

HYE SHARZHOOM

Armenian Action

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40th Year

March 2019

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Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

“Western Armenian in the 21st Century” Published by The Press

STAFF REPORT

A co-edited volume by Bedross Der Matossian and Barlow Der Mugrdechian entitled *Western Armenian in the 21st Century: Challenges and New Approaches* has been recently published by The Press at California State University, Fresno (2019).

The book is the first in the newly launched *Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) Publication Series* published as part of the Armenian Series of The Press at California State University, Fresno. Subvention for the publication of the book was provided by the Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

Modern Western Armenian is considered an endangered language by UNESCO. Today Western Armenian is essentially a Diaspora language which was dramatically impacted by the



Armenian Genocide of 1915. The post-Genocide period has posed a great challenge to the continued vitality of this important language. For the past few years, scholars have discussed how to best teach Western Armenian and to transmit the language to future generations.

Western Armenian in the

SEE [WESTERN ARMENIAN](#) PAGE 7

Leon S. Peters Foundation Gives Grant of \$30,000 in Support of Armenian Studies

STAFF REPORT

Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian announced that the Leon S. Peters Foundation has continued their generous support

of the Armenian Studies Program with a grant of \$30,000 for 2019. Their support for the Program over the past seven years has reached over \$200,000.

SEE [LEON S. PETERS](#) PAGE 2

Chaderjian Introduces New Novel “Letters to Barbra” at Fresno State



Seated: Paul Chaderjian and Claire Kasaian. Standing, left to right: David Safrazian, Marina Chardukian, Kara Statler, Annie Rubio, Dustin Vartanian, Emily Sirabian, Cole Egoian, and Hovsep Harutyunyan.

ARSHAK ABELYAN
STAFF WRITER

From the violent streets of Beirut to the places he called his home, Armenia and Fresno, Paul Chaderjian’s new novel *Letters to Barbra* reveals the beauty

and tragedy in life. Chaderjian’s grandparents were Armenian Genocide survivors who settled in Beirut and thus, he experienced the Civil War in Lebanon.

Chaderjian discussed his new

SEE [CHADERJIAN](#) PAGE 6

“Lights! Camera! Saroyan!” Documentary Has World Premiere at Fresno State and Attracts More Than 400

ANNIE RUBIO
EDITOR

William Saroyan has long been a prominent figure in Fresno’s history. Recently, his name has become even more pronounced in the community. Ever since the opening of the Saroyan House Museum in August of 2018, there has been a resurgence of interest in his life and career. This led to the premiere of the new documentary, “Lights! Camera! Saroyan!”, which took place at the Satellite Student Union on Friday, January 25, with more than 400 people in attendance. The premiere was cosponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the William Saroyan House Museum.

Directed by Harut Shatyan and produced by Ara Baghdasaryan, “Lights! Camera! Saroyan!” examines how Saroyan’s cultural roots and life in Fresno influenced his career. Shatyan studied at the Yerevan State Institute of Theatre and Cinema, and has directed several feature films.

Photo: Andrew Hagopian



KSEE 24 Anchor Stefani Booroojian with Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian at the Saroyan documentary premiere.

“Lights! Camera! Saroyan!” was created by the Yerevan-based Film Factory Production. While the film holds special significance for Armenians, it also allows the world to experience and understand Saroyan’s life. In the words of Film Factory, “this is not just for Armenians, but for everyone.”

Berberian Coordinator of Armenian Studies Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian welcomed the audience and gave the opening remarks. Prof. Der Mugrdechian is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Saroyan House Museum, and has been involved

SEE [SAROYAN](#) PAGE 5

Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation Donates \$100,000 to Scholarship Fund and \$25,000 to the Armenian Studies Program

STAFF REPORT

Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian announced that the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation has made a donation

of \$100,000 in January of 2019 to the Kooyumjian Endowed Scholarship Fund at Fresno State. Together with previous donations from the Family Foundation, the Endowed Scholarship has reached \$250,000.

Thomas A. Kooyumjian passed away in 1985 and his Foundation was established in 1987.

The goals of the Foundation are to encourage education, with

SEE [KOORYUMJIAN](#) PAGE 2

Armenian Language Classes at Fresno State Are Keeping Armenian Language and Culture Alive

CHRISTINE PAMBUKYAN
STAFF WRITER

The Armenian language has been spoken for more than 3,000 years. Armenians, however, were not able to read and write with their own alphabet until a priest, St. Mesrop Mashtots, created a thirty-six-letter alphabet in 406 AD. In the twelfth century, two letters were added to the alphabet to accommodate new sounds introduced to the Armenian language through contact with foreigners.

Over time, due to geographical and political reasons, many dialects developed throughout Armenia. By the mid-nineteenth century, two main branches of

SEE [ARMENIAN](#) PAGE 4

Photo: Andrew Hagopian



Left to right: Adriné Tokatian, Sarine Petrosyan, Anahit Yerdoglyan, Valerya Sargsyan, Rita Yerdoglyan, Cole Egoian, Takui Frnzayan, Christine Pambukyan, Mark Soghomonian, Angela Soghomonian, Mickey Walkup, Jordan Bachant, Caleb Arizmendez, Olivia Soghomonian, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Mitchel Statler, and Andrew Hagopian.

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.

Paul Chaderjian, Fresno, for a copy of his new book, *Letters to Barbra* (Meshag Publishing, 2018), 466pp., in English, a fictional account of a 9 year-old boy experiencing a devastating Civil War in Lebanon. The novel is told through the eyes of the young boy as he writes fan letters to a Hollywood legend. The novel touches on issues of war and peace, dreams and heartbreak, and coming of age.

Vatche Ghazarian, Monterey, for a gift of his new book *Gregory of Tatev: Homilies* (Mayreni Publishing, 2018), 501pp., in English, with an Introduction by Dr. Sergio La Porta. The book is a compilation of homilies (sermons) translated into English of the most famous Armenian church figure of the 14th century, St. Gregory of Tatev.

Clara Margossian, Fresno, for Armenian books focusing on the Armenians of Van/Vaspurakan.

Sharon Toroian, Fresno, for a copy of her great-uncle Mark H. Toroian’s autobiography, *Once I was an Orphan: Two Armenian Brothers Survive the Genocide* (2016), 526pp., in English. The book is the story of Mark & Kevork Toroian, and their escape from Kharpert and ultimate immigration to the United States.

Dr. Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh, University of California, Davis, for a copy of her new book, *The Missing Pages: The Modern Life of a Medieval Manuscript from Genocide to Justice* (Stanford University Press, 2019), 402pp., in English, with color plates and photos. Dr. Watenpaugh recounts the fascinating story of the Zeytun Gospels, illustrated by the famous 13th c. artist Toros Roslin. The Manuscript had a long journey from historic Armenia, through the Genocide, and finally to the Republic of Armenia, except for 8 pages which found their way to the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. This is a story about a manuscript that is at once art, sacred object, and cultural heritage.

LEON S. PETERS, FROM PAGE 1

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, 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.

Soon Mr. Peters assumed leadership positions in numerous organizations and also partnered with Fresno State to support a variety of initiatives. The Leon S. Peters Business Building at Fresno State honors the spirit of the man who served on the University President’s Advisory Board, the Fresno State

Foundation Board of Governors, the University’s Agricultural Board, and the Business Advisory Council of the School of Business and Administrative Sciences. For his many contributions to Fresno State, Leon S. Peters was posthumously awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by The California State University in 1997.

Since 1984 the Leon S. Peters Award has been presented annually to a Central Valley business leader whose work exemplifies the values, ethics, and character of Leon S. Peters.

The Leon S. Peters Foundation was established in 1959 and since then, the Peters Foundation has become one of the community’s biggest benefactors, giving to higher education, hospitals, and arts organizations.

The Armenian Studies Program expresses its appreciation for the continued support of the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

KOORYUMJIAN, FROM PAGE 1

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.

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

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.

The Kooyumjian Family Foundation made a donation of \$25,000 in January of 2019 to the Armenian Studies Program. The grant was made for special events held by the Program throughout the year.

The Kooyumjian Foundation has a special interest in the appreciation of fine arts, especially music, in keeping with Thomas A. Kooyumjian’s

interests. This grant included support for the very successful Tigran Hamasyan concert held on October 19, 2018, before a sell-out crowd of 400.

The Foundation also supported the Armenian Studies Program organized conference on “The Committee of Union and Progress: Founders, Ideology, and Structure” held October 12-13, 2018.

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.

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2019 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education-Breadth, Humanities, Area C2				
• Arm 1A-Elementary Armenian (Class #72226)	4	10:00A-11:50A	MW	B. Der Mugrdechian
General Education-Breadth, Arts, Area C1				
• ArmS 20-Arts of Armenia (Class #72829)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TuTh	B. Der Mugrdechian
General Education-Breadth, Area D3				
• ArmS 10-Intro Arm Studies (Class #73205)	3	09:00A-09:50A	MWF	H. Ohanessian
General Education-Integration, Area IC				
• Arm 148-Mastrpcs Arm Cult (Class #73297)	3	2:00P-3:15P	MW	H. Ohanessian
• Arm 148-Mastrpcs Arm Cult (Class #73206)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	B. Der Mugrdechian
Upper Division Armenian Studies Course				
• ArmS 108A-Arm History I (Class #72227)	3	2:00P-3:15P	TuTh	S. La Porta

Get a Minor in Armenian Studies.

For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.

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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HYE SHARZHOOM

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

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German-Armenian Artistic and Cultural Relations Explored in Presentation by Dr. Levon Chookaszian



Photo: Christine Pambukyan

Left to right: Dr. Hagop Ohanessian, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Dr. Levon Chookaszian, and Dr. Sergio La Porta.

GREGORY KRIKORIAN
STAFF WRITER

Armenians and Germans have had strong cultural relations throughout the years and even to this day. There is evidence that Christian Armenian missionaries traveled to what is today Germany in the 4th c. There is also documentation about the relations between Armenians and Germans that dates to the time of the Crusades in the 11th century. Later, German travelers often visited Armenia, and Armenian intellectuals often received their education in Germany.

These and many other examples of German Armenian interactions were discussed at a lecture by Dr. Levon Chookaszian on Friday, February 1. Dr. Chookaszian shared this information with the audience at the presentation titled “Germans and Armenians: Historic and Artistic Relations,” organized by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

Dr. Chookaszian is one of the leading authorities in the world on Armenian Art. He has taught at Yerevan State University since 1978 and is the founder of the Department of Art History at Yerevan State. In 1996, he also established the UNESCO Chair of Armenian Art History. Dr. Chookaszian imparted a great deal of knowledge with his audience. It was great to understand how well the Germans and Armenians were able to have such strong relations. Dr. Chookaszian illustrated his talk with a PowerPoint presentation.

Listening to Dr. Chookaszian’s talk brought a completely new understanding of what the Germans and Armenians were able to bring to each other’s lives. There were a number of influential figures who made an important

impact on the mutual relations. Johann Jacob Friedrich Wilhelm Parrot was a German naturalist and professor who climbed Mt. Ararat in 1829. According to the Bible, Mt. Ararat is the place where Noah’s Ark landed. Parrot, accompanied by noted Eastern Armenian author Khachatur Abovian, is considered to be the first to have climbed the mountain in modern times.

In the field of art, Dr. Chookaszian presented the example of Albrecht Dürer, the noted 15-16th c. German painter and wood-cut artist, whose influence on Armenian art was substantial. When the Armenians began to publish the first books in Armenian in the 16th c., they used Dürer’s wood-cuts as models for their illustrations and these became widely distributed among Armenian printers. Dr. Chookaszian also suggested that the well-known Armenian painter Minas Avetsiyan was also influenced by Dürer, comparing an Avetisyan self-portrait where he is seen holding a spring of thorns, to a similar painting by Dürer.

Dr. Chookaszian provided other examples of how Armenians

and Germans were able to work together. Avetik Isahakian, the noted Armenian poet, writer, and public figure studied at the University of Leipzig as well as the University of Zurich. Isahakian, with the help of a number of German intellectuals, founded the German-Armenian Society in 1914, one year before the Genocide. The main reason for the founding of this group was to keep a mutual understanding between the two groups. Isahakian also edited “Mesrop,” the journal of the Society.

Another important contributor to the German-Armenian Society was its first chairman, Johannes Lepsius, a German Protestant missionary. Lepsius had a special interest in the Armenians, and reported extensively about the Armenian Genocide.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Armenian composer Gomidas, the founder of modern Armenian music. Gomidas studied in Berlin and used his western musical training to transform Armenian music. He spent many years in Germany often lecturing about the history and significance of Armenian music.

The audience enjoyed the lecture presented by Dr. Chookaszian on a topic that has been little discussed. This presentation allowed one to gain a new respect for the Germans. The Germans and Armenians have had a long history of interaction and still share a connection to this day.

Dr. Chookaszian’s lecture detailed the scholars, artists, and influential characters that made an impact on German and Armenian relations.

Dr. Chookaszian’s presentation on “Germans and Armenians: Historic and Artistic Relations,” was eye-opening for those in attendance.



Dr. Levon Chookaszian, center, with students and faculty after the Friday, February 1, lecture at Fresno State.

Photo: Andrew Hagopian

Dr. Sheklian Discusses Life of Armenian Community in Istanbul



Dr. Christopher Sheklian, center, with faculty and students after the lecture.

Photo: Andrew Hagopian

DAVID SAFRAZIAN
STAFF WRITER

The Armenians in Turkey today constitute only a small minority compared to the pre-Genocide Armenian population. As such they live interspersed within the larger Turkish community, especially in Istanbul. Thus they also share space in the religious arena, leading to interesting interactions with their neighbors.

The St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, located in Kuzguncuk, Turkey, shares a wall with a mosque next door where sometimes prayers are heard simultaneously. “Divine Liturgy is incredibly important to the life of Istanbul Armenians,” said guest speaker Dr. Christopher Sheklian.

On Friday, February 22, Dr. Sheklian presented a talk on “Liturgy and Property in Istanbul: The Armenian Minority in Turkey Today.” The focus of his presentation was the intertwining of liturgy and property in Istanbul and how the Armenian community negotiates its existence in the face of challenging obstacles.

Dr. Sheklian is currently the director of the Zohrab Information Center of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church. He is also a native of Visalia and attended St. Mary Armenian Church of Yetttem. Dr. Sheklian earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago in 2017. He specializes in the Anthropology of religion and secularism, studying the role of liturgy and law on the lives of religious minorities.

Dr. Sheklian lived in Turkey for two years as he became immersed within the Armenian community and conducted fieldwork for his doctoral dissertation. During the Divine Liturgy of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, prayers are heard from the mosque next door. In the twentieth century, a mosque was built next to the Church and now prayers from the mosque can be heard in the Church. Dr. Sheklian played a recording that illustrated this point, expressing the idea that the harmonization of both the prayers of the mosque and Armenian Church hymns are similar to one another.

“The two melodies are not discordant, they align. One might even say that they are

harmonious,” stated Dr. Sheklian. Armenians have lived in Istanbul, and throughout Turkey, for centuries but began to move to Istanbul especially in the 18th and 19th centuries. They emigrated there for commercial reasons and for work opportunities. As the Armenian population grew, so also did the number of churches, and today there are still 36 active churches.

Dr. Sheklian gave a brief history on the significance of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire and then discussed the importance of the *vakif* in the life of the community. A *vakif* is a form of endowment where a privately-owned property is endowed for a charitable purpose and the revenue generated is spent for that purpose.

Each individual Armenian church was thus endowed, but during the Armenian Genocide, and also later the Turkish government appropriated many of those lands. Recent changes in Turkish law have allowed Armenians to try to reclaim the lost property, but the complexity of the requirements to prove ownership have proven to be daunting.

When asked what was the most difficult part of his research, Dr. Sheklian responded that, “Building trust was the hardest part of this project because I was a stranger in a new community. Being Armenian helped in some ways, and also being involved in the church, being a deacon and participating in liturgy at various churches in Istanbul helped build the connection. I was able to meet many people and prove that I was there for a purpose.”

Dr. Sheklian is conducting research for two future projects. The first is research on the Armenian refugees from the Syrian civil war. He is studying their impact on existing Armenian Diaspora populations and how they integrate into society. His second project is on Environmental Theology, a field which is rapidly expanding, and which is based on an understanding of God’s relationship with the environment. According to Dr. Sheklian these ideas have not yet entered into Armenian theology but they should.

Dr. Sheklian’s presentation provided a new perspective on the Armenian community in Turkey.

Give Your Way to Armenian Studies

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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Armenian Students Organization Holds Various Activities



The Armenian Students Organization held a Christmas party at the end of the Fall Semester.

Photos: ASP Archive



The Armenian Students Organization attended a Fresno State Men's Basketball Game in November of 2018.



The Armenian Students Organization organized a Bowling Night at Fresno State on Friday, February 8.

Elementary Armenian Language Class

ARMENIAN, FROM PAGE 1

Armenian had developed: Modern Western Armenian and Modern Eastern Armenian. As a result of the Armenian Genocide in 1915, many surviving Armenians emigrated to Europe, the Middle East, Australia, South America, or the United States.

Today, through language courses offered by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, Armenian-American students have the opportunity to learn how to speak, read, and write in their native language, and non-Armenians have the chance to learn a beautiful and ancient language, keeping it alive through the Western Armenian dialect.

Every Monday and Wednesday from 10AM until 11:50AM, students in Armenian 1B, Elementary Armenian, meet to develop their Armenian speaking, reading, and writing skills during the spring semester of 2019. Due to Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian's engaging and understanding approach to teaching, students come eager to practice speaking and ready to

learn the language.

"I enjoy this class as I feel I am learning a lot every day. All of it is equally engaging," said Caleb Arizmendez, a freshman majoring in Chemistry.

Prof. Der Mugrdechian has been teaching Armenian language courses at Fresno State for more than thirty years. His approach is to engage students in an overall experience, to not only learn the language, but to also learn more about the Armenian culture. "I enjoy teaching Armenian to students who are eager to learn. We learn as a class about Armenian history and about the roots of the language," said Prof. Der Mugrdechian.

Armenian language courses are a basic requirement for the Minor in Armenian Studies at Fresno State.

Some students like the grammar exercises that the students are assigned. "My favorite part of this class is grammar lessons in the textbook," stated Mark Soghomonian, a senior at University High School.

The sixteen students in the

class have many different levels of proficiency in Armenian. Some speak the language fluently with their family and friends. "I speak Armenian outside of class with my parents, grandparents, family, and some of my friends," said freshman Anahit Yerdoglyan. Others began the class knowing a few phrases, or no Armenian at all. "Before taking the Armenian class I only knew a few words and phrases that I would say to my father," said Cole Egoian, a junior majoring in Biology.

When students were asked why they decided to take the Armenian language course at Fresno State, there were a variety of responses. Some students are taking the course to read and write Armenian better, and to also learn more about the language they grew up speaking.

"I wanted to learn how to read and write in Armenian. I also wanted to learn more about Armenia," stated freshman Valerya Sargsyan. Others are taking the class to be able to communicate with the Armenians in the community, "I have a few Armenians in my life and I would

like to understand their native language," said Arizmendez.

The existence of Armenian language courses at the university has even played a part in the decision of some students to attend Fresno State. "I intentionally applied for Fresno State because I wanted to take the Armenian language courses," stated Mickey Walkup, a junior, who is studying landscape architecture.

Although learning a new language in only two semesters might be a difficult goal to achieve, students seem to enjoy the fast-paced and engaging

Richard Hagopian Presents Musical Journey

ANDREW HAGOPIAN

STAFF WRITER

Central Valley native and award-winning oud-master Richard Hagopian gave a performance and lecture on Thursday, March 1, titled "Armenian Song Repertoire of the Middle East: Part II." Accompanying him were his grandsons, Phillip and Andrew Hagopian, who were showcased on the *kanun* (the Middle Eastern Lap Harp) and the *dumbeg* (goblet shaped hand drum).

Dr. Partow Hooshmandrad, from the Department of Music at Fresno State, welcomed the audience and introduced Mr. Hagopian.

At 13, Hagopian started studying the *oud* with the internationally renowned Armenian artist Kanuni Garbis Bakirgian. He also learned the clarinet, the *dumbeg*, and the *kanun*, and mastered the accompanying musical theory, notation techniques, and both the classical and folk repertoires.

Hagopian has mastered the Armenian tradition in music by interviewing older Armenians he met at picnics and dances. His insight into how they celebrated, how they worshipped, how their instruments were made, and what dance steps were associated with the tunes of various geographical regions, gave him an unparalleled understanding of traditional Armenian music.

Hagopian's presentation was co-sponsored by the Middle East Studies Lecture, Performance, and Film Series, the Armenian Studies Program, and the Global Music Lecture Series at Fresno State.

In Part I of this series, Hagopian had explained the oldest forms of Armenian music, whose roots are intertwined with the liturgical music of the Armenian Apostolic Church.



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Left to right: Phillip Hagopian, Richard Hagopian, and Andrew Hagopian.

Hagopian added that the Armenian Church music is founded upon 8 melodic modes from which all other Armenian music evolved.

Hagopian in particular focused on the musical production of the *oud*, a non-fretted instrument, with 11 strings. The *oud* is an acoustical instrument made completely of wood and it was originally strung with catgut string or gut strings.

Hagopian then discussed how the styles of various oud-masters influenced his work. In particular, Hrant Kenkulian (Oudi Hrant) played a major role in Hagopian's development as a musician. Hagopian first musical piece was a classical selection composed by Kenkulian called "Khrjeet." The song reflects the blind oud master's life and his love and appreciation of his wife. "We shouldn't worry about how much they have and how little we have because someday, they will look upon our life and they will be jealous of our simple way of life," said Hagopian.

Hagopian explained that it was primarily Armenian, Greeks, and Assyrians, who were the composers of Ottoman music. Among these, perhaps the best

known was Tateos Ekserjian, or *Kemani* Tateos. Many of these composers and artists are now infrequently remembered.

The Hagopian trio performed another selection from the region of Eastern Armenia, "Bardezoom," (In the Garden) composed in the classical era of traditional Armenian music by Ashough Sheram, a troubadour. When Armenia was ruled by kings and queens, troubadours would compose music in the courtyards of the palace and simultaneously write lyrics.

From one region of Armenia to the next, Hagopian took the audience on a journey from the areas of Erzerum, Dikranagerd, and back to Eastern Armenia.

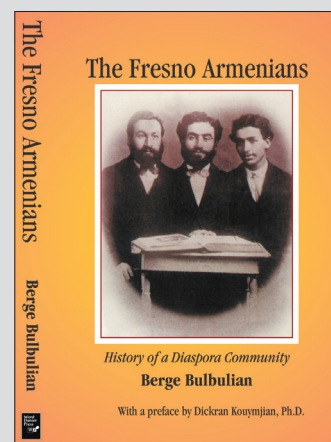
Hagopian's grandsons, Phillip and Andrew, were each given the opportunity to perform a piece on the *oud*. The two chose classical selections which honored the late Oudi Hrant. Phillip chose to play "Siroun Akhchig," while Andrew performed "Parov Yegar, Siroun Yar."

The audience showed its appreciation for the group by giving them a standing ovation, which led to an encore to conclude the evening.

language classes.

"Although the class is difficult, I enjoy finally taking a language where I'm learning, not just struggling," said Walkup. To some, the Armenian language courses are among the best courses available at Fresno State. "The Armenian language course is by far one of the most informative classes offered at Fresno State," concluded freshman Andrew Hagopian.

Beginning Armenian language courses are offered every Fall at Fresno State, with additional courses offered in Spring.



Berge Bulbulian's

The Fresno Armenians

Now available as a Kindle Book through Amazon

Kashian Family Foundation Strengthens Ties Between Diasporans and Armenia



Photo: Courtesy AUA

Christine Idjian

TALEEN BABAYAN
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
COMMUNICATIONS,
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA
SPECIAL TO HYE SHARZHOOM

As a global academic institution of higher learning, the American University of Armenia (AUA) welcomes students from around the world, particularly study-abroad participants. Thanks to the generosity of the Kashian Family Foundation, undergraduates from California State University, Fresno (Fresno State), spend a semester on AUA’s campus in Yerevan where they have the opportunity to learn both in the classrooms as well as from their rich environment, located in the country’s capital city.

“The Kashian Family Foundation is pleased to support the Fresno State/AUA partnership which has allowed students to study abroad in Armenia,” said Georgeanne White, President of the Kashian Family Foundation. “The experience of participating in academic courses while immersing themselves in the Armenian culture is invaluable to these students and will hopefully

create lifelong memories and friendships.”

Two Fresno State students were selected for the summer and fall 2018 semesters, Avedis Kachadourian and Christine Idjian, respectively, whose personal and professional lives were enriched during their months at AUA as they forged ties to Armenia early on.

A senior at Fresno State, Idjian is a Business Accounting major with a minor in Armenian Studies and enrolled in Intermediate Managerial Accounting, Introduction to Armenian Government, Photography, and International Relations while at AUA in the Fall of 2018. While she has traveled to Armenia several times, her experience as a study abroad student has been quite different, particularly in terms of academic approach.

“I wanted to study abroad at AUA because it has always been interesting for me to see what the education system and teaching style is like in Armenia,” said Idjian, who plans to obtain her master’s degree and become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) upon graduation. “I was interested in seeing what the

studying environment is like in another country, but where almost everyone is Armenian.”

In her classes, Idjian recognized similarities and differences, such as the importance of participation, larger homework load, emphasis on group work and computer-based exams. She notes that her courses have had “a great impact” on her academic goals, especially since she would like to acquire knowledge in international accounting and study the practices in Armenia. In addition, she appreciates the lively atmosphere and the new friendships she has made in the country.

Born and raised in Fresno, Idjian desired to explore her homeland further, despite her previous trips to Armenia and courses in Armenian Studies at Fresno State.

“I have enjoyed experiencing the feeling of living in my homeland for a few months,” said Idjian. “By studying abroad in Armenia, I have discovered what the real Armenian culture is like and have added to my knowledge of the history and religion while discovering new cultural values and traditions by seeing, participating and attending cultural events.”

An aspiring history professor, Avedis Kachadourian saw an opportunity for “personal growth, historical knowledge, and cultural immersion” that would shape his future as a study abroad student at AUA.

He sought to broaden his horizons and develop a deeper understanding of his Armenian heritage.

“Learning about Armenia’s past has always been of utmost importance to me,” said Kachadourian. “In Sunday school and at home, I grew up around the



Photo: Courtesy AUA

Avedis Kachadourian

culture that runs deep in Fresno, California.”

He learned of key Armenian figures as well as the Armenian Genocide while studying the history of the country in class, but desired to witness first-hand the “first churches that withstood centuries of invasion from enemies against both Armenia and Christianity, and the rich mountains and hillsides that paint the Armenian landscape.”

A history major, Kachadourian enrolled in Armenian Society and Culture with Dr. Anahid Keshishian and Global Perspectives and Armenian Site Stories with Dr. Gregory Areshian at AUA.

“The opportunity to learn from both of those professors was something I will always be grateful for,” said Kachadourian. “Combining their teachings with the multiple excursions we took every week, I was able to understand far more about Armenia and the rest of the world than I ever had before.”

His favorite was the trip to the Areni 1 cave and the Noravank Monastery where the class was able to see “the remnants of

ancient peoples who once lived in the Armenian Highlands and a Monastery from the Middle Ages.”

During his semester on campus, Kachadourian appreciated the well-kept campus, modern facilities and helpful staff and above all, the kindness and hospitality of the students and faculty, who he noted were very welcoming.

Upon receiving the scholarship and attending AUA, Kachadourian realized the memories he created in the homeland would stay with him forever.

“Traveling to Armenia was something I honestly thought I would not do until far later in my life,” said Kachadourian.

“I am extremely grateful to the Kashian Family Foundation that gave me the chance to go to Armenia and study at AUA because this was an opportunity of a lifetime.”

Founded in 1991, the American University of Armenia is a private, independent university located in Yerevan, Armenia, and affiliated with the University of California.



Photo: TopHandMedia

Fresno State student Hovsep Harutyunyan in the Saroyan House Museum research room.

SAROYAN, FROM PAGE 1
with the project in a variety of capacities.

Prof. Der Mugrdechian introduced KSEE24 anchor Stefani Booroojian, who has been covering the Saroyan House Museum project from its inception. She described her first experience with the Renaissance Cultural and Intellectual Foundation while on a visit to Yerevan. It was there that she first heard about the plans for the Saroyan House Museum. She recalled being shocked, asking “Have they seen that house? Did

they know what they were getting into?”

Booroojian, together with everyone who has visited the House Museum, has been amazed by the transformation that has taken place in Saroyan’s old residence. Booroojian presented special footage of the Museum’s development, showing how the Foundation gave new life to the home and created technological innovations for everyone to enjoy.

It was a chance for the audience to see just how much work the Foundation has invested into the development of the

House Museum. The Museum has created more awareness of Saroyan’s achievements, which were highlighted in “Lights! Camera! Saroyan!”.

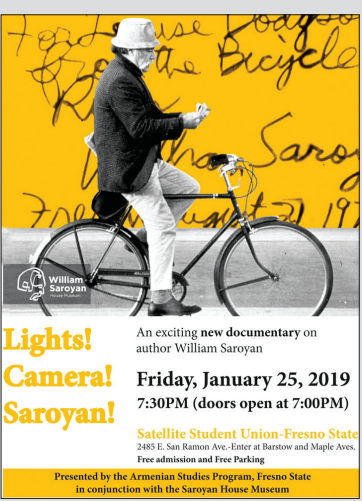
The film itself brought together elements of Saroyan’s life and commentary from family and friends, giving new life to his works. Overall the documentary followed the arc of Saroyan’s career from his first publication through his fame as an author.

The interviews provided historical background and insight into Saroyan’s career, and also added the cultural dimension of his Armenian roots. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies, Emeritus, was one of the commentators in the film.

He expressed his sincere hope that the documentary and Artur Janibekyan’s ideas would live up to the name of a “renaissance.”

“Or, at least, it should start one,” he added. Dr. Kouymjian, who knew Saroyan well, was featured in many parts of the documentary.

Bringing a more personal note to the documentary were interviews with Hank Saroyan and Charles Janigian. Hank, William Saroyan’s nephew, recounted humorous interactions



between he and his uncle. Particularly moving were the stories of William Saroyan’s connection to children and how his literary world was filled with children.

Saroyan’s cousin Charles Janigian was also featured in the documentary, providing more stories that focused on William Saroyan the person.

Janibekyan’s team at the Renaissance Cultural and Intellectual Foundation have indeed sparked a renaissance of Saroyan.

Their efforts have inspired countless others to appreciate the William Saroyan’s life and works.

The Renaissance Foundation continues to support Saroyan’s

legacy and is devoted to finding new ways to create interactive exhibits for the Museum. Prof. Der Mugrdechian revealed some of their initiatives, including adding an additional hologram, and expanded digital archive, and even offering Saroyan-themed souvenirs.

Also in the works is the development of a Saroyan interview space, where visitors can record their own interactions with the famous author.

The Saroyan House Museum is giving the community an opportunity to support Saroyan’s legacy, through their newly developed membership system. Membership fees directly support the Saroyan House Museum, allowing it to continue its work promoting the legacy of William Saroyan.

Membership information can be found online at saroyanhouse.com.

The Saroyan House Museum is open Thursday-Saturdays, but online reservations are required.



“Letters to Barbra” Book Launch



Stefani Booroojian, with author Paul Chaderjian.

CHADERJIAN FROM PAGE 1

Photo: ASP Archive

novel at a book launch organized by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State on Tuesday, February 12. The format for the evening was interesting and engaging as KSEE24 anchor Stefani Booroojian joined Chaderjian in the presentation. Booroojian conducted the evening as an interview with Chaderjian. Interspersed with the discussion were clips of some of the major stories that Chaderjian had covered in places such as Syria. The coverage of those events had a deep impact on Chaderjian’s life.

Chaderjian’s main character in *Letters to Barbra* is a young man named Adam. The story of Adam and Paul is intertwined in that they both experienced violence and sought to write as the main outlet to express their feelings. Chaderjian was inspired by the 1972 movie, “What’s Up Doc?” starring Barbra Streisand and utilizes her as the idol to whom Adam writes his letters to. Adam sends letters to Barbra asking her to help stop the Lebanese Civil War, which has been devastating and tragic for his family and friends. Paul Chaderjian and his family were similarly fortunate to escape the Civil War in Lebanon, but hoped that they would one day return. The novel also includes many references to Fresno, where the author’s career began.

Chaderjian is a writer and broadcast journalist, but has worked for Al Jazeera, CNN, ABC news, and television stations in Fresno, New York, Yerevan, Los Angeles, and Honolulu. He is a graduate of USC and has a graduate degree in Mass Communication and Journalism from Fresno State.

Chaderjian has reported on many heartbreaking and emotional stories that stayed on his mind from the time that his ten-hour shifts began to the time he arrived home.

During the presentation Fresno

State students Kara Statler and Claire Kasaian read excerpts from *Letters to Barbra*, illustrating the deep emotional impact of the novel.

The novel is based on a series of letters that Chaderjian began writing in 2003. He did not realize that in 16 years he would publish a book based on the series. Chaderjian summed up his thoughts on why he became an author by saying “writing is not just a way to express yourself, but also to heal yourself.” He wrote *Letters to Barbra* not only for entertainment purposes, but to allow people “to think about what they value in life, how they act every hour or everyday towards the ones they love and the ones on the streets.”

The novel portrays the life which people of the Armenian diaspora live from the perspective of both Adam and Paul. It seemed that being in Armenia meant homesickness for both Adam and Paul in that Fresno was their home. Adam expresses the feelings of being marginalized in the new environment in America. This was one of the aspects in which allowed the book to seem it was also telling the story of Chaderjian.

Chaderjian was asked if he had any more works in progress and answered, “Time in Doha.” He has been an engaged writer and journalist not only in his career in media, but also has been a prominent Armenian role model in the Armenian Diaspora.

In the epilogue to the novel, Chaderjian expresses his thoughts on what life is all about. “Nations will prosper, cultures will die, people will vanish and languages will be lost. All that will remain are the eternal and universal dynamic of humans trying to be human, people caring for one another, strangers showing their empathy and the masses trying to make sense and live every second of each moment the best they know how.”

Annual Vartanantz Commemoration of the Battle of Avarayr Takes Place at St. Paul Armenian Church

DUSTIN VARTANIAN
STAFF WRITER

The celebration of the Battle of Avarayr, and of General Vartan Mamigonian commanding his faithful army and fighting against the Persians continues to this day. The Armenian Apostolic Church annually celebrates this fifth century battle for religious freedom on the Thursday before the beginning of Lent. General Mamigonian died in the Battle of Avarayr, but was recognized as a Saint by the Armenian Church.

Not only is St. Vartan and Vartanantz celebrated annually, but the battle for defending the Christian faith inspired the creation of an organization named in honor of St. Vartan. The Knights of Vartan is a nationwide fraternity that was established in 1916 in the United States, immediately after the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. It is dedicated to the preservation of the Republic of Armenia and the perpetuation of the cultural and historical traditions of the Armenian people by promoting various social, charitable, and educational functions.

According to Steve Adams, the commander of the local Knights of Vartan Yeprad Lodge, the Fresno chapter was established in 1918.

The Armenian people in 451AD and the Armenians in 1915 found themselves in a similar moment in history. “In 451 the Armenian people probably felt they were about to be destroyed by the Persian forces or at least would face forced conversion of their faith. They would therefore lose their identity. In 1915, the founding fathers of the Knights of Vartan probably had the same feeling, watching the destruction



Photo: Christine Pambukyan

Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School students participated in the Annual Vartanantz Commemoration held at St. Paul Armenian Church on Thursday, February 28.

of our homeland and people. Vartan Mamigonian was seen as the defender of the Armenian People and defender of their Christian faith,” said Adams, who also serves as a Deacon in the Armenian Church.

The Knights of Vartan has taken on the responsibility of organizing an annual Vartanantz event. In the Central Valley, the location of the event changes every year, rotating between the major churches. The date for Vartanantz changes every year because the celebration is tied to Easter.

This year’s commemorative event was held at St. Paul Armenian Church on Thursday, February 28, and began with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy by Fr. Yesai Bedros, pastor of St. Paul Armenian Church. Father Yeghia Hairabedian, St. Gregory Fowler; Rev. Nerses Balabanian, Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church; Rev. Greg Haroutunian, of First Armenian Presbyterian Church; and Father Zaven Margosian of St. Mary Armenian

Church, Yettam, participated in the service.

Spiritual messages on the significance of the commemoration were delivered by Rev. Haroutunian and Fr. Margosian. After the homilies, students of the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School performed in the St. Paul Berberian Hall. Students prepared a tableau of the Armenians at Vartanantz, with the students reciting and singing songs in honor of the day. At the conclusion of the evening the Knights and Daughters of Vartan sponsored a reception for everyone to enjoy.

Ultimately, the Vartanantz celebration is a reminder to Armenians to keep the faith no matter the circumstances.

The physical aspects of a people can be destroyed, and never seen again, but in the words of the 5th c. Armenian historian Yeghishe, who chronicled the battle of Vartanantz, “Death, not comprehended is death; death perceived is immortality.”

Eench Ga Chga

Have you ever wanted to travel to Armenia? Why?



ANDREW HAGOPIAN
FRESHMAN

I have always wanted to visit our homeland and visit the sites where my ancestors came from. One thing I look forward to seeing is Holy Etchmiadzin because of its significance and connection to the Armenians. I would like to see other Armenian Churches

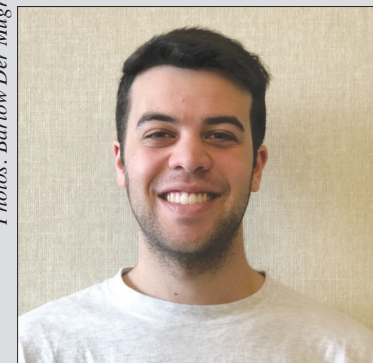
that I learned about in my Arts of Armenia course at Fresno State.



CHRISTINE PAMBUKYAN
FRESHMAN

I have always wanted to walk on the soil of my motherland and learn as much as I could about my roots at least once in my life. Last summer I was able to visit

Armenia for a two-week long trip. What motivated me was my mother’s and grandparents’ stories of their former home in Armenia and how everything tastes better there. I wanted to experience it myself.



GREGORY KRIKORIAN
JUNIOR

I have not yet traveled to Armenia, but after taking classes through the Armenian Studies Program, there are many places that I would like to visit. Not only that, but to visit the places where my ancestors came from would be an amazing experience. I plan on going to Armenia as soon as possible.

Hye Oozh

Saturdays • 9:00AM - Noon

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90.7 FM-KFSR

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The Armenian Studies Program
presents

“The Missing Pages:
The Modern Life of a
Medieval Manuscript,
from Genocide to Justice”

Dr. Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh
(University of California, Davis)



In 2010, the world’s wealthiest art institution, the J. Paul Getty Museum, found itself confronted by a century-old genocide. The Armenian Church was suing for the return of eight pages from the Zeytun Gospels, a manuscript illuminated by the greatest medieval Armenian artist, Toros Roslin. Protected for centuries in a remote church, the holy manuscript had followed the waves of displaced people

exterminated during the Armenian genocide. Passed from hand to hand, caught in the confusion and brutality of the First World War, it was cleaved in two. Decades later, the manuscript found its way to the Republic of Armenia, while its missing eight pages came to the Getty.

The Missing Pages is the biography of a manuscript that is at once art, sacred object, and cultural heritage.

Thursday, April 4, 2019 • 7:30PM

University Business Center, Room 191

Alice Peters Auditorium • Fresno State

Free admission and parking (with code)

Copies of *The Missing Pages* will be available for purchase at the lecture.

SAS Publishes New Book in Armenian Series

WESTERN ARMENIAN,
FROM PAGE 1



Bedross Der Matossian

21st Century is the product of a conference, “Transmitting Western Armenian to the Next Generation,” that was organized by the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) and the Armenian Communities Department of the Gulbenkian Foundation on November 18, 2017, in Washington, D.C. The conference brought together experts in the field of Western Armenian who focused on theoretical questions as well as practical suggestions in dealing with outdated pedagogical approaches. The seven articles in the volume present the latest research in the field of language acquisition, which benefits from theoretical and practical approaches in the field of teaching minority languages in a diasporic situation.

The first article by Hratch Tchilingirian extensively analyzes the outcome of one of the most important conferences that has taken place in recent years on the status of Western Armenian. Entitled “Western Armenian in the 21st Century,” the conference was held in Oxford University in January 2016 and brought together the stake-holders of Western Armenian. Tchilingirian critically addresses its recommendations in the process of maintaining the vitality of Western Armenian. These recommendations range from using electronic resources as a platform for Western Armenian to creating a virtual research institution for analyzing the status of Western Armenian in the global context. Tchilingirian’s article is followed by his detailed report of the conference in, western Armenian.

Ani Garmiryan’s article deals with the challenges facing children who want to study Armenian in the 21st century. The main question that Garmiryan posits is how to develop an environment in which children will experience Western Armenian as natural. She suggests bringing a “village” to life. The successful project that she analyzes is the summer immersion program called *Zarmanazan* which has been implemented through a collaboration between the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, INALCO, and the Association Mille et un Mondes. The immersion program encourages practices that reveal Western Armenian as a common denominator.

Jesse Arlen’s article specifically deals with “Where are your Keys?” (WAYK).

Developed by Evan Gardner, WAYK is a comprehensive method of teaching with the goal of the revitalization of endangered languages. He suggests that teachers of Western Armenian use the WAYK method and inspire students to become independent learners and pursue the language outside of the classroom environment.

Shushan Karapetian’s article deals with the situation of Heritage Language (HL) learners. Through both theoretical and practical approaches, Karapetian discusses ways to maintain a pluricentric diasporic language such as Armenian. For the first time Karapetian addresses an issue that has not been dealt with in the literature: how Eastern Armenian speakers can become Western Armenian learners. Her article provides suggestions on how to enlarge the pool of Western Armenian learners. Furthermore, her approach contributes to a better understanding of Western Armenian culture and thinking by Eastern Armenians.

Sylvia Kasparian’s article is based on the theories developed in the field of psychosociolinguistic development of bilingual or multilingual children. The article adopts a theoretical approach to address the teaching of Western Armenian in the Armenian diaspora. Kasparian argues that it is imperative that major changes should be adopted in teaching Western Armenian in the diaspora.

Hagop Gulludjian’s article draws on theoretical and field research and more than a decade of experimentation in teaching Western Armenian. Gulludjian calls for radical modification in the approach to Armenian instruction. In this article, he concentrates on the practical aspect of the problem. Gulludjian’s solution is to adopt a comprehensive strategy of “Creative Literacy,” designed to bypass the advantages associated with the dominant languages by the enduring beliefs of the learners and their families.

Elizabeth Mkhitarian’s article concentrates on the notion of creative writing as an empowering tool for Heritage Learner (HL) students. She discusses her experience in Western Armenian classes at UCLA where the method of creative writing was adopted. Mkhitarian suggests that in order for Western Armenian to



Barlow Der Mugrdechian

persist beyond the walls of the classroom, it must be experienced fully in the classroom.

Vartan Matiossian’s conclusion addresses a broader issue—the attitude that the diaspora itself has towards the survival of Western Armenian. He argues for a positive approach that has no room for defeatist attitudes and the inevitability of the demise of Western Armenian.

This volume will have an important effect as a resource, in not only providing food for thought for those who seek answers on how to utilize new approaches to teaching Western Armenian, but also fostering a conversation about strategies for language maintenance that could be utilized by organizations. The articles will provide a basis for understanding the challenges involved in the use of Western Armenian as both a language of communication and also a language of continued creativity long into the future.

Bedross Der Matossian is an Associate Professor of Middle East History at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He is the President of the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) and the author of the award-winning book *Shattered Dreams of Revolution: From Liberty to Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2014).

Barlow Der Mugrdechian is the Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program and Director of the Center for Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno. He is the general editor of the Armenian Series of the Press at California State University, Fresno. He is the former President of the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS).

Western Armenian in the 21st Century is available through Amazon.

Bertha and John Garabedian
Foundation Makes Generous
Donation of \$10,000 to ASP

STAFF REPORT

Armenian Studies Program Berberian Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian announced that the Bertha and John Garabedian Foundation has made a generous donation of \$10,000 to the Armenian Studies Program for 2019.

Together with previous year’s donations, the Garabedian Foundation has awarded more than \$100,000 in grants to the

Armenian Studies Program.

The gift will be used for a variety of activities, including outreach activities and awarding 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.”



2019 ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION CENTRAL CALIFORNIA EVENTS

—Wednesday, April 24, 2019—

10am

FLAG RAISING: ANC-CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
Fresno City Hall, 2600 Fresno Street

12 noon

FRESNO STATE-ARMENIAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION
Armenian Genocide Monument, Fresno State

6pm

**ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE OF FRESNO**
Armenian Genocide Monument, Fresno State *[Relaxed Campus Parking in P1, P5 & P6]*

6:45pm

Laying of Flowers

7pm

Religious Service

7:30pm

Civic Service

Keynote Speakers:

Armenian Genocide Essay Competition Winners
High School and University Students

Remarks:

Dr. Joseph Castro, Fresno State President



Armenian Genocide Centennial, Fresno Committee: The mission of the Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee, Fresno is to honor the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians who perished at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish government beginning on April 24, 1915. The Committee is responsible for organizing commemorative programs and educating the community about the Armenian Genocide to prevent future genocides.

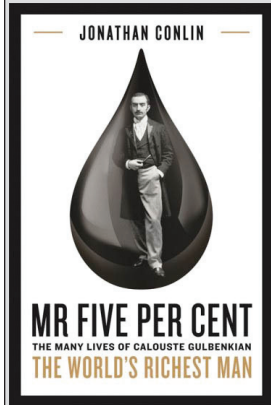
For a complete listing of events visit www.agcfresno.org     agcfresno@gmail.com

The Armenian Studies Program presents

“Calouste Gulbenkian: Mr. Five Per Cent”

Dr. Jonathan Conlin

(University of Southampton)



Born into the Armenian merchant elite of Istanbul in 1869, the renowned oil magnate Calouste Gulbenkian made his fortune as a ‘business architect,’ persuading rival oil companies to collaborate for their mutual enrichment, particularly in the Middle East. The violent collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the Armenian Genocide and the attempt to establish a secure “Armenian National Home” at Versailles barely affected Gulbenkian, who appeared uninterested in being a “good Armenian.” Dr. Jonathan Conlin chronicles the life of the world’s wealthiest Armenian in this new biography.

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 • 7:30PM

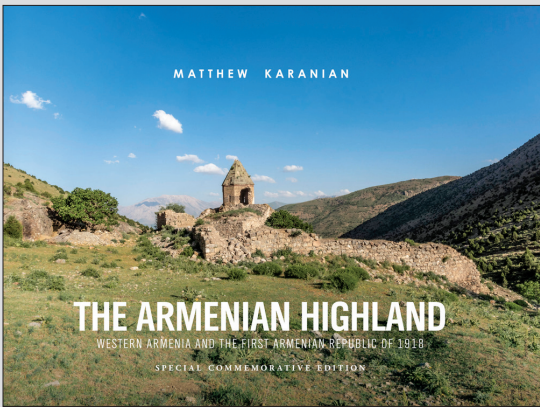
University Business Center, Room 191
Alice Peters Auditorium, Fresno State

Free admission and parking (with code) in Lot P6
Copies of *Mr. Five Per Cent* will be available for purchase at the lecture.

The Armenian Studies Program presents

“The Armenian Highland: Western Armenia and the First Armenian Republic of 1918”

by Matthew Karanian



One century ago, and lasting for a period of 30 months, the Armenians formed an independent democratic republic for the first time in their history. Lawyer and author Matthew Karanian celebrates the history of this First Republic and shows, through stunning photography, the Hidden Armenia that he has discovered during his research in Ani, Kars, and Western Armenia—all lands that are today outside the borders of the Republic of Armenia.

Thursday, April 11, 2019
7:30PM

University Business Center, Room 191 • Fresno State
Copies of *The Armenian Highland* will be available for purchase.

Free admission and parking (with code) in Lot P6

The Armenian Studies Program presents

“Singing in Exile”

a film with Aram & Virginia Kerovpyan



The prize-winning documentary follows Aram and Virginia Kerovpyan, a Diasporan Armenian couple, as they transmit an ancestral, endangered singing tradition to a troupe of European actors (Teatr Zar). During the process of creating a new play, the couple takes the company on a trip to Asia Minor where the Armenian civilization has been destroyed. Along the way, the questioning of the actors brings to the forefront the wealth of this culture: singing becomes a language of creation and sharing, the breath of life.

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 • 7:30PM

University Business Center, Room 191 • Fresno State
Free admission and parking (with code) in Lot P6

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