

# HYE SHARZHOOM

## Armenian Action

### ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԶԽՈՄ



36<sup>th</sup> Year

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Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

## Khachaturian Trio Performs in Special Keyboard Concert



The Khachaturian Trio. Left to right: Karen Shakhgaldyan, Armine Grigoryan, and Karen Kocharyan.

ARAMAYIS ORKUSYAN  
STAFF WRITER

The vibrant, emotionally rich cascades of Armenian influenced melodies filled the Fresno State Concert Hall on the evening of November 14, 2014, as the Khachaturian Trio of Armenia performed for a sold-out audience of more than 300.

The Trio's repertoire included the dramatic, deftly nuanced, passionate and powerful sounds of Rachmaninoff's "Trio élégiaque No. 2 in D. Minor,

Op. 9," the rich works of Arno Babajanian's "Trio in F-sharp Minor," which showcased a deep influence by Armenian traditional folk music, and the iconic ballads of Khachaturian, including the internationally renowned "Sabre Dance" from "Gayane," the "Adagio" from the "Spartacus" ballet, and "The Waltz and Romance" from "Masquerade."

Widely regarded as one of Armenia's leading chamber music ensembles, the Khachaturian

SEE **KHACHATURIAN TRIO** PAGE 7

## Dr. Douzjian Appointed as Kazan Visiting Professor for Spring 2015



Dr. Myrna Douzjian

ARAMAYIS ORKUSYAN  
STAFF WRITER

Each year, the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State has the remarkable opportunity of inviting an internationally recognized scholar in contemporary Armenian affairs to teach a one semester topics course related to Armenian history,

the Armenian Genocide, and the formation of the Armenian Republic. This opportunity is made possible through the generous endowment of the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professorship, which has provided for ten scholars to teach at Fresno State since 2000.

Joining the Armenian Studies Program in Spring 2015 as the eleventh Kazan Visiting Professor will be Dr. Myrna Douzjian, who earned her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2013. Her research has focused on a number of topics related to Armenian, Russian, and European studies and has placed Armenian cultural production in conversation with other national tenets and theoretical frameworks. Dr. Douzjian will teach a three unit course on Wednesday evenings, Armenian Studies 120T, "The Armenian Genocide in Film: Theoretical and Comparative

SEE **DOUZHIAN** PAGE 7

## Groundbreaking for Armenian Genocide Monument Attracts Hundreds to Campus

MICHAEL RETTIG  
STAFF WRITER

On a bright and cool Sunday, November 2, more than 500 people gathered at Fresno State's Maple Mall, to break ground for a Monument in honor of the victims of the Armenian Genocide. There have been multiple such Monuments erected around the world, but Fresno State's will be the first on a university campus.

The groundbreaking was attended by prominent religious and civic leaders, such as Fresno State President Joseph Castro and Mrs. Castro. "It's really nice to see the children here," noted Dr. Castro. The presence of so many children exemplified the rebirth of the Armenians from their tragic past, and the number of people present at the ceremony gave testament to the community's enthusiastic support of the project.

Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian opened the



Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, center, and Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, right, bless soil held by Zareh Apkarian and Sevana Wassilian of the Keyan Armenian School.

ceremony by saying, "We are working together to build a visible Monument that will symbolize our collective spirit: to commemorate, to educate the world, and to inspire future generations."

President Castro followed with remarks on the important contributions that Armenians have

made as part of the university and the larger community. He highlighted the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program as being one of the "top in the nation," which makes the campus a fitting location for this Monument,

SEE **MONUMENT** PAGE 6

## Apkarian Named Honorary Consul of Armenia in Fresno

MARINE VARDANYAN  
EDITOR



L. to R.: Consul Levon Minasyan, Ambassador Tigran Sargsyan, Mr. Berj Apkarian, Consul General Sergey Sarkisov.

"We are now on Armenian land." These words were declared by the first Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in the United States, Berj Apkarian, during the ceremony marking the opening of the Fresno office on Monday, October 20, 2014. Indeed, the office of the Honorary Consul, located on the eighth floor of the historic Pacific Southwest Building, will be the "Armenian land" that provides Armenian

SEE **HONORARY CONSUL** PAGE 3

## Celebrating Bitlis Armenians and "Saroyan Street"

SPECIAL TO HYE SHARZHOOM

On August 8, 2014, Bitlis municipality approved the renaming of five streets in this historic town of south-eastern Turkey. Among the new names was "William Saroyan Street," after the great American-Armenian writer, whose ancestors left Bitlis before 1915. Saroyan was born in Fresno but felt strong ties to his ancestral home. He visited Bitlis in 1964 and this year marks the 50th anniversary of that visit.

However, Bitlis municipality's



"William Saroyan Street," Bitlis.

SEE **BITLIS** PAGE 7



## 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, either offered personally, or to the Program.

**Harutyun Aleksanyan**, Yerevan, Armenia, for a copy of his book, *World History 9* (Yerevan, 2004), 191pp., in Armenian, by Nigol Hovhannissyan, Ashot Ghukasyan, and Harutyun Aleksanyan. A ninth grade textbook on World History.

**Dr. Levon Chookaszian**, Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia, for a copy of *Hayrenadarts Iranahay Demker* (Yerevan, 1997), 192pp., in Armenia, by his late father Dr. Papken Chookaszian. The book contains biographical notes on 134 Iranian-Armenians, in the field of science and culture, who had immigrated to Armenia in the years 1918-1990.

**Dr. Bedross Der Matossian**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, for a copy of his new book, *Shattered Dreams of Revolution: From Liberty to Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2014), in English 249pp. This book is a study of the Ottoman Revolution of 1908, and discusses the raised hopes of Armenians, Arabs, and Jews, which later were turned into pessimism.

**Hrach Kaspar**, Geneva, Switzerland, for a copy of *Hayots Patmutian Ejer: Italatsi nkarichneri grafikakakn ashkhatank'nerum* (Yerevan: Foreign Ministry of Armenia, 2007), 99pp., in Armenian. A beautiful reprint of a Vienna Mkhitarian publication, probably originally published in the late 19th century.

**Artak Movsisyan**, Yerevan, Armenia, for a copy of three of his books: *The Sacred Highlands: Armenia in the Spiritual Geography of the Ancient Near East* (Yerevan: Yerevan State University, 2004), 75pp., in English; *The Writing Culture of Pre-Christian Armenia* (Yerevan: Yerevan State University, Press, 2006), 317pp., in English; and *Nakhamashlotsian Hayastani grayin hamakargnere* (Pre-Mashtots Armenian Writing Systems), 395pp., in Armenian.

**Konrad Siekierski**, Warsaw, Poland, and Yerevan, for a copy of his new work, *Armenia: kultura wspolczesna w ujeciu antropologicznym* (Warsaw, 2014), 235pp., in Polish.

**Vatche Semerdjian**, Glendale, California, for copies of his new book, *Under the Spotlight* (Lusardzaki Tak) (Volumes 1 and 2) (Glendale, 2014), in Armenian. The books comprise essays and articles by Semerdjian about Armenia and the Diaspora. Vol. 1 (686pp.), Vol. II (613pp.).

**Dr. Aghasi Tadevosyan**, Yerevan, for a copy of his new book, *Migration and Everyday Life: Movement Through Cultures and Practices* (Yerevan: National Academy of Sciences, 2014), 140pp., in English. The book explores the effects of Armenian migration on the social and cultural life of Armenia.

**Astine Zadourian**, Fowler, California, for copies of three books that she has authored: *Tears of Innocence: An Armenian Saga of Survival* (Fowler, CA, 2006-2007), 132pp.; *Fruits of Freedom: Writing from the Heart* (Fowler, CA, 2013), 156pp; and *Happy Birthday William Saroyan* (Fowler, CA, 2008), 92pp.

## Armenian Women of the Genocide

LAUREN CHARDUKIAN  
STAFF WRITER

Men. Men write history, men fight in history, men make history. The role of women is relatively less mentioned. However on Sunday, October 19, 2014, the Ararat Foundation organized an event, “The Armenian Genocide and Armenian Women of 1915,” dedicated to the Armenian Genocide Centennial, and shedding light on the many who may have been forgotten and overlooked.

The evening began with emcee Serpouhie Messerlian introducing Nune Avetisyan, who recited a poem in Armenian. Dr. Garabet Moumdjian, a historian specializing in the Middle East and Ottoman Empire presented a unique angle of the Armenian Genocide, discussing the “hidden Armenians,” who were kidnapped and married to Kurdish or Turkish men. Many women and orphans lost their identity by force, as they were sold or raised in non-Armenian environments. Those who were not kidnapped held the responsibility of educating and caring for the surviving children.

Bared Maronian, director of the film “Orphans of The Genocide,” was the second guest speaker of the day. Attention was

drawn to the orphans through his film clips. His current project, “Women of 1915,” will show the plight of the Armenian women and the non-Armenian women who helped them.

One striking woman was Leola Sassouni, who after giving birth, went out to fight in the Battle of Sardarabad. She also dedicated time towards taking care of Armenian orphans. The captivating stories of women such as Sassouni will be featured in this film, giving the women of the past an opportunity to voice their story.

Kay Mouradian concluded the talks with her inspirational story of producing the film, “My Mother’s Voice.” The process began with first writing a novel, which was followed up by a powerpoint presentation, after which she finally decided to make a film about her mother’s Genocide story. “My Mother’s Voice” was screened for the audience, which told the story of Mouradian’s mother, Flora Munushian, who lost her family, moved to the United States, and married a man she had only seen through a photograph.

The event also included musical performances by Arthur Hakobyan, Salpy Kerkonian, and Salpy Mailyan.

## California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

## Spring 2015 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
<b>General Education-Breadth, Humanities, Area C2</b>				
• Arm 1B-Elementary Armenian (Class #30002)	4	10:00A-11:50A	MW	B Der Mugrdechian
<b>General Education-Breadth, Arts, Area C1</b>				
• ArmS 20-Arts of Armenia (Class #35678)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TuTh	B Der Mugrdechian
<b>General Education-Breadth, Area D3</b>				
• ArmS 10-Intro Arm Studies (Class #35776)	3	12:00P-12:50P	MWF	Staff
• ArmS 10-Intro Arm Studies (Class #36512)	3	8:00A-8:50A	MWF	Staff
<b>General Education-Integration, Area IC</b>				
• Arm 148-Mastrpcs Arm Cult (Class #35678)	3	2:00P-3:15P	MW	S. La Porta
<b>Upper Division Armenian Studies Courses</b>				
• ArmS 108B-Arm History II (Class #30001)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	B Der Mugrdechian
<b>New Course-Upper Division</b>				
• ArmS 120T-Genocide in Film (Class #35710)	3	4:00P-6:50P	W	Kazan Visiting Prof.

**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>**

# HYE SHARZHOOM

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## Give Your Way to the Armenian Studies Program

**There are many ways to support  
the Armenian Studies Program.**

1) A gift today could come through the donation of cash, stock, or goods.

2) The Armenian Studies Program can also be supported in the future in estate plans.

**Regardless of how a donation is made, each gift impacts the lives of students and faculty at Fresno State.**

**Armenian Studies Program • 5245 N. Backer Ave. PB4  
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Society for Armenian Studies Celebrates 40th Anniversary with Conference in Washington, D.C.



Scholars at the international conference on “Armenians in the Ottoman Empire,” organized by the SAS.

STAFF REPORT

Forty years ago five scholars, Richard Hovannisian, Avedis Sanjian, Dickran Kouymjian, Nina Garsoian, and Robert Thomson, met to found the Society for Armenian Studies, dedicated to the development of Armenian Studies as an academic discipline. Today the SAS has become the largest professional organization for scholars and students working in the field of Armenian Studies.

This year SAS celebrated its 40th anniversary with an international conference, “Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in the 19th and 20th Centuries,” held November 21-22, 2014, in Washington, D.C.

Seventeen scholars participated in three sessions during the two-day proceedings held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. SAS President Kevork Bardakjian (University of Michigan-Ann Arbor) welcomed the scholars on Friday, November 21.

SAS Vice-President Bedross Der Matossian (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) organized the conference that opened with a session on “Contribution of the Armenians to Ottoman Culture, Society, Art, and Architecture.” Participating were Murat Yildiz (UCLA), Nora Cherishian Lessersohn (Harvard), Anahit Kartashyan (Saint Petersburg State University), and Heghnar

Watenpaugh (University of California, Davis). Levon Avdoyan (Library of Congress) chaired the session with Rachel Goshgarian (Lafayette College) as discussant.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian (Fresno State) chaired the second session on “The Armenian Genocide and its Aftermath-Part I,” with Rouben Adalian (Armenian National Institute) as discussant. Presenters included Asya Darbinyan (Clark University), Ümit Kurt (Clark University), and Khatchig Mouradian (Clark University).

The third session, chaired by Bedross Der Matossian, was held on Saturday, November 22, and Simon Payaslian (Boston

University) was the discussant. Presenters were Carina Karapetian Giorgi (Pomona College), Richard Hovannisian (UCLA), Keith Watenpaugh (University of California, Davis), and Gregory Aftandilian (Boston University).

Concluding remarks were given by Barlow Der Mugrdechian, who emphasized the importance of such a gathering, which brought together younger scholars with more senior colleagues, and provided an opportunity for an interesting exchange of ideas.

The papers presented penetrating insight into the significant role of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire.

The SAS held its Annual Membership Meeting at 4:30PM on Saturday afternoon.

His Excellency Tigran Sargsyan, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States, graciously hosted SAS members and conference participants at a reception held later in the evening at the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia.

Next year’s SAS Annual Meeting will be held in Denver, Colorado, November 21-24.

For more information about the Society for Armenian Studies, or about the SAS Conference, including a full program, please visit the SAS website: [societyforarmenianstudies.com](http://societyforarmenianstudies.com).



L. to R.: Dr. Rouben Adalian, Khatchig Mouradian, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Asya Darbinyan, and Ümit Kurt at the second conference session on “The Aftermath of the Armenian Genocide-Part I.”

**HONORARY CONSUL, FROM PAGE 1**  
Americans of Fresno with a direct tie to the Republic of Armenia.

A dinner reception followed the ribbon-cutting ceremony, attended by numerous influential figures from both the governments of Armenia and the United States. Officials in attendance included the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States Tigran Sargsyan, Consul General of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles Sergey Sarkisov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Arthur Aghabekyan, and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh to the United States Robert Avetisyan. Also present were United States Congressman Jim Costa, members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, headed by Chairman Andreas Borgeas and

Supervisor Debbie Poochigian, California State Senate member Tom Berryhill, Fifth District Court of Appeals Judge Charles Poochigian, and religious and community leaders.

For his first project as Honorary Consul, Apkarian expressed his goal to take a team of medical and dental professionals to Armenia next October to host a medical education conference and provide free care for needy people in rural communities.

“In addition to the project, my goal is to establish a closer tie between the central San Joaquin Valley and Armenia, in all aspects,” said Apkarian.

Guest speakers congratulated Honorary Consul Apkarian and the Armenian community celebrated the momentous occasion. During his remarks, Congressman Costa stated, “The

Armenian community represents the best and the brightest of the immigrants throughout the generations.”

The establishment of the first Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in the United States, in Fresno, is a testament to these words. It depicts the tenacious spirit of the Armenian people who have managed to preserve not only their culture and history, but to flourish and build an Armenian community outside of their homeland.

The establishment of this institution will not only serve to strengthen the Armenian community in Fresno, but will also provide the opportunity to create a stronger connection to the Republic of Armenia. The new Consular Office will provide services for obtaining visas and other diplomatic services.

Dr. Michael Stone Visits Fresno State Armenian Studies Program



L. to R.: Michael Rettig, Bako Oganyan, Tatevik Hovhannissyan, Marine Vardanyan, Dr. Abraham Terian, Dr. Michael Stone, Lilit Grigoryan, Ovsanna Simonyan, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and Aramayis Orkusyan. Dr. Stone, retired professor of Armenian Studies at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, visited with students on Wednesday, November 20.

Peter Hagopian Scholarship Fund Established at Fresno State



Edward Hagopian

STAFF REPORT

Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Barlow Der Mugrdechian announced the establishment of the Peter Mourad Hagopian Memorial Scholarship Fund in the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

Hagopian’s brother, Edward, who will be 93 in December, established the Hagopian Scholarship in memory of his late brother. The scholarships will be

awarded to students enrolled in Armenian and Armenian Studies courses at Fresno State.

Peter Mourad Hagopian was born in Whitinsville, Massachusetts, in 1925, and passed away in California in 2014. The Hagopian family moved to Detroit before World War II. Peter Hagopian served for four years in the United State Navy in WWII, based mostly in the Pacific. In 1947 Hagopian moved to Fresno, where he became a custom tile contractor, donating many hours of work to the California Armenian Home.

Hagopian’s parents, Bedros Hagopian and Anahid (Chimanian) Hagopian, were natives of the village of Govdun, near Sepastia. Mourad of Sepastia was also a native of Govdun and a family friend.

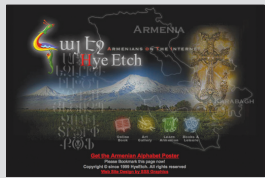
Peter Hagopian is survived by his three children: Cheryl, Melanie, and Valerie.

Armenians on the Internet

MICHAEL RETTIG  
STAFF WRITER

Hye Etch

<http://www.hyeetch.nareg.com.au/index.html>



There are many different websites one can visit to learn about Armenia and its rich culture. One of the most useful of those for Armenians and non-Armenians to broaden their knowledge about Armenian culture is “Hye Etch.” This website combines useful information from various sources into one convenient and easy to navigate website. “Hye Etch” contains over 190 articles with information on topics such as the Armenian Genocide, the Republic of Armenia, arts, and religion.

The website is divided into four categories, with the first being an “online book.” This corner of the website is where all of the information is found. It is the place to start for those who are interested in learning more about Armenian culture and history. The second category is an “art gallery,” which features art and photography from Armenian artists. The third category is a tool for learning the Armenian language and alphabet. It takes the visitor through different lessons and allows them to practice reading and speaking at their own pace. The last category is “books and leisure,” which provides a catalogue of Armenian books for sale. It also provides games, coloring books, wallpapers, and other interesting activities.

These different categories make “Hye Etch” a useful one-stop site for learning about Armenia. “Hye Etch” is full of useful facts and resources to familiarize one with the Armenian culture.



## Armenia Summer Study Trip Participants Present Reflections on May 26-June 11, 2014 Experiences



**L. to R.: Andrew Esguerra, Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Marine Vardanyan, and Hovsep Nagapetian.**

**MARINE VARDANYAN**  
EDITOR

The biggest advocate for furthering knowledge in Armenian history, culture, and language, Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program provides unique experiences for students to better acquaint themselves with Armenian studies.

One such experience is the Summer Study Trip to Armenia. Since 1988, Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian has organized and led numerous groups of students to experience modern-day life in Armenia.

On Tuesday, October 18, 2014, Professor Der Mugrdechian and several of his students presented highlights of their recent Summer Study Trip to Armenia, which took place May 26 to June 11. Professor Der Mugrdechian's colleague in the Armenian Studies Program, Dr. Sergio La Porta, was a co-leader of the trip.

To provide the audience a taste of the Summer Study Trip experience, Professor Der Mugrdechian began the evening with a virtual tour of Armenia as he traced the different locations visited by the group. An image of a familiar local figure appeared on the screen as students posed alongside. The statue of William Saroyan, located in the heart of Yerevan, was one of the first sites visited.

One of the first goals of the trip was for students to understand

the Fresno-Armenia connection. Professor Der Mugrdechian also took the group to the statue of David of Sassoun and encouraged them to compare the similarities and differences with the local statue located in downtown Fresno.

Another important goal was getting students "in touch with cultural history," stated Professor Der Mugrdechian, as he organized visits to the Matenadaran Manuscript Museum, the Museum of Holy Etchmiadzin, the History Museum of Armenia, and more. Exhibits such as the world's largest and smallest manuscripts, the world's oldest shoe, the recipe and ingredients for making the Holy Muron, and ancient relics were only a few

of the rich artifacts the students encountered.

In between the cultural experiences, students were able to visit ancient Armenian churches and monasteries that have withstood the test of time. For the group, visiting centuries old churches such as the Church of Amberd and Katoghike Church was an important priority, as they "illustrate the devout faith of the Armenian people, without which, much would be lost," said Professor Der Mugrdechian.

An important message of the evening's presentation was the idea of giving back to Armenia. Professor Der Mugrdechian discussed a visit by students to the Armenian Genocide Monument where they watered a pine tree planted by a previous Fresno State group in 2011.

The experience was a way to contribute to and reconnect with Armenia, which evoked in the students a desire to build strong connections to Armenia and to return in the future with a purpose.

One of the students on the trip, Hovsep Nagapetian, shared his experiences. He commented on cultural differences, such as the amount of walking done in Yerevan in comparison to Fresno, and he expressed his good fortune in being able to extend his stay in Armenia for one week.

"I was glad to have the opportunity to present and reminisce about the trip. It was



**L. to R.: Lauren Chardukian, Marine Vardanyan, Menas Arisian, Alek Khatchigian, Connor Esraelian, Andrew Esguerra, Hovsep Nagapetian, Sarkis Manavazian, and Suren Oganessian at the 13th century Monastery of Haghartsin.**

a great learning experience and I hope to visit again someday," commented Nagapetian.

Andrew Esguerra shared his impressions of Yerevan and how it is "on par" with western cities. The number of pet boutiques, cafes, and brand-name stores such as Armani and Burberry were all very impressive.

The visits to museums, historic towns and churches, and the opportunity to meet locals provided Esguerra with a well-rounded experience of Armenia. "The trip incorporated all of what it means to be Armenian for me," said Esguerra.

The presentation concluded with questions directed at both the students and to Professor Der Mugrdechian, who shared more of their thoughts, impressions, and future plans.

## Fr. Yessai Bedros Appointed New Pastor at St. Paul Armenian Church



**Fr. Yessai Bedros, Yeretsgin Vartine, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian. In front, Varak and Keghart Bedros.**

*Photo: ASP Archive*

**MARINA CHARDUKIAN**  
STAFF WRITER

New beginnings are opportunities for growth, and for the St. Paul Armenian Church of Fresno, that opportunity became a reality with the appointment of a new parish priest, Reverend Father Yessai Bedros.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, made the appointment on August 4, 2014.

Born in Kamishli, Syria, Father Yessai moved to Fresno with his wife, Vartine, and two sons, Keghart and Varak, only a few months ago. He has since had many positive impressions from parishioners, who have been kind and welcoming to the family.

Fr. Yessai explained how the Armenian community in Fresno is similar to other parishes he has served in, although St. Paul also has its unique character. Fr. Yessai strongly believes that, "all parishes are similar, all parishes have similar problems, because Armenians are similar."

However, Fr. Yessai's biggest challenge at St. Paul is drawing the youth to God. He hopes to bring people closer to God and the Church and nurture a strong tie between the young and the Church. He expressed excitement for the future, which he hopes will include a stronger youth presence.

As part of his goal to connect with the youth, Father Yessai organized an event with the St. Paul ACYO (Armenian Church Youth Organization) on Friday, October 24, in the Haig and Isabel Berberian Social Hall.

All the youth of the Church

were invited to a night of food, games, and socializing. Fr. Yessai opened the gathering with a prayer followed by activities that allowed for a fun time and the opportunity to become familiar with Fr. Yessai in a different setting.

Activities included video games and ping-pong, which is a favorite of Fr. Yessai. The intent of the meeting was to create a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere that would bring the youth to Church.

Fr. Yessai expressed his passion towards youth involvement. "I am young and I enjoy working with youth," he stated. Along with playing ping-pong, Fr. Yessai enjoys soccer and basketball and occasionally plays the piano. His interest in becoming a priest arose early on in childhood.

In 1995, at the age of 12, Fr. Yessai was accepted to the Seminary of the Armenian Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia in Lebanon.

As he matured, Fr. Yessai prayed to God asking if he was going to be a married or an unmarried priest, and shortly after, he received his answer by meeting his wife, Vartine.

Fr. Yessai is excited to be the new parish priest at St. Paul and considers community outreach as one of his biggest goals. He aims to build a family in the Church, stressing that in families one is able to find harmony and problem solving.

The goal for the gathering on October 24 was to bring the youth closer to the Church and to one another. Fr. Yessai will continue to diligently implement ways to unite and strengthen the Church youth.

## David Tataryan Graduates with Minor in Armenian Studies

**David Tataryan**  
Computer Science  
Minor in Armenian Studies

**What encouraged you to complete a Minor in Armenian Studies?**

I wanted to take Armenian Studies courses so I would better understand the history of my culture and people.

**What do you value most from your experiences in the Armenian Studies Program?**

The knowledge I have gained and the people I have met throughout the years.

**What was your favorite Armenian Studies class, activity, or event?**



The 2011 Armenia Summer Study Trip organized by the Armenian Studies Program was my favorite.

**What are your plans after graduation?**

I plan to go to graduate school—I guess I haven't had enough of school.

**Hye Oozh - Saturdays 9:00AM - Noon**

**90.7 FM-KFSR**  
**hyeoozhradio.com**

**Hye Oozh is 90.7 KFSR's weekly program dedicated to contemporary and traditional Armenian music and culture.**

**Current Hye Oozh DJs:**

- Tatevik Ekejian
- Vartush Mesropyan
- Marine Vardanyan



“Grandma’s Tattoos” Screened at CineCulture



Photo: ASP Archive

Left to Right: Andrew Esguerra, Seroun Mouradian, Marine Vardanyan, Suzanne Khardalian, Tatevik Hovhannisyan, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian, PeÅ Holmquist, and Cine-Culture Professor Mary Husain at the Oct. 24 screening.

TATEVIK HOVHANNISYAN  
STAFF WRITER

“The crime was on their faces, every day, and you could see it,” stated film director Suzanne Khardalian. Her grandmother Khanoum was among the countless Armenian girls who, during the Genocide, were kidnapped and forcibly tattooed, with permanent marks on their young faces and hands.

Khardalian’s film, “Grandma’s Tattoos” delves into the story of not only her grandmother, but also the untold stories of other Armenian women who were kidnapped, sexually abused, and tattooed during the Armenian Genocide.

The film screening, organized by the Armenian Studies Program and CineCulture, took place at the Fresno State Leon and Pete Peters Educational Center on Friday, October 24, before an intent audience of 300.

“Grandma’s Tattoos” explores the sexual harassment and rape that took place during the Armenian Genocide, through the story of the director’s own grandmother, Khanoum. Her childhood experience shaped her into a distant grandmother, who never spoke about her trauma.

When the death marches began, Ottoman gendarmes and Kurds kidnapped many children. These children were forcefully converted to Islam, sold, married off, or forced into prostitution. In order to never let these girls forget what happened to them, the faces and hands of these children were tattooed.

The film captures Khardalian’s attempt to investigate and understand the history of her family and the reason why her grandmother was always so distant. Her interviews with her sisters, mother, and great-aunt attempted to decode the meaning behind the “devilish marks”

on her grandmother’s face and hands.

The true story of rape and sexual harassment experienced by her grandmother, and also by other women survivors of the Genocide, was deemed as “amot” or shameful to speak about. Yet these forgotten and hidden stories were brought to the surface by Khardalian, who shed light on the many injustices that took place. Photos of young, solemn Armenian women appeared on the screen. These beautiful girls would never escape the memories of the Genocide as the physical reminders on their bodies would forever keep the pain alive.

Khardalian and her husband, director PeÅ Holmquist, were invited from Sweden to participate in the film screening. Khardalian explained how the idea to create this film arose from a project about the women of the Rwandan Genocide, who had similar marks on their bodies. Her discovery led her to return to her city of birth, Beirut, to research the story behind her grandmother’s tattoos.

The audience was able to interact with both directors, asking questions, but also sharing personal stories. Many expressed their gratitude for the production of the film for telling the stories of all the women who were mistreated, abused, and forgotten. Some individuals were moved to tears as they discussed genocide and their own family story.

Khardalian, however, emphasized that the film was created not only to raise awareness about the Armenian Genocide, but also to teach and to educate about the violence committed against women during war and genocide.

Christopher Orozco Wins Competition in Graphic Design Class for Armenian Genocide Logo Design



STAFF REPORT

When the students in the Graphic Design class (GD 178) were given an assignment to design a logo for the upcoming Armenian Genocide Centennial, very few of them were aware of just what the Armenian Genocide was.

Prof. Barlow DerMugrdchian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program, was invited to speak to the Graphic Design class on Tuesday, September 23, to introduce students to the history and significance of the Armenian Genocide and the upcoming Centennial on April 24, 1915.

The challenge for students was to develop informational materials, a logo, a poster, a website design, and a design for a mailer, that would be used by the Armenian Studies Program

to bring wider attention to the Armenian Genocide. Students were given a month to develop their ideas, before presenting them to class faculty Rebecca Barnes and Martin Valencia, as well as to Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian.

There was a buzz in the atmosphere on Thursday, October 23, when thirteen students presented the results of their work. The competition was extraordinary, and the student projects were outstanding.

After much deliberation, Christopher Orozco, a senior working towards his BFA degree in Graphic Design, was chosen as the student whose work best represented the goals of the competition.



Senior Christopher Orozco had the winning concept in the design competition.

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

ASO Celebrates 40th Anniversary



Standing, back row: Menas Arisian, Andrew Esguerra, Aramayis Orkusyan, Tony Terzian, Benjamin Tanielian, Michael Rettig, Noel Lenard, Anto Sakayan, Haverj Stanboulian, Ani Grigoryan, and Levon Manucharyan. Seated, left to right, Tatevik Hovhannisyan, Marine Vardanyan, Sosse Kendoyan, Lilit Grigoryan, and Elena Sarmazian.

Photo: ASP Archive

HAVERJ STANBOULIAN  
STAFF WRITER

As the end of the semester approaches, the Armenian Students Organization continues with its diverse activities and events. On Saturday, October 11, ASO celebrated its 40th anniversary with a Barbeque Night. Members played games, enjoyed Armenian food, and celebrated the anniversary.

On Sunday, October 19, in the spirit of Halloween, ASO members visited Hobb’s Grove “Halloween Haunt” in search of a scare. The group succeeded, according to ASO member Suzy Tsaturyan, who commented that the event “was really fun, and scary” and “a night to remember, because I spent it with my friends.” The members experienced all three attractions: the “Haunted Hay Ride,” the “Haunted Maze,” and the “Haunted House.” A day after Halloween, the annual ASO “Movie Night” took place with a screening of the comedy-horror film *Zombieland*.

Each ASO member has a constant drive to help make a difference in the community. With the emphasis of November as a month of giving thanks, ASO showed their love of giving

back through supporting and volunteering at various events.

One such event was the “Blood Drive and Coffee Hour,” organized by the HYE Movement (Armenian Genocide Centennial Youth Committee). The “Blood Drive” took place on Sunday, November 9, at the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, where ASO members interacted with children and ran different games, with some members donating blood. “The Blood Drive was a really fun event with a lot of potential to become bigger in the upcoming years,” said Elena Sarmazian.

The volunteering continued for ASO as they honored United States Veterans at Ararat Cemetery on Saturday, November 8, by placing flags on the graves of Armenian Veterans.

ASO will conclude the month of November continuing the theme of giving back by visiting patients at Children’s Hospital of Central California for Thanksgiving crafts on Wednesday, November 26.

ASO members are looking forward to the month of December, with a walk on Christmas Tree Lane on December 10 and the Annual Christmas Party on December 21.



ASO members traveled to Hobb’s Grove “Halloween Haunt” in Sanger for some scary fun.

Photo: ASP Archive

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## New Music Ensemble Concert on March 9, 2015 to Feature Music by Living Armenian Composers



Photo: ASP Archive

**Aaron M Luna (clarinet), Lianna Stuart (violin), Aimee Dockum (cello), Joseph Bohigian (percussion), Cassandra Barnes (flute), Rebecca Messer (piano), and Josh Locher (saxophone). Pianists Nathaniel Musso and Daniel Ruiz are not pictured.**

### SPECIAL TO HYE SHARZHOOM

The Fresno State New Music Ensemble is a student-managed chamber ensemble dedicated to the performance and promotion

Bohigian, Eve Beglarian, Artur Avanesov, Tigran Mansourian, Hayk Arsenyan, Anna Aidinian, and more, in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The

**New Music Ensemble-Spring 2015 Concert**  
**Monday, March 9, 2015 at 8:00 pm**  
**Music Building Concert Hall**  
**Fresno State**  
**Free admission**

of music by living composers. The Ensemble presents at least one concert each semester, in addition to other performances around the state.

On Monday, March 9, 2015, the Ensemble will present a concert featuring music by living Armenian composers from around the world, such as Charles Amirkhanian, Joseph

Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State is co-sponsoring the Concert.



**Joseph Bohigian**

This performance will be the second for the New Music Ensemble. The students in the Ensemble are responsible for producing the entire Concert, from selecting and performing the music, to promoting the Concert. New Music Ensemble

percussionist and composer Joseph Bohigian has written a new piece commemorating the Genocide Centennial, which will premiere at the March 9 Concert.

The performance will also feature the winner of the New Music Ensemble's "Call for Scores by Armenian Composers."

The New Music Ensemble will also present the same concert at the Brand Library & Arts Center in Glendale, California on Saturday, March 28.

Founded in early 2014 by student musicians dedicated to the performance of new music, the Fresno State New Music Ensemble is in its second season.

Works are chosen from a wide range of contemporary composers and performed by musicians devoted to promoting their work.

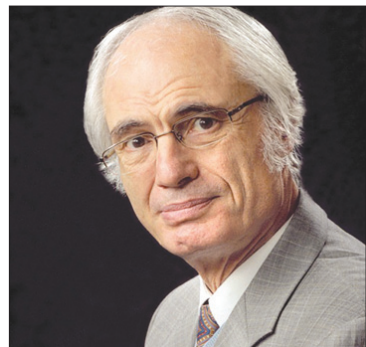
The ensemble is made up of some of the top performers in the Fresno State Music Department, including percussionist Joseph Bohigian, cellist Aimee Dockum, violinist Lianna Stuart, clarinetist Aaron M. Luna, saxophonist Josh Locher, flutist Cassandra Barnes, and pianists Nathaniel Musso and Daniel Ruiz.

Members of the Ensemble have performed around the world in New York City (Composer's Voice Concert Series), Los Angeles (Walt Disney Concert Hall), Yerevan, Armenia (Aram Khachaturian Museum Hall), and Durango, Colorado (Music in the Mountains).

For more information, contact Joseph Bohigian at 559-217-5285 or josephbohigian@gmail.com.



**Charles Amirkhanian**



**Tigran Mansourian**

### MONUMENT, FROM PAGE 1

adding "We are known as a leader in teaching and scholarship in Armenian Studies."

President Castro emphasized the importance of diversity and education at Fresno State and the need for students to learn about past genocides. "This Monument will inform and educate people about the Armenian Genocide and bring awareness to the problem of genocides throughout history and throughout the world."

"There will not be one university student who can come to Fresno State and miss this Monument. The Monument will be situated south of the Satellite Student Union in an area that is heavily used by students—the most popular walkway in the entire university. We are very proud to have this Monument residing here on our campus," said Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Fresno State Vice-President for Administration. "Many students will pass the



Photo: Raffi Mouradian

**Keyan Armenian Community School students singing the Armenian National Anthem at the groundbreaking.**

Monument and be inspired to learn of its significance."

The groundbreaking included a blessing ceremony that represented the unity of the Armenian people despite their dispersion throughout the world. Four representatives—Sarkis Sahatdjian, Debbie Adishian-

Astone, Marine Vardanyan, and Areen Yemenjian—each held a plate of soil from the Republic of Armenia, the regions of historic Armenia, and the border that now separates the two. The soil was blessed by Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese and by Archbishop

## Eench Ga Chga

HAVERJ STANBOULIAN • STAFF WRITER

**If you could describe Armenians in one word, what word would it be and why?**



**Tro Karoghlanian**  
**Senior**  
**Major: Business**

I would describe Armenians as "religious." Armenians have focused on religion more than anything. The majority of our art and architecture were created for a religious purpose. Our morals and customs have been drawn from the Christian faith. Our national identity as Christians dates back to 301 AD, when Armenia became the first nation to recognize Christianity as its state religion.



**Anna Sislian**  
**Junior**  
**Major: Mathematics**

The word I would use to describe Armenians is "survivors." Historically, other countries have ruled Armenians, some of which no longer exist. But Armenia exists and Armenians survived the Genocide of 1915. Armenians survived the Karabakh War. Armenians survived and will

survive in foreign countries. We are survivors.



**Bako Oganyan**  
**Senior**  
**Major: Electrical Eng.**

Armenians are "khohem" or "wise." Many nations have tried to stamp out our people but have been unsuccessful. Armenians in general were rather successful under the Ottoman Empire despite being persecuted for being Christians, and being forced to pay the "dhimma" tax. Armenians have flourished even in distant lands, such as Canada, China, Sweden, and the United States, far away from our "Yerkir Avetyats." Jesus said be "wise as serpents, and innocent as doves."



**Levon Manucharyan**  
**Senior**  
**Major: Biology**

The one word I describe Armenians as would be "tenacious." Tenacious, because we have achieved so much, with what little we have. We always aim for bigger and better and never settle for the average. Just look at how much we have accomplished since the Genocide.



**Sona Soghomonian**  
**Junior**  
**Major: Chemistry**

I would describe Armenians as "resilient." Resilient, because Armenians have frequently been persecuted and oppressed, but we are still here and are doing really well.

Photos: Barlow Der Mugerdechian and Hagop Ohanessian



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Ara Sarafian, left, and co-mayor Hüseyin Olan in front of the old Armenian Protestant church in Bitlis.

BITLIS, FROM PAGE 1

historic vote on August 8 was ignored by the governor of Bitlis because less than two-thirds of the total number of votes were cast.

The co-mayors of Bitlis, Nevin Daşdemir Dağkiran and Hüseyin Olan, true to their spirit, reiterated their commitment to make these name changes and put the matter to a second vote on November 19, 2014. The second vote passed the governor’s two-thirds threshold.

After the vote, the co-mayors stated that they did not expect the governor to oppose the municipality’s decision this time.

The renaming of “William Saroyan Street” has been a sensitive initiative. The people

of Bitlis have expressed their pride in one of their own famous sons—and they have embraced a Diasporan Armenian as one of their own.

The expression of such sentiments would not have been allowed ten years ago.

“These name changes reflect the profound changes Turkey is going through,” said Ara Sarafian of the Gomidas Institute (London).

“We will continue working with Bitlis municipality on similar projects,” he added.

“William Saroyan Street” will now be the main street in the Saptor district of the city, which has a commanding position overlooking the main citadel of the city.

The Saroyan family came from this district. Many original houses in this area, inhabited by Armenians before 1915, remain standing today.

The renaming of “William Saroyan Street” is part of a bridge-building operation the Gomidas Institute initiated in 2013 – before the current co-mayors and town council were even elected.

These efforts resulted in increased contacts, a public exhibition on Bitlis Armenians, as well as other projects.

The Gomidas Institute’s work in Bitlis has been supported by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. For more information please contact info@gomidas.org.

DOUZJIAN, FROM PAGE 1

Perspectives.”

Since its inception, film has been an important medium that has provided a new lens through which to think about complex issues. Filmmakers have used the medium to tell the difficult stories of atrocities, to depict deeply disturbing crimes against humanity, and to urge awareness and action.

“[Film] is a powerful medium for challenging the status quo and disrupting the worldview of audiences,” says Dr. Douzjian. Indeed, anyone who has watched a film about the Armenian Genocide or the Holocaust can attest to the ability of film to express the inexpressibility of genocide.

Students taking the course will study films that deal with the Armenian Genocide as well as considering filmic representations of the Holocaust, the Cambodian Genocide, and the Rwandan Genocide.

However, the class will not consist merely of watching films.

Students can plan on broadening their analytic skills as Dr. Douzjian would like to “engage [students] with theoretical readings on trauma, memory, and historiography in order to develop their analyses of the films.”

On a microscopic level, Dr. Douzjian hopes that after completing her course, “students will find the theoretical and



Photo: Veronique Werz

L. to R.: Andreas Werz, Karen Shakhgaldyan, Tatevik Hovhannisyan, Armine Grigoryan, Karen Kocharyan, and Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian after the November 14 concert.

KHACHATURIAN TRIO, FROM PAGE 1

Trio is comprised of pianist Armine Grigoryan, violinist Karen Shakhgaldyan, and cellist Karen Kocharyan. Each of the members of the Trio received their education at prestigious institutions, including the Yerevan State Music Conservatory and the Moscow Conservatory, and harbor deep musicality. Their virtuoso performances have been heard worldwide in Vienna, Hamburg, Leipzig, Munich, as well as venues in Armenia, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, China, Australia, Central and South America, and now the United States.

Although it was pleasant to sit back and enjoy an evening of beautifully performed music, the Khachaturian Trio performed with a much deeper cause that affects all Armenians in the Diaspora as well as in Armenia. Their Concert at Fresno State was included in the “100-concerts” series—100 concerts dedicated to the memory of the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide, sponsored by the “State Commission on Coordination of the Events Dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide,” the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia and the Pyunik Pan-Armenian Fund.

“For all Armenians the number 100 is a symbol of both sorrow and hope for victory. There are many events that are being dedicated to the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide and Armenia has created many programs to help finance these projects,” reflected Karen Kocharyan.

Interestingly, the 100 concerts

around the world will not only be performed by Armenian musicians, but also by renowned foreign artists. According to Kocharyan, the goal of the “100-concerts” project is “to show that even 100 years later, the Armenian culture is still alive and thriving.”

On a more local level, the Khachaturian Trio (www.khachaturiantrio.com) performance was part of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert Series and was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program. An ongoing collaboration between the Armenian Studies Program, directed by Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and the Keyboard Concert Series, directed by Andreas Werz, has brought Armenian master musicians such as Sergey Babayan, Vardan Mamikonian, Nareh Arghamanyan, and others to Fresno State over the past several years.

These concerts, as well as the Khachaturian Trio concert on Friday night, attract not only a large Armenian crowd, but also a large non-Armenian audience.

It is a humbling and inspiring feeling to realize that Fresno State and the Armenian Studies Program have been a long-time hub for the same goals that projects such as “100-concerts” (http://www.100-concerts.am/) aim to achieve.

*The Armenian Studies Program would like to acknowledge the special support for the Concert from the AGBU, Hamazkayin, the Tekeyan Cultural Association, Dr. Varouj & Lena Altebarmakian, Bob Der Mugrdechian, and Alice & Berge Bulbulian.*

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filmic texts in the class useful for thinking about genocide in new and complex ways.” In broader terms, however, Dr. Douzjian’s greatest hope is that “students will never watch another movie without thinking about how to interpret it.”

Although Dr. Douzjian often tries to incorporate an Armenian novel, play, epic, or film in the many general education courses she teaches, the Armenian Studies

120T course will be the first time that she has designed a course that centers on an Armenian topic.

Excited for the semester ahead, Dr. Douzjian stated “For the first time, I’ll be bringing my Armenian studies expertise to an entire course. Naturally, I’m thrilled about it!”

Much the same, the Armenian Studies Program is excited to welcome Dr. Douzjian to Fresno State.





President Castro addressed the groundbreaking audience.

## MONUMENT, FROM PAGE 6

grandchildren, keep their memory, their sacrifices, and their legacy alive,” stated Archbishop Mardirossian. “In the end, the truth always prevails. The enemy has tried to cover, distort and ignore the truth for nearly a century. We will continue to tell the world of the horrors endured by our ancestors and relentlessly demand proper recognition, justice, and reparation for the colossal loss of life and land.”

“This monument will remind us all that we as Armenians are

living monuments to the memory of the martyrs of the Armenian Genocide,” said Archbishop Derderian. “This Monument will be the symbol of the resurrected life of our nation.”



Congressman Jim Costa

The Republic of Armenia was represented at the event by Consul Levon Minasyan. He spoke about the Armenian goal of Genocide recognition throughout the world. “We believe that the only way to prevent genocides and crimes against humanity is the international recognition and

condemnation of these crimes.”

Congressman Jim Costa echoed these sentiments: “Sadly we see later into the twentieth century and even into the twenty-first century, genocides occurring around the world. That’s why this Monument is important and that’s why we need to construct this monument—for the souls of the martyrs, and more importantly, for the future generations of this country and around the world. They should never forget what happened to the Armenian people.”

Other speakers included the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Fresno, Berj Apkarian, Vice President of the AGC, Varoujan Der Simonian, and Assemblyman Jim Patterson.

The Monument will be a visible representation of the community’s resolve to never forget what happened to the sufferings of their ancestors. The ceremony left the audience inspired and eager to see the finished work, which will be completed in time for the Genocide’s Centennial Commemoration on April 24, 2015.



Consul of Armenia in Los Angeles, Levon Minasyan

## Armenian Orphan Rug Displayed at White House Visitor Center in Washington, DC

The Armenian Orphan Rug was displayed from November 18-23, 2014 at the White House Visitor Center. The rug was a gift to President Calvin Coolidge in 1925.

Left to Right: Dr. Arsen Marsoobian, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Dr. Heghnar Watenpaugh, and Ümit Kurt.

Photo: Keith Watenpaugh

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## Karabagh President Bako Sahakyan and Ambassador Sargsyan Visit Site of Armenian Genocide Monument



Karabagh (Artsakh) President Bako Sahakyan center, with Ambassador Tigran Sargsyan, third from left, at Fresno State.



L. to R.: Mrs. Mary Castro, Dr. Joseph Castro, Archbishop Derderian, Berj Apkarian, Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, and Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian at the groundbreaking.



ASO members gathered at the November 2 groundbreaking.

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