is clearly understood and never for-

gotten. It's my way of honoring those who did not survive."

In July of 1997, Henry S. and M. Victoria Kazan made a gift of their East Quoque, New York home to Fresno State. Proceeds from the sale of the home, which was completed in 2002, were used to establish the M. Victoria Karagozian Kazan Fund for the Armenian Studies Program. The Kazan Fund for Armenian Studies will provide support in three specific areas: 1) funding for scholarships, 2) funding for the general operation of the Armenian Studies Program, and 3) funding for the M. Victoria Karagozian Monograph and Lecture Series. This gift was another step in a continuing relationship between the Kazans, the Armenian Studies Program, and the Fresno community.

The vision of Henry S. Kazan and M. Victoria Karagozian Kazan has helped the Armenian Studies Program move closer to becoming a center that is able to support research and publication, as well as undergraduate teaching. Through the support of the Kazans, the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno has become an even stronger Program, able to attract students from throughout the United States and the world.

Kazan is survived by his sister Elizabeth Kazanjian of New York, Mrs. Kazan's nephews, Dr. Harold Aram Veaser, Associate Professor of English at Wichita State University, Dr. Cyrus Veaser, Assistant Professor of History at Bentley College in Massachusetts, Mr. Kazan's niece, Iris Kassabian of New York, and his great niece, Dr. Anahid Kassabian, Professor at Fordham University as well as Prof. Kassabian's husband, Dr. Leo Svensen, a physicist and computer specialist, and their daughter Maral.

Per Mr. Kazan's wishes, remembrances may be made to the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, 5245 N Backer Ave, PB4, Fresno, CA 93740 or the North Shore Animal League.

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