

HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐՀՈՍՄ



38th Year

March 2017

Vol. 38, No. 3 (137)

Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

Armenian Culture Featured at USDA Cultural Diversity Day



Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, center, with members of the USDA Cultural Diversity Committee.

Photo: ASP Archive

MICHAEL RETTIG
EDITOR

On Monday, January 23, Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian delivered a presentation on Armenian culture to the United States Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Research Service in Parlier. This talk was a part of the USDA-ARS's effort to educate its employees on the Valley's diverse cultures by holding four presentations a year with speakers from various backgrounds. Karen

Wells and Jerry Serimian from the Cultural Diversity Committee asked Prof. Der Mugrdechian to speak because "we live among so many Armenians in the Valley, but don't really know about their background."

Professor Der Mugrdechian delivered a PowerPoint presentation to a full room of USDA employees, concisely taking them on a journey through Armenia's rich and ancient history. Der Mugrdechian highlighted Armenia's cultural achievements

SEE [USDA PAGE 6](#)

ASP 40th Anniversary Banquet



Dr. Mary Papazian

Photo: ASP Archive

MARINE VARDANYAN
STAFF WRITER

The Annual Armenian Studies Program Banquet is a much-anticipated event, held every Spring to recognize the accomplishments of the Program and its students. This year, the Banquet will also celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program.

Dr. Mary Papazian, President

of San Jose State University is the featured guest speaker at the Banquet. A native of Southern California, Dr. Papazian is no stranger to the world of Armenian studies. While at UCLA, where she received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in English, Dr. Papazian was an active member of the Armenian Students' Association. At UCLA she took courses from Dr. Richard Hovannisian, professor of Armenian and Near

SEE [ASP PAGE 7](#)

President's Armenian Leadership Council Holds Inaugural Meeting at Smittcamp Alumni House

STAFF REPORT

The President's Armenian Leadership Council of Fresno State held its inaugural meeting at 7:30AM on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at the Smittcamp Alumni House on the Fresno State campus. Fresno State President Dr. Joseph I. Castro welcomed the Leadership Council members to the breakfast meeting and emphasized the significance of the Council and its future activities.

The purpose of the California State University, Fresno President's Armenian Leadership Council is to serve as a liaison to engage the Armenian Community, support the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State and advise the President on University, regional and global matters. Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities spoke about the mission of the College and about the role of the Armenian Studies Program, which



Photo: Moon-Ja Yunouthe

Seated, left to right: Jane Bedrosian, Dean Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, President Dr. Joseph I. Castro, Justice Marvin Baxter. Standing, left to right: Phil Maroot, Victor Sahatdjian, Dr. Sergio La Porta, Prof. Arakel Arisian, Jacqueline Lion, Debbie Adishian-Astone, Warren Paboojian, Shirley Melikian-Armbruster, Marine Vardanyan, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and Kenneth Peters.

is housed within the College.

Leadership Council members were actively involved in the

meeting, adding their comments and questions.

SEE [LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PAGE 3](#)

Thomas Kooyumjian Foundation Establishes \$50,000 Scholarship to Benefit Armenian Studies Students

STAFF REPORT

Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian announced that the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship was established with a \$50,000 gift to Fresno State on January 25, 2017.

Thomas A. Kooyumjian passed away in 1985 and his Foundation was established in 1987. The goals of the Foundation are to encourage education, with an emphasis on the appreciation of fine arts. Kooyumjian was an employee and inventor at Belmor

Manufacturing and excelled in his field, but also wanted to embrace the finer arts and encourage the same in others. The current President of the Foundation is Tony Kooyumjian.

Over the past several years the Foundation has supported many projects of the Armenian Studies Program, including co-sponsoring piano concerts in conjunction with the Philip Lorenz Keyboard Concert Series at Fresno State. One of the Foundation's goals is to encourage all generations to experience and be educated in the effects of fine arts on society as a whole.

The Foundation is also one of the sponsors of the Armenian Genocide Monument on the Fresno State campus.

The Kooyumjian Endowed Scholarship will benefit students within the Armenian Studies Program, in the College of Arts and Humanities.

Scholarship recipients will be known as the Kooyumjian Scholars in Armenian Studies. Per the endowment's conditions, recipients shall be enrolled in any course within the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

California Genocide Curriculum Subject of Radio Interview

ANTO SAKAYAN
STAFF WRITER



Left to right: Prof. Jeffrey Purvis, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and Dean Justin Atkinson.

Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Coordinator of Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program, was interviewed on KFCF (88.1 FM) radio's "Valley Views on the Law" on January 5, 2017. The interview, conducted by Justin Atkinson, Academic Dean of the San Joaquin College of Law and Jeffrey G. Purvis, Professor of Constitutional Law, addressed the importance of teaching about the Armenian Genocide in California

SEE [INTERVIEW PAGE 6](#)

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.

Donna and Hagop Didizian, London, England, for a copy of *Khatchkar*, by Hrair Hawk Khatcherian, in English, French and Armenian, 515pp. This lavishly produced volume presents an illustrated history of Armenian *Khatchkars* (Stone Crosses).

Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Los Angeles, California, for a copy of his newly published *Armenian Communities of the Northeastern Mediterranean: Musa Dagħ-Dört Yol-Kessab* (Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda Publishers, 2016), 512 pp., in English. This is number 14 in the UCLA series on “Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces.”

Japanese-Armenian Friendship Association, Kawasaki, Japan, for a copy of its *Newsletter*, Vol. 2 (2016), in Japanese and English. The Japanese-Armenian Friendship Society celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2016.

Karen Cookson, Escalon, California, for a gift of two books: William Saroyan’s *My Name is Aram* and *The Human Comedy*.

Charles J. Janigian, San Jose, for a copy of his new work “Complete Correspondence: William Saroyan and Archie Minasian 1929-1981,” edited by Charles J. Janigian with Mary Alexander, Diane Minasian, and William B. Secrest, Jr., in English, 361pp. with photographs and illustrations (San Jose, CA: Forever Saroyan, LLC, 2016) and (“A Christmas Psalm,” [1935] and “A Christmas Psalm, 1939” [1939] written by William Saroyan.

Larry & Marilyn Shuklian, Los Osos, for a copy of Lindy Avakian’s *The Cross and the Crescent* and for a small Armenian tapestry from their grandmother.

ASO Begins New Semester with Elections and Social Activities



Photo: ASP Archive

L. to R.: Anoush Hakopyan, Kara Statler, David Safrazian, Arthur Khatchatrian, Marina Chardukian, Dikran Dzhezyan, Michael Rettig, Aramayis Orkusyan, and Abraham Tanousian. Seated, left to right: Claire Kasaian, Melanie Kojaartinian, Diana Gasparyan, Prof. Hagop Ohanessian, and Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

KARA STATLER
STAFF WRITER

The Armenian Students Organization has been busy for the past few months. In the first meeting of the semester, members elected two new executives; Diana Gasparyan, President, and Kara Statler, Vice President.

On Friday December 16, 2016, ASO had its Annual Christmas Party. The party was a huge

success with great music, food, and dancing. Members danced late into the night and enjoyed a photo booth with music provided by DJ Diko. The desserts were handmade by dedicated ASO members. On Monday, February 20, ASO members enjoyed a night of socializing and games at the Statler family residence. This event was a great way for new members to meet the group in a casual setting.

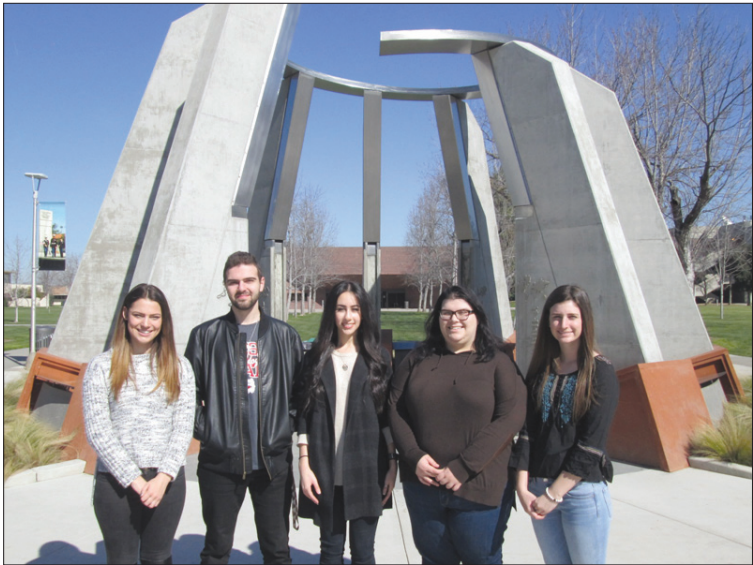


Photo: Hagop Ohanessian

L. to R.: Executive members Claire Kasaian, Arthur Khatchatrian, Diana Gasparyan, Kara Statler, and Molly Gostanian at the Armenian Genocide Monument at Fresno State.

California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2017 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education-Breadth, Humanities, Area C2				
• Arm 1A-Elementary Armenian (Class #72291)	4	10:00A-11:50A	MW	B. Der Mugrdechian
General Education-Breadth, Arts, Area C1				
• ArmS 20-Arts of Armenia (Class #73056)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TuTh	B. Der Mugrdechian
General Education-Breadth, Area D3				
• ArmS 10-Intro Arm Studies (Class #73571)	3	3:30P-4:45P	MW	S. La Porta
General Education-Integration, Area IC				
• Arm 148-Mastrpcs Arm Cult (Class #73706)	3	9:00-9:50A	MWF	H. Ohanessian
• Arm 148-Mastrpcs Arm Cult (Class #73572)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	B. Der Mugrdechian
• Arm 148-Mastrpcs Arm Cult (Class #73570)	3	12:00P-12:50P	MWF	H. Ohanessian
Upper Division Armenian Studies Course				
• ArmS 108A-Arm History I (Class #72292)	3	2:00P-3:15P	MW	S. La Porta

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 ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

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Hagop Ohanessian, Lecturer, Armenian Studies Program

Dickran Kouymjian, Berberian Professor Emeritus of Armenian Studies

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.

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Dr. Robson Presents on “Making of Minorities in the Ottoman Empire”



Left to right: Prof. Barlow Der Mugerdechian, Dr. Bedross Der Matossian, Dr. Sergio La Porta, Dr. Laura Robson, Dr. Devin Naar, Dr. Janet Klein, Dr. Stacy Farenthold.

MICHAEL RETTIG
EDITOR

The Ottoman Empire of the 20th century was a complex region; home to a variety of ethnic and religious groups. However, the multifaceted demography of the Empire did not warrant the terminology imposed upon it by European powers. On Friday, February 3, Dr. Laura Robson (Portland State University) delivered a timely presentation on “War, Peace, and the Making of Minorities in the Post-Ottoman Middle East, 1919-1923,” in which she challenged the audience to think more carefully about the term “minority” in defining the people cohabiting the Ottoman Empire.

The lecture followed a workshop on “Ethnic and Religious Minorities in the Ottoman Empire,” held earlier in the day, which was organized by Dr. Stacy Farenthold (History Department) and Dr. Sergio La Porta (Armenian Studies Program).

Both events were sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, the Leon S. Peters Foundation, the College of Social Sciences, the Islamic Studies Lecture Series, and the History Department.

According to Robson, the term “minority” is problematic in referring to Ottoman subjects because it did not accurately describe the relationship the government had with its diverse populations. “We don’t have minorities in the late Ottoman Empire. We have identifiable communities with different sets of relations with the central authorities that are becoming more problematic and violent by World War I,” explained Robson. “Minority” was an invented term imposed on the Middle East in order to change the political landscape.

The concept of minorities originated in Europe at the collapse of the Habsburg Empire, as European powers were determining which post-Habsburg nationalities would achieve their own state, and what to do with those who did not. The concept of minorities was formalized at the Treaty of Versailles, in which European powers identified minorities

as groups who possessed collective rights that could only be protected by a power outside of the state in which they lived. States were thus monolithic entities where minorities did not comfortably fit. According to Dr. Robson, this allowed the imperial European powers to intervene in the Middle East through the League of Nations on the grounds of protecting these minorities. However, Dr. Robson noted that the “minority” label only hurt those who it was supposedly meant to help.

Robson demonstrated the harm that the process of minoritization inflicted on post-Ottoman subjects by examining the relationship between the British and Assyrians in Iraq. Assyrians arrived as refugees in Iraq in 1918. The British marched these refugees into Baqubah, where approximately one third died along the way.

When the Iraqi people revolted against British rule after World War I, the British set up a client monarchy under Faisal I. However, the British felt the need to maintain an army in the region to combat anti-colonial Arabs and Kurds. They recruited an army of reluctant Assyrian refugees to police the region, thus straining relations between the Assyrians and their Kurdish and Arabic neighbors.

In 1924, control of Northern Iraq was still contested by both Turkey and British-backed Iraq. The British succeeded in sending the matter to the League of Nations, which would determine which nation had a stronger claim to the region. According to Robson, the British used the minority status of the Assyrian community to argue for British control over Northern Iraq.

“They started explicitly and repeatedly referring to the Assyrians as a minority who required external protections that only Britain could provide,” explained Robson. By the early 1930s, the Iraqi government became increasingly hostile towards the Assyrian refugees, who they viewed as “colonial stooges.” When the British abandoned the region, the Iraqi army massacred thousands of Assyrians.

Robson concluded by stressing

Mouradian Gives Lecture on Unique Notebooks of Midwives Siphora & Nuritza Shnorhokian

MICHAEL RETTIG
EDITOR

Reconstructing historic life in the Ottoman Empire has been difficult for the Armenian people because of the cataclysmic rupture the Genocide engendered between the Armenians and their past. Birth records were destroyed, churches burned, and populations eradicated. This has made it increasingly important for Armenians to utilize the remaining fragments of their past to piece together their history. Kazan Visiting Professor (Fall 2016) Dr. Khatchig Mouradian demonstrated the importance of this process in his illustrated presentation on “The Tale of Two Midwives: The Notebooks of Siphora and Nuritza Shnorhokian of Aintab, 1890-1930” on November 30, 2016. This was his third and final lecture in the series “Genocide and Resilience” as part of the Fall Lecture Series of the Armenian Studies Program.

Dr. Mouradian stumbled by accident upon the notebooks of two midwives from Aintab, Siphora and Nuritza Shorhokian, when his friend mentioned having them in his possession. The Shnorhokian sisters delivered thousands of babies in Aintab from various religious and ethnic backgrounds between the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. Their notebooks contained detailed information such as the names of the infants they delivered, family backgrounds, and child mortality rates.

Dr. Mouradian did not know how he would use the notebooks, but recognized their historic significance and proceeded to scan them. His opportunity to utilize the notebooks came when scholars from Aintab (Turkey) invited Dr. Mouradian to speak for the Armenian Genocide Centennial in 2015, the first commemorative event of its kind in Aintab. Dr. Mouradian explained that he did not want to give a mere historic account of the Genocide, but wanted to connect his largely Turkish and Kurdish audience to the event on a more personal level.

“Often, the best way to reach audiences is not to go into details about what happened, but to try to connect with them using stories



Dr. Khatchig Mouradian, center, at the November 30 lecture.

that mean something to them,” said Dr. Mouradian, who realized that the story of the Shnorhokian sisters would be the perfect connection between the Genocide and his audience in Aintab. “When I look at you, I can’t help but wonder if your ancestors were born into the hands of these Armenian midwives. Theirs would have been the first hands to hold your grandparents or great grandparents. If you want to honor your own history, you will honor the history and the memory of these women as well.” Curious natives of Aintab have since approached Dr. Mouradian wondering if their ancestors were listed in the notebooks.

According to the Shnorhokian notebooks, the number of Armenian births in Aintab decreased after the Genocide, while non-Armenian births increased. He told his audience in Aintab, “you know why.” Dr. Mouradian explained that he did not have to use the word “genocide,” but rather let the sources speak for themselves. He explained that the Shnorhokian sisters were forced to leave Aintab in 1923. “You know why. They were forced to leave their home town, only able to return 100 years later as a story.”

Nuritza and Siphora arrived in Aleppo after the Genocide, where their notebooks revealed that they delivered Armenians from various provinces of the Ottoman Empire, all of whom ended up in Aleppo as a result of the deportations. Dr. Mouradian was thus able to use the notebooks to further corroborate evidence of the Armenian Genocide and to personally connect the history

to the contemporary residents of Aintab.

Furthermore, Dr. Mouradian explained that the notebooks added to the historic record of midwives in the Ottoman Empire. Most current records detail the lives of midwives who served the upper echelons of Ottoman society, rather than the commoners’ midwives.

Dr. Mouradian concluded his lecture by highlighting the selfless nature and resilience of the Shnorhokian sisters in performing their duties during such a tumultuous period of Armenian history.

The sisters helped mothers of all backgrounds through the entire process, from pregnancy to birth, and beyond, without seeking to profit from their customers. Dr. Mouradian explained that the sisters visited mothers after their infants had grown and asked to borrow the infants’ old clothes to donate to more recent mothers.

“These women were extremely selfless. We talk about heroes on the battlefield, but it’s important to note that not all heroes are on horseback, and not all heroes carry weapons. These two sisters played such a key role in the life of a community at a time when the community was essentially oscillating between survival and destruction.”

“Ultimately these different pieces of Armenian history allow us to think about the Armenian experience in a way that is different. It shows us not only the extent of our loss, but the resilience and dedication of these individuals who survived and thrived.”

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL,
FROM PAGE 1

Prof. Barlow Der Mugerdechian, Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program gave a brief report on the Program’s activities and gave a vision for the future of the Program. This year the Program marks its 40th anniversary with a Banquet on March 19.

Dr. Sergio La Porta, Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno

State gave an update on the Armenian Genocide Monument at Fresno State, reporting that an endowment was being created for the maintenance of the Monument.

The members of the Leadership Council are: Debbie Adishian-Astone, Dr. Varoujan Altebarmakian Professor Arakel Arisian, Shirley Melikian-Armbruster, Justice Marvin Baxter, Jane Bedrosian, Professor Barlow Der Mugerdechian, N.

Leon Dermenjian, Dr. Janice Emerzian, John Gahvejian, Dr. Arnold Gazarian, Professor Sergio La Porta, Jacqueline Lion, Phil Maroot, Warren Paboojian, Kenneth Peters, Hon. Charles (Chuck) Poochigian, Victor Sahatdjian, and Marine Vardanyan.

The initial term of this Leadership Council is February 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020 and the Council will meet at least twice each year.

that the origins of many of the problems facing the contemporary Middle East arose out of this process of minoritization.

“The populations themselves are longstanding, but their organization into oppositional minorities and majorities was a

result of European intervention and the violence of World War I.”

Cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan in Keyboard Concert at Fresno State



Left to right: Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan, pianist Julio Elizalde, Keyboard Concert Series director Andreas Werz, and Tiroui Melkonian after the January 29 concert.

DIANA GASPARYAN
STAFF WRITER

The Concert Hall at Fresno State was graced by the performance of master cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan on Sunday, January 29. His skill and artistry left the audience in admiration as he played beautiful pieces by composers Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, and Harutyunyan.

Since winning the Gold Medal in Cello at the 2011 Tchaikovsky International Competition in Moscow, Hakhnazaryan has gained critical acclaim and performed with some of the most prestigious orchestras around the world. He is recognized internationally as one of the finest cellists of his generation.

Julio Elizalde, an accomplished artist who has enjoyed a versatile career, accompanied Hakhnazaryan on the piano. The afternoon program included works by DeBussy, Massenet, and Paganini.

The Armenian Studies Program in cooperation with Fresno State's Keyboard Concert Series, under the direction of Prof. Andreas Werz, made the concert possible. "We have had a very productive relationship with the Keyboard Concert Series, which has been beneficial to our community, because there is no other venue like this in Fresno," said Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program. "We bring the top pianists, cellists, and musicians on a regular basis, and we have had a positive reaction from not only the Armenian community but also from others who have come to listen." This connection is what

gives the Fresno community the opportunity to enjoy world-class music and performances. The Thomas A. Koouyumjian Family Foundation was a major sponsor of the Concert.

When Hakhnazaryan performed, the mood of the entire hall changed, with the audience becoming entranced by his spirit and passionate playing. "I hear wonderful cellists every day, but I had never experienced beauty to this degree before. When he played John Williams' 'Theme from Schindler's List,' we all started crying," said University High School student Liana Gasparyan. Everyone left the auditorium impressed and satisfied.

Though the Yerevan-born musician has performed in venues such as the Carnegie Hall in New York and the Salle Pleyel in Paris, Hakhnazaryan said that he enjoyed performing at Fresno State. "The audience was very warm and friendly and I was happy to see so many Armenians in the audience. It created a great atmosphere."

Hakhnazaryan performed with tenderness and emotion, which he said was influenced by his Armenian heritage. "We have such a tragic history, so playing emotional music comes more naturally to me. I feel very fortunate to do what I love and to share it with the world."

A musician whom *The Washington Post* called, "a seasoned phenomenon," and the *Strad* described as "dazzlingly brilliant," captivated the hearts of every audience member.

Narek Hakhnazaryan's performance was one of the best ever held in Fresno.

Photo: Veronique Werz

Dr. Richard Hovannisian Presents Latest Book in Series on "Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces"

KARA STATLER
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Professor Emeritus of Armenian and Near Eastern at UCLA, was invited by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State to give a lecture entitled, "Armenian Communities of the Northeastern Mediterranean: Musa Daghdört-Yol and Kessab," on Friday, January 27 at the University Business Center at Fresno State. A standing room only audience enjoyed the moving lecture, co-sponsored by the Hamazkayin Educational and Cultural Association.

Dr. Hovannisian began a series of conferences in 1987 called the "Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces," inviting scholars from throughout the world to participate. The conferences were often held twice a year and were intended to fill the gap between the first-generation survivors and their children and grandchildren. The young people could often not say where their ancestors had originated.

The conferences, which began with one on "Van," originally covered the six major Armenian provinces of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. The papers given at each conference were eventually published in a series, culminating in the fourteenth volume on "The Armenian Communities of the Northeastern Mediterranean."

Dr. Hovannisian expanded the scope of the conferences to cover other Ottoman Armenian communities, including a major conference on Constantinople. The last three volumes of the series were on Kesaria, the Armenian communities of Asia Minor.

Dr. Hovannisian showed a video presentation of his most



Photo: ASP Archive

L. to R.: Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Dr. Sergio La Porta, Dr. Richard Hovannisian, and Prof. Hagop Ohanessian.

recent trip to Musa Daghd. The video provided insight into contemporary Armenian life in Turkey, and gave information about the historic area of Musa Daghd and how it has changed. It also depicted Armenian churches that had been converted to mosques, as well as ruins of ancient Armenian fortresses.

The video concluded in Vakif, the only remaining Armenian village in Turkey, where 99 year-old Avedis Demirdjian resides. When asked what advice he had for young Armenians, Semirdjian said, "they should remember us. They should remember that there is this village in Musa Daghd; one village out of six where there are still Armenians."

After the video, Dr. Hovannisian discussed the geography, the people, and the effects of the Genocide on Musa Daghd. Many of the residents of villages surrounding Musa Daghd decided to resist the deportation orders by fleeing to the mountain. Dr. Hovannisian described their month long resistance to the Turkish army and their miraculous rescue. Many of the

survivors returned to Musa Daghd during the French Mandate of Syria. However, in 1938 the French made a deal with Turkish Nationalists and evacuated the region.

Dr. Hovannisian then described how the Armenians had to leave the region on short notice to avoid living under Turkish rule once again. While some moved to Fresno, many repatriated to Armenia where they continued to celebrate their traditions.

Dr. Hovannisian also discussed Dört-Yol, a city in the province of Adana. He focused on the Hamidian Massacres of 1895-96 and the Adana massacre of 1909 by showing pictures from his travels to the region.

In conclusion, Dr. Hovannisian discussed Kessab, a town that is now in Syria and that faces a threat from recent incursions.

The residents of Kessab are fiercely loyal to their hometown and many of them would not leave when the threat of attacks in 2014 loomed over the town.

The night ended with questions from the audience and refreshments in the lobby.

Dr. Chookaszian Gives Lecture on "The Silk Road and Armenian Textiles Throughout the Centuries"



Photo: ASP Archive

Left to right: Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Michael Retig, Dr. Levon Chookaszian, Diana Gasparyan, Dr. Sergio La Porta, Marina Chardukian, and David Safrazian.

ELINA KARAPETYAN
STAFF WRITER

The Armenian people have traveled a long and difficult path throughout history. They have persisted as a people in spite of devastating circumstances and even Genocide. This nationality was founded upon resilience, strength, courage, loyalty and honor. These noble characteristics of the Armenian people are

inevitably represented in art.

On Tuesday, February 7, Dr. Levon Chookaszian, UNESCO Professor and Chair of Art History at Yerevan State University, presented a lecture on "The Silk Road and Armenian Textiles Throughout the Centuries," organized by the Armenian Studies Program and co-sponsored by the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

For many centuries Armenians

were involved in international trade as middlemen between the East and the West. The routes where merchants traveled and conducted their business eventually became known as the Great Silk Road.

Dr. Chookaszian introduced the audience to many examples of Armenian textiles represented in various forms of art, including miniature painting and sculpture. He discussed the incredible significance and quality of expert Armenian craftsmanship. The beauty and intricacy of the hand woven rugs and priceless silks and textiles, in a way, define who the Armenian people are.

Dr. Chookaszian's presentation covered the art produced by Armenians in different regions, such as the Kingdom of Cilicia, which illustrated the Armenian textile work.

Armenian manuscripts also give insight into the production of Armenian textiles. For example Toros Roslin painted

Garabedian Foundation Allocates \$5,000 to Armenian Studies

STAFF REPORT

Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian announced that the Bertha and John Garabedian Foundation has made a generous donation of \$5,000 to the Armenian Studies Program for 2016. This brings the total donations from the Foundation to the Armenian Studies Program to over \$100,000.

The grant will be used for a variety of activities, including outreach activities and scholarships.

The Garabedian Foundation has been a long-standing supporter of the Armenian Studies Program.

Their grants have supported the development of the Armenian Studies Program website and the online Arts of Armenia.

15th Annual Armenian Film Festival at Fresno State



Photo: Hourig Attarian

Director Anahid Nazarian, center, with students and faculty after the Film Festival. Left to right: Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Marina Chardukian, Kara Statler, Diana Gasparyan, Ashkhen Chamasanyan, Anahid Nazarian, Tatevik Hovhannisyan, Michael Rettig, Dikran Dzhezyan, David Safrastian, Aramayis Orkusyan, and Arthur Khatchatrian.

DIANA GASPARYAN
STAFF WRITER

The 15th Annual Armenian Film Festival, a popular event organized by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization, was held this year on Friday, February 17. The Festival featured three films created by a new generation of young Armenian directors, writers, and producers. The Festival helps to cultivate an awareness of Armenian culture among the University and community and a large audience attended.

The Festival opened with a documentary, *I Hate Dogs!: The Last Survivor* (2005), about one of the last known survivors of the Armenian Genocide. The film explores the story of 99 year-old Garbis Hagopian-Ghazarian and his traumatic encounter with dogs during the Genocide. Using heartbreaking personal testimonies, directors PeÅ Holmquist and Suzanne Khardalian capture the history of Garbis and his family, from their experiences during the Armenian Genocide to their new life in France. Throughout the film, members of the Hagopian-Ghazarian family comment on Garbis’s disdain for dogs.

At the conclusion of the film, it is revealed that Garbis’s father was murdered during the

Genocide. When Garbis went to bury his father, he found wild dogs feeding on the body. Though Garbis was able to find refuge in France, where he raised a thriving family, he harbored a hatred of dogs for the rest of his life.

“Seeing Garbis and his family interact was something a lot of people could relate to with their families. I loved the imagery and the sense of togetherness of his Armenian family,” said Fresno State junior Hourig Attarian.

SaroyanLand (2013), making its Fresno premiere, was the featured documentary of the evening. The docu-drama focuses on William Saroyan’s longing to return to Bitlis, the birthplace of

his family.

“I thought it was interesting that although Saroyan did not know exactly where his family lived in Bitlis, he went anyway,” said junior Marina Chardukian. “It showed how strong his emotional ties were to his hometown.”

Lusin Dink directed the film, based on Saroyan’s 1964 journey to Bitlis. That journey was later immortalized in Saroyan’s play *Bitlis*, published in the book *The Armenian Trilogy* by The Press at California State University, Fresno in 1986. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Professor Emeritus of Armenian Studies at Fresno State, who was interviewed in the film, edited and wrote the introduction of *The Armenian Trilogy*.

The film interspersed beautiful cinematographic shots of historic Armenia with Saroyan quotes voiced by a narrator.

Anahid Nazarian, director of *Shesh-Besh* was present for the showing of her 16-minute short film, which balanced the mood of the evening by contributing a more comedic element to the Festival, rather than the more serious note of the previous two films. *Shesh-Besh* was filmed in Joe Sahakian’s garage, JC & Son’s Automotive in Fresno, where a group of men gather to play backgammon, socialize, play music, and enjoy each other’s company.



Photo: Hourig Attarian

Some of those who appeared in the film *Shesh-Besh*. Left to right: Jirair Jabagchourian, Walter Dunn, director Anahid Nazarian, Mike Kilijian, and Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

replace one’s own heritage and rich culture. It is when comparing a country’s legacy to other nations that people realize what they have and how rich they really are.”

According to Dr. Chookaszian, women were also very influential when it came to weaving textiles. He used examples such as women depicted weaving on stone sculptures in Armenian graveyards from 17thc. Isfahan, Persia.

This represents a permanent testimony of the influence that women have had in the creation of the Armenian culture.

In the more modern era, artist Hagop Hovnatanian represented many works of Armenian clothing is his paintings of the Armenian noble women of Tiflis.

A trailblazer in his field, Dr. Chookaszian is well aware of the immense amount of work and investigation that still needs to be done in the field.

CHOOKASZIAN, FROM PAGE 4

the images of Prince Levon and Keran, who are depicted wearing sumptuous and beautiful woven textiles. Armenian manuscript painters such as Sarkis Pitdzak and Toros Taronatsi frequently painted images that demonstrated what types of Armenian woven materials were in use.

The famed Marco Polo traveled through historic Armenia and while visiting Garin (Erzerum), described the beautiful carpets that were made by Armenians.

According to Dr. Chookaszian, over fifty percent of Armenian art has not yet been interpreted or studied.

“The discovery and exploration of Armenian art is crucial for understanding the history of artistry, now more than ever, as Armenians continue to disperse around the globe. It is easy to get lost in another culture, but assimilation should not

Dr. La Porta “Honorary Coach” at Fresno State Basketball Game



Dr. Sergio La Porta, center, at the Fresno State game.

STAFF REPORT

On Saturday, January 14, 2017, Dr. Sergio La Porta served as the “Honorary Coach” for the Fresno State Bulldogs Men’s Basketball team against the Boise State Broncos. In an exciting game, the Bulldogs defeated the Broncos 89-80, completely dominating the first half of the match-up. The game was sponsored by the College of Arts and Humanities and Dr. La Porta greeted the crowd in the second half.

Seated courtside, Dr. La Porta

brought his son Zaven, aged 9, to the game and said that it was an amazing experience for both of them, “We had never felt the excitement of a game like we did this evening, sitting there behind the net.” Prior to the game, Dr. La Porta and his son were also able to visit the Bulldogs locker-room in order to listen to the pre-game pep talk by Coach Terry.

Dr. La Porta joked after the game that he was going to retire from coaching, proud of his undefeated record.

Photo: Fresno State Athletics

Dr. La Porta Travels the California Coast for Two Lectures

STAFF REPORT

The middle of February was a busy time for Dr. Sergio La Porta who in one week spoke both at Pomona College and Sonoma State University. On Friday, February 17, Dr. La Porta participated in a Mediterranean Seminar entitled “Culture Wars” hosted by Dr. Kenneth Wolf of the Department of History at Pomona College.

Dr. La Porta’s presentation, “Breaking Bad: Apostasy and Cultural Transgression in Medieval Armenia” discussed instances of religious conversion in the twelfth and early thirteenth centuries and the social tensions that they reflected and sometimes contributed to. The Seminar spent a day commenting on three papers submitted for criticism. A regular attendee of the Mediterranean Seminar, Dr. La Porta said that this was the second time he had presented at one and was very encouraged by the critical feedback he received.

“The Seminar is always a stimulating day of discussion and exploration,” he explained, “but it is always particularly useful when it is your own work that is being dissected.” The Seminar was followed by a one-day symposium coordinated by the Late Antique and Medieval Studies program at the Claremont Colleges.

Dr. La Porta then travelled to Sonoma State University to deliver a lecture on the Armenian Genocide as part of the 34th Annual Holocaust Lecture Series organized by the Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide of SSU and the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide.



Photo: ASP Archive

Dr. Sergio La Porta

The series, whose theme this year is “Between History and Memory,” constitutes part of a class that enrolls approximately 150 students. Dr. La Porta has given this lecture for many years and says that he greatly appreciates the series and the people who diligently work to make it happen.

At the beginning of his lecture, Dr. La Porta asked how many students had studied the Armenian Genocide in high school. He was dismayed that despite the recent legislation passed in California, only one or two people raised their hand. He noted that this pointed to the continuing need to train teachers and schools about how to include the Genocide in their curricula. Dr. La Porta hopes that when the question is repeated at next year’s lecture, more hands will be raised.

In addition to presenting a historical overview of the Armenian people in the Ottoman Empire and the facts of the Armenian Genocide, Dr. La Porta also tied his lecture into the theme of the series by reflecting upon how remembering the past should not be a passive act, but should present us with the challenge of how we face our present and future.

Fresno State Alumni Association Honors Three Armenians as “Top Dog” Alumni

STAFF REPORT

Three Armenians were honored for accomplishments in their respective fields and commitment to service in the community at the annual Fresno State Alumni Association “Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala.”

Each year, one alumnus from each of the University’s eight academic schools and colleges, as well as the Department of Athletics, the Henry Madden Library, the Division of Student Affairs and the Division of Graduate Studies are chosen to be honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award.

College of Arts and Humanities

Dr. Janice M. Emerzian B.A. 1969, ’73 (a lifetime member of the Alumni Association) is the 2016 Outstanding Alumna for the College of Arts and Humanities.

Following the tragic loss of her younger brother as a result of his disability, Dr. Janice Emerzian, a first-generation college student

who grew up speaking only Armenian, was inspired to dedicate her career to educating and advocating for people with disabilities.

She currently serves as the State Center Community College District director for Disabled Students Programs and Services, a resource she has grown from serving 300 to more than 5,000 students.

Dr. Emerzian has taught at Fresno State, Fresno Pacific University, and UCLA, received numerous distinctions in her field, consulted various educational



Dr. Janice Emerzian



Left to right: Hon. Chuck Poochigian, Debbie Poochigian, and Fresno State First Lady Mrs. Mary Castro.

groups and served on multiple boards. Her involvement with Fresno State includes work with the Bulldog Foundation and supporting the construction of both Bulldog Stadium and the Save Mart Center.

Dr. Emerzian has been married to farmer and retired school administrator Les Emerzian for 47 years. The couple met on the Fresno State campus and their sons David and Aaron Emerzian are both Fresno State alumni. In her free time, Dr. Emerzian enjoys playing a baby grand piano.

College of Health and Human Services

Debbie Poochigian (B.A., 1974) is former chairman of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, representing the eastern portion of Fresno County from 2008-2016. She has focused her attention on restoring economic security, strengthening

public safety, protecting property rights, monitoring fiscal responsibility, and advocating for government transparency and accountability. Poochigian was born in Fresno and earned her degree in physical education from Fresno State, where she also played three years of collegiate tennis. She was a middle school teacher for many years, and remains a determined volunteer to countless organizations. Poochigian has sat on numerous boards including Saint Agnes Medical Center, Fresno Area Crime Stoppers, Fresno County and City Historical Society, Clovis Chamber of Commerce and California State Capitol Preservation Fund. At Fresno State, she has been active with the Henry Madden Library Leadership Board, Ag One Foundation, Arne Nixon Center, and the Fresno State Alumni Association.

Armenian Studies Program Library Develops Photo Archive on Flickr

CLAIRE KASAIAN
STAFF WRITER

In recent months Armenian Studies Program archivist Malina Zakian has been continuing her project to digitize the Armenian Studies Program’s photographic archive. Zakian and several graduate students have been digitizing photographs in the archive, which includes the Meltickian Collection: Armenians in China, 1915-1953 and the Kazarian Collection.

Zakian has created a Flickr Commons account for the photographs to give greater access to scholars for their research. She similarly hopes to generate public interest in the collections so that the community could locate these pictures online and help the Armenian Studies Program identify the historical context for each photograph.

“Many photographs have little or no historical information

associated with them. We hope to tap into the knowledge and experience of the community to bring these images to life as historical documents. Our Flickr page allows the public to ‘tag’ or label pictures, providing names of individuals, events, places, dates, or any other information that might be relevant to improve the documentation of these photographs,” said Zakian.

Zakian also stressed that the Armenian Studies Program Library is available for scholars to conduct research. Scholars can find the various articles and books the library contains by accessing the online catalogue at libraryworld.com.

The Armenian Studies Program Library supplements the large collection of books on Armenian history, literature, language, and culture located in the Henry Madden Library at Fresno State.

USDA, FROM PAGE 1

throughout history, such as the Christianization of Armenia, and discussed current issues facing the modern Armenian Republic.

Armenians have made a significant contribution to art, and therefore Prof. Der Mugrdechian took the audience on a voyage to places such as the Holy Etchmiadzin and St. Hripsime churches. He placed particular emphasis on the Church of the Holy Cross on the island of Aghtamar, which with its rich program of reliefs is considered one of the masterpieces of Armenian architecture. The 10th century Armenian church was built during the reign of King Gagik I Artsruni and is decorated with themes from both the Old and New Testaments.

Der Mugrdechian also discussed how the Armenians had created their own unique alphabet and how that alphabet of 36 letters

ushered in an era of learning and progress. Armenian manuscripts were produced, many of them illustrated, and Der Mugrdechian presented examples of Armenian miniature painting by the noted 13th century artist Toros Roslin.

The presentation concluded with questions from the audience, who expressed a desire to learn more about Armenian culture.

After the event, Der Mugrdechian and the audience enjoyed traditional Armenian foods prepared by the USDA employees, adding another dimension to their experience with Armenian culture. Satomi Hiyama prepared *khadayif* and *gata*, while others brought *lahmajoon*, *gatnaboor*, and other delicious foods.

During the refreshment time members of the audience continued to ask questions and share their connections to Armenian heritage with Der Mugrdechian.

Visit the Armenian Studies Program Photo Archive online at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/armenianstudies/>

INTERVIEW FROM PAGE 1

public schools.

Der Mugrdechian was interviewed because of recent successes achieved by Armenian members of the California Assembly, who have worked diligently to introduce an Armenian Genocide Curriculum in California public schools.

The Curriculum provides school districts and teachers the opportunity to devote more time to teaching their students about the Genocide.

These recent efforts to expand the curriculum arose out of the signing of the Armenian Genocide Education Act (AB 1915) by Governor Jerry Brown in September of 2014. AB 1915 provides for the inclusion of Armenian Genocide eyewitness accounts and survivor testimonies in the teaching of Human Rights in California public schools.

It also encourages the development of resources for teachers to use when teaching the Armenian Genocide in their classes.

“The word Genocide itself was coined by Raphael Lemkin in the 1940’s,” said Professor Der Mugrdechian. Der Mugrdechian

stated that in defining genocide, Lemkin was aware of the Armenian example, and brought it to the world’s attention so that the world powers would adopt policies that banned or prevented genocide.

Although Lemkin’s intentions were clear, Der Mugrdechian believes that the current issues in acknowledging the Armenian Genocide are related to the fact that the term Genocide is “both in the political arena as well as the legal arena.”

The interview also addressed how in recent years the modern Turkish Government called for a convening of a historical commission to assess whether the Armenian Genocide constituted in fact genocide.

“There is no doubt of the historical record,” said Der Mugrdechian. “When looking at the evidence found in the German and Austria-Hungarian archives (allies of Ottoman Turkish in World War I), one finds overwhelming evidence affirming the Genocide.”

Despite the evidence, the United States has yet to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. When asked why this

Henry Madden Library

Dr. Lois Huter Tarkanian (class of 1955) who has represented Ward 1 on the Las Vegas City Council since 2005, has a passion for education and spent much of her career as an educator, working as a classroom teacher, speech pathologist, principal, administrator, and professor. Dr. Tarkanian served for 12 years as a member of the Clark County Board of School Trustees, and volunteers her time to many boards and organizations including the Clark County Public Education Foundation, Family and Child Treatment Center for Abused Children, Oralingua School for the Hearing Impaired, and the Nevada Professionals Empowering Parents. She has received numerous accolades for her volunteer and humanitarian work. During her time as a student



Dr. Lois Tarkanian

at Fresno State, she appreciated the value of the library so much, she continued to actively support the Henry Madden Library as an alumna.

She and her husband established the Jerry and Lois Tarkanian Book Fund, assisted in kicking off the “Baskets for Books” program, and has been an advocate for supporting the Arne Nixon Center.

was the case, Der Mugrdechian responded that the government believes that it is not in the best interests of the United States to use the word “genocide,” because it would cause tension in relations between the United States and Turkey and potentially disrupt ties.

Despite the continued denial of the Turkish government, there has been significant progress made in the United States, especially in California, regarding educating public school students about the Genocide.

When talking about the passage of AB 1915, Professor Der Mugrdechian praised the hard work of California Assembly members in their continual push for including such a curriculum in the California schools.

“Genocide education is important because students should be informed about the past and students can learn from past genocides in order to prevent future ones,” stated Der Mugrdechian.

He added that the curriculum in public schools could include education on how survivors were

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Author and Community Activist
Berge Bulbulian Passes Away at 91

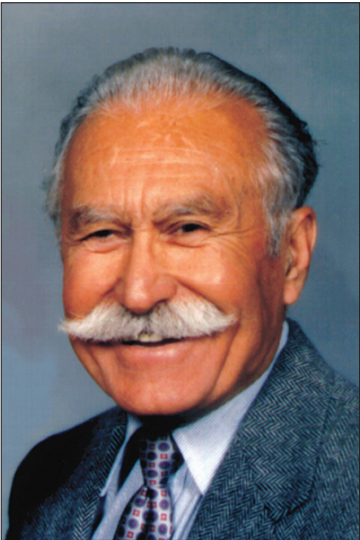


Photo: ASP Archive

Berge Bulbulian
STAFF REPORT

Berge Bulbulian, staunch supporter of the Armenian Studies Program and of Fresno State, died on January 26, 2017 at the age of 91. Bulbulian was a native of Mexicali, Mexico, but grew up on a farm in the Del Rey area. Bulbulian was actively involved in many organizations. He traveled to Armenia on several occasions, with the Armenian Technology Group and the Armenia Tree Project. Bulbulian was a board member of the Saroyan Society in Fresno and also a member of the Friends of the Henry Madden Library at Fresno State. Mr. Bulbulian’s *The Fresno Armenians: History of Diaspora Community*, was published by The Press at California State University, Fresno in 2000. *The Fresno Armenians* tells of the

triumphs and lifestyles of the first Armenian settlers and their evolution into today’s community. Bulbulian decided to pursue this project through the support and enthusiasm of Professor Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies. Prof. Kouymjian also wrote the introduction to the book. Bulbulian dedicated the book in memory of his parents Yghish and Zaruhi and his wife’s parents, Mikael and Vartuhi Krikorian, “and to all the other hardy and courageous Armenian immigrants who struggled against formidable odds to create today’s Fresno Armenian community. Without their driving energy directed to prevail rather than to merely survive, the community would not be what it is today.” After his return from military service, he attended Fresno State College for one year and then graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in Philosophy. He was one of the founding members of the California Rural Legal Assistance, providing legal aid to the poor. At one time, the family farmed 150 acres of tree fruit, wine and raisin grapes. When Mr. Bulbulian wasn’t on the farm, he was in a meeting hall or testifying before a congressional subcommittee. Bulbulian is survived by wife Alice Krikorian Bulbulian and daughters Christine Barile, Linda Bulbulian and Carol Cannon and five grandchildren.

Per the family’s request
donations in memory of Berge Bulbulian
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ASP, FROM PAGE 1

Eastern History.

An alumna of Holy Martyrs Ferrahian Armenian High School in Encino, California, Dr. Papazian understood the value of Armenian studies early on. “A people with a long and productive history have a right to be known along with other nations and peoples in our educational system, particularly on the higher levels,” said Dr. Papazian. Dr. Papazian has another connection to Armenian Studies—she is married to Dr. Dennis R. Papazian, founding director of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan, Dearborn and for many years professor of history. University Armenian Studies Programs, like Fresno State’s, serve a crucial role in highlighting and perpetuating the Armenian history and culture to a broad audience. In its 40 years of existence, the Program has produced more than 131 alumni with Armenian Studies minors and has educated more than 12,000 students on Armenian

history, language, arts, literature, and culture through its various courses. Those who have engaged with the Program carry with them many unique lessons and takeaways. In many ways, students who have interacted with the ASP have served as ambassadors of the Program and demonstrated the value of their experience through their accomplishments and contributions to the Armenian community. “There is no question that the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State has helped to keep the Armenian community alive and active over several generations, not only here in Fresno but wherever the graduates have traveled and set down roots,” said Dr. Mary Papazian. Several such students, as well as recipients of Armenian Studies scholarships will be recognized during the Annual Banquet. The Armenian Studies Program has organized more than 400 events throughout the past 40 years, including lectures, conferences, workshops, musical performances, exhibits, and

more. “To put it simply, the program’s greatest assets are its human assets, the dedication of the scholars in the support of the people. What I admire is the consistent good quality of the Program over the past 40 years and the prospect that it will continue as long as there are people who care to maintain it,” said Dr. Papazian. The success of the Program would not have been possible, if not for the personal sacrifices and relentless leadership of the Program’s current and retired faculty. “Those who have maintained the Program over the years, in particular Dickran Kouymjian, the emeritus Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, the Director of the Center for Armenian Studies and Coordinator of the Program, and Sergio La Porta, current Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, have shared the wealth, so to speak, over the years, through lectures, conferences, and publications which have been fundamental to the development

and enrichment of Armenian studies here in the United States,” stated Dr. Papazian. “Armenian studies has reached the point where the knowledge and experience of the Armenian people can make a distinct contribution to the preservation of civil society both here in the United States and elsewhere in the world,” emphasized Dr. Papazian. The Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State has made a

significant impact on students and the community. The collaboration between campus administrators, ASP faculty, students, and the Armenian community will continue to propel the Program forward as an exceptional hub for Armenian studies. The Armenian Studies 29th Annual Banquet will take place on Sunday, March 19 at the Fort Washington Country Club in Fresno. Genocide in California, there is increasing hope for a nationwide acceptance of the Genocide, something that Armenians have long been seeking. For further information and resources on the Armenian Genocide, please visit <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library?search=Armenian%20Genocide> and <https://genocideeducation.org/>. Sources used in this article include: www.ancawr.org/CAGenocideEducation and <http://www.mirrorspectator.com/2016/12/01/armenian-genocide-to-be-taught-in-california-schools/>.

Leon S. Peters Foundation Continues Support of Armenian Studies Program with Grant of \$30,000

STAFF REPORT

Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian announced that the Leon S. Peters Foundation has made a generous donation of \$30,000 to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State for 2016.

This continues the tradition of the Peters Foundation in supporting the Armenian Studies Program Annual Lecture Series,

as well as a variety of other activities, including scholarships, outreach activities, the Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series, an Armenia Summer Study Trip, and general support for the Program.

Leon S. Peters was respected as a businessman, civic leader, and philanthropist who lived and worked according to the highest ethical standards.

He cherished his community

and considered its well being his personal responsibility.

Since the early 1980s, the Peters family has provided numerous gifts to Fresno State including the Pete P. Peters Endowment in Armenian Studies, the President's Fund, Ag One Foundation, the Henry Madden Library, the Bulldog Foundation, the Leon S. Peters Honors Scholars, and the Business Associates Program.

Dr. Castro to be Honored as “Man of the Year” at Knights and Daughters of Vartan Banquet-Saturday, March 25



Dr. Joseph I. Castro
President, Fresno State

“Honoring Dr. Joseph Castro for his unwavering support for the construction and placement of the Armenian Genocide Monument on the campus of California State University, Fresno and for his continuing support of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.”

Proceeds to benefit Knights
& Daughters of Vartan
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Pardini's Banquet Hall
2257 W. Shaw Ave, Fresno

Cocktail reception: 6:00PM
Dinner: 7:30PM

Entertainment by
Vocalist Misak Israelyan
and DJ Hye Vibe

Tickets: \$75 per person

Fresno Premiere of “Lost Birds”-Screening on April 7

CineCulture Presents

“Lost Birds”

Friday, April 7 • 5:30PM

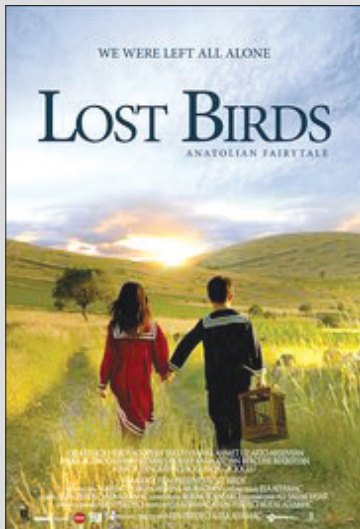
Leon and Pete Peters Educational Center

Discussants: Ela Alyamac and Aren Perdecı,
(co-directors from Turkey)

“Lost Birds” presents a historical tragedy that takes place in 1915, from the point of view of two children. “Lost Birds” is the first film made in Turkey about the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

Sponsor: The Armenian Studies Program

In Turkish and Armenian with English subtitles, 90 min.



**Free admission and
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“Melodic and Rhythmic Considerations in Oud Performance”

Richard Hagopian

Thursday, April 27 • 4:00PM

University Business Center, Fresno State

Middle East Studies Lecture, Performance & Film Series
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The Fresno Premiere of
Bared Maronian's

“Women of 1915”

Sunday, April 30

Reception 1:00PM

Film Screening 1:30PM

**Leon S. & Pete Peters Auditorium
Fresno State**

Tickets required
\$25 in advance • \$30 at the door

Organized and presented by:
Armenian Studies Program, Armenian Relief
Society, Armenian Cultural Conservancy,
Womens' League of the Charlie Keyan Armenian
Community School, and the Hamazkayin
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The Armenian Students Organization presents Multicultural Genocide Awareness Event

Thursday, April 20 • 12:15PM

Free Speech Platform • Fresno State

Armenian Genocide Commemoration

Monday, April 24 • Noon • Genocide Monument



Dr. Keith Watenpaugh to Speak



**“Bread from Stone:
The Middle East and the
Making of Modern
Humanitarianism”**

**Tuesday, April 4
7:30PM**

**University Business Center
A. Peters Auditorium
Fresno State**

Author Fethiye Çetin to Speak in Fresno on Wednesday, April 26

Author of

**“My Grandmother:
A Memoir”**



Çetin will speak about the experience of discovering her Armenian heritage and why she wrote her memoir.

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 • 7:30PM

St. Paul Armenian Church • 3767 N. First Street

Organized by the Armenian Studies Program

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