

# HYE SHARZHOOM

## Armenian Action

### ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՍ

March 1998

Vol. 19, No. 3 (61)

Supplement to The Collegian

## Kazan Endowed Professorship

### • Canadian Scholar Dr. Isabel Kaprielian Appointed

The appointment of Dr. Isabel Kaprielian to the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Professor of Modern Armenian and Immigration History at California State University Fresno adds a different perspective to the university's Armenian studies courses.

The Kazan Endowed Professorship is intended to develop a major emphasis on studies of Armenians in the diaspora, their immigration and settlement in North America, the Armenian Genocide, and modern Armenian history. CSU Fresno recently awarded Professor Kaprielian a Legislative Grant to start up an oral history project focusing on the history of Armenians in Fresno County and to collect archival material, like photographs and documents, relating to that experience. Discussions are also underway with the Armenian-American Citizens' League regarding using Professor Kaprielian's advice and expertise in establishing a museum of Armenian artifacts pertaining to settlement in the San Joaquin Valley. "Because the Armenian community in Fresno has thrived for over a century, it deserves to be examined by scholars

interested in how a diaspora group evolves and flourishes, how it balances a commitment to its cultural heritage rooted in the old land and



**Dr. Isabel Kaprielian**

its commitment to the cultural richness of the new land," Prof. Kaprielian remarked.

She is a professor in the History Department and is also cross-appointed to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. "In addition to undergraduate programs, the History Department offers master's programs. We are hoping to expand the graduate component of Armenian history in the future,"

Prof. Kaprielian added. Her special areas of teaching and research include: immigration and ethnic studies, genocide and renewal, the Armenian diaspora, refugees, education of minorities, and the history of women and children.

Shortly after taking up her post at Fresno State last year, Prof. Kaprielian organized a successful symposium that drew an overflow audience to the Alice Peters auditorium. Entitled "Armenians in the Raisin Industry: 1890-90," the symposium brought together academics and community participants to discuss one of the most successful branches of Armenian endeavor in the San Joaquin valley. Because of the community's interest in the topic, the papers from the symposium are now being compiled into a book.

Fresno State attracted Prof. Kaprielian from a senior research post at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, where she was known as a scholar of Armenians in Canada and of issues related to

See KAZAN, Page 8

## Around the World

- **February 3- President Ter-Petrosian Announces Resignation**
- **Prime Minister Robert Kocharian is Acting President**
- **Kirk Kirkorian Establishes \$100 Million Small Business Loan Fund in Armenia**
- **March 16 Set for Presidential Elections**
- **Five of the 12 presidential candidates, including acting President Robert Kocharyan and Vazgen Manukyan sign pledge to ensure that the 16 March election is free and fair**
- **General Motors to Explore Economic Possibilities in Armenia**
- **Japanese Company Allocates \$2.3 Million to Improve Zvartnots Airport**

## ASO Busy with Spring Activities

By: Arakel A. Arisian  
ASO President

"Car Wash! Come help support the Armenian Students Organization." This is just an example of the many activities the Armenian students at Fresno State take part in. The Armenian Students Organization (ASO) continually tries to find new and interesting activities it can offer to its members. Last semester the ASO worked to build a strong foundation of interest in both Armenian issues and in the ASO itself. College life is very busy and that makes it difficult for students to be as involved as they would like. Still, the members of the ASO do a great job of staying involved and helping out. To those students, the ASO executive thanks you.

This semester the ASO executive is trying to achieve a balance between educational, cultural, and social events. As far as educational events, the ASO will have a series of lectures and discussions about Armenian issues that students face. Many students don't know as much as

they could about the issues that Armenians have to deal with. That is why ASO supports the Armenian Studies curriculum and tries to supplement it with discussion and debate. Some topics that the ASO hopes to cover include the Presidential situation, Nagorno Karabagh, and the Armenian Genocide.

The issue of the Armenian Genocide is probably our

See ASO, Page 8

## AG Marketing Group Visits CSUF

By Barlow DerMugrdechian  
Hye Sharzhoom Advisor

The future of Armenia could be seen in the excited faces of students from the Armenian Agricultural Academy (AAA) who arrived in Fresno on Wednesday, February 11 for a two week visit to California State University, Fresno. They are the future because it is with their knowledge, dedication, and enthusiasm that Armenia will be changed.

Students Levon Gulkhasian, Levon Saryan, Mihran Movsisyan, Hayk Haykian, Vahe Heboyan, Hrachya Ohanyan, Ara Tarverdyan, Nairi Kazumian and Professors Koryun Grigoryan and



Ag marketing group from Armenia at Vista Point overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco

See AG, Page 6



April 24th Activities, Page 8



## Letters

Dear Dr. Welty:

I am proud to inform you that, by vote of the executive board, our chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi has entered Dr. Dickran Kouymjian in the competition for the award of National Scholar. His teaching and internationally recognized scholarly work exemplifies the principles for which the National Scholar Award was created. We feel his credentials are of the highest quality and make his entry extremely competitive.

The National Scholar award was founded to honor one of the nation's top scholars each triennium (once every 3 years.)

The winner will deliver a keynote address at the triennial convention, held this year at Pennsylvania State University and receive an honorarium. The selection of the National Scholar is achieved by

a committee composed of Phi Kappa Phi members selected from each of the nation's five regions. The committee screens applications submitted by the chapter's of the Society, are limited to one application per chapter. The individuals nominated, by definition, represent the top echelon of scholars across the country. Dr. Kouymjian certainly fits in this category.

We wish him well and hope his nomination will bring added recognition to the university as a whole, to the many excellent faculty at Fresno State and, again, underscore the quality of education available from many of our academic programs.

Yours truly,

Neil Kuykendall  
President, Chapter 62  
CSU Fresno

## ASP Annual Fund Donations

(As of 3-5-98)

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# HYE SHARZHOOM

## ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

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*Hye Sharzhoom* is a supplement of the *Daily Collegian* and the newspaper of the CSUF Armenian Studies 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 readers. For further information concerning the newspaper or Armenian Studies Program:

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(209) 278-2669

<http://www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies/>

## California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

### Fall 1998 Schedule of Courses

| Course                           | Units | Time      | Day  | Instructor        |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----------|------|-------------------|
| <b>General Education</b>         |       |           |      |                   |
| <b>Division 9-Other Cultures</b> |       |           |      |                   |
| • Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies  | 3     | 0945-1100 | TTh  | D. Kouymjian      |
| • Arm S 10Intro to Arm Studies   | 3     | 1010-1100 | MWF  | B Der Mugrdechian |
| • Arm S 10Intro to Arm Studies   | 3     | 1645-1800 | TTh  | D. Kouymjian      |
| • Arm S 20Arts of Armenia        | 3     | 1110-1225 | TTh  | D. Kouymjian      |
| <b>General Education</b>         |       |           |      |                   |
| <b>Division 7- Languages</b>     |       |           |      |                   |
| • Arm 1AElementary Armenian      | 4     | 1110-1200 | MTWF | B Der Mugrdechian |
| • Arm 2AIntermed. Armenian       | 4     | 0910-1000 | MTWF | B Der Mugrdechian |
| <b>Upper Division Courses</b>    |       |           |      |                   |
| • Arm S 108A Arm History I       | 3     | 1110-1225 | TTh  | I Kaprielian      |
| • Arm S 120T Arm. Genocide       | 3     | 1245-1400 | TTh  | I Kaprielian      |
| • Arm S 120T Films of Mamoulia   | 3     | 1710-2000 | W    | D. Kouymjian      |
| • Arm S 120T Armenian Cooking    | 1     | 1710-2200 | Fri  | B Der Mugrdechian |
|                                  |       | 0910-1700 | Sat  |                   |

*Class meets the weekend of September 25 and 26*

All courses can be used for credit toward a minor in Armenian Studies.

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

## Armenians in the Raisin Industry: 1890-1990

Last year we organized a symposium on Armenians in the Raisin Industry.

We are now looking to publish a book on this topic.

Community members are invited to submit brief articles, pictures, and documents for consideration for publication.

Please contact Dr. Isabel Kaprielian at 278-6493.



Left to Right: Mrs. Alice Peters, Mr. Henry S. Kazan, Dr. Isabel Kaprielian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Ellen Gruenbaum, Dean of the School of Social Sciences.

In January, Mr. Henry S. Kazan paid a brief visit to the Fresno State campus. He took the time from a busy schedule of meetings with senior administrators to attend several classes and to talk to students and faculty. With his usual generosity, Mr. Kazan announced that, in addition to the present endowments established by him and his late wife, Mrs. Victoria Karagozian Kazan, he is offering additional scholarships for students taking courses with the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Professor of Modern Armenian and Immigration History. The scholarships will begin operating in the autumn of 1998. More information about this new opportunity will be announced in future issues of *Hye Sharzhoom*.



## ASO Students Participate in ANC Internship

By Alik Hovsepian

Two Fresno State ASO members spent their summer productively in our nation's capitol by participating in an internship at the office of the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA). Crissi Jelladian and Alik Hovsepian spent six weeks in Washington D.C. learning about present issues faced by Congress relating to Armenian-Americans.

A total of five interns participated in the ANCA program. Some of the projects consisted of doing research at the Library of Congress on other Caucuses and then comparing them with the Armenian Caucus. Another project was to locate Armenians across the United States on a database and then send information regarding present situations in Armenia and Armenian issues in the U.S. government. We interviewed the Armenian staff members of Congress and the Senate in order to get to know them better. After the interview there was to be an article on them in the Armenian newspapers to introduce them to the Armenian community and hopefully spark an interest in government and politics within the Armenian community.

Aside from their own projects the interns had other duties as well. One was to do research on Geidar Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan. Aliyev was invited as a guest to the White House at the end of July to meet with President Clinton and discuss oil matters. Through their

research they found that Aliyev was a former KGB member, and a human rights violator. The Azerbaijanis also have a blockade on Nagorno-Karabagh, which is all the more reason for the US not to do business with them. The interns actively participated in putting together media packets, calling members of Congress urging them to sign a letter to President Clinton opposing the meeting with Aliyev. We also protested in front of the Willard Hotel, where Aliyev was staying, and at Georgetown University, where he was speaking. Both of the protests had a lot of coverage by the media, including *The Washington Post*.

Another project we all worked on was calling, faxing and writing letters to members of Congress urging them to co-sponsor the Genocide Resolution, which was written by Congressman George Radanovich, (R-CA). The resolution would recognize the Genocide of the Armenian people by the Ottoman empire.

Twice a week the interns had a lecture usually given by a guest speaker. Among the lecture topics were the purpose and functions of the Armenian Relief Society (A.R.S.), given by the Executive Director of the A.R.S., Karine Alemian and a lecture on US AID to Armenia given by the US Rep to Armenia, Gerry Donnelly. The structure of the US Congress lecture was given by Raffi Hamparian, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Steve

Rothman (D-NJ), Armenian History was reviewed by ARF Bureau member Garo Armenian, and Armenian History given by Professor Zodoian from Queens College.

Besides hard work and experience, the interns were also provided tours by the ANCA every Friday. Among the arranged tours were the Holocaust Museum, Arlington Cemetery, Library of Congress, U.S. Capitol, a tour of the White House, etc. The interns were free on weekends for sightseeing on their own, or just relaxing.

I, personally, had one of the best experiences of my life. I learned a lot during the six weeks that I was in the Capitol due to the hands on experience. Before the internship, I did not care a lot about government, and now I find it fascinating. By calling so many members of Congress on Armenian issues and getting a positive reaction from some, I have hope that one day our people in Armenia will live a comfortable life, and not have to face so many of the hardships they do today. The people we worked with in the office are very committed to their jobs, which had a positive influence on the interns. I think it's safe to say that all of the interns made life long friends that we will never forget. I truly enjoyed my time with the ANCA. It's easy to see why the ANCA is the largest and strongest Armenian political organization in the U.S. If ever given the opportunity to do it again, I most definitely would.

## Visit to Armenia Leaves Lasting Memories

By Aida Kouyoumjian  
Mercer Island, WA

### Yerevan

Living in Yerevan for nearly four months was a larger-than-life experience which consumed my whole being from the moment I put foot on the Armenian soil. And one cannot leave Armenia unchanged.

Let me say that "It was the best of times, and it was the worst of times". I am returning to Armenia in March - that's the good. And so was the self-discovery - that I was spending the second half of my life re-living my youth. Lifestyle, culture, social mores in Armenia replicated my lifestyle in Baghdad, Iraq, some 45 years ago, especially the close ties among family members. Who said one cannot go back in time! Life was VERY difficult, but I was and am nostalgic to that part of my background.

I owe the wondrous opportunity of going to Yerevan to Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian of California State University, who orchestrated my assignments at Yerevan State University and my contacts with USDA. I worked with: first-year and fifth-year students at YSU; the faculty and the staff at the Agricultural Academy; the employees at AgroPress; and drivers hired by USDA. All in all, I was involved in 12 classes, 120 students, in four different institutions. I want to thank Barlow in this open letter for being the impetus for these life-enriching experi-

ences.

The appreciation expressed to me by the Armenians and the sacred stature of Mt. Ararat beckon me back. Being looked at as a mentor, teacher, inspirer, is quite humbling. I am compelled to return, hoping to pass on the benefits of volunteering, although what I can offer to meeting their needs is infinitesimal. The teaching projects in which I got involved need to be developed, and I hope to delegate the continuation of these classes to local teachers before I resettle in Seattle and settle just for Mt. Rainier.

The following is an excerpt from a newsletter that I sent to my friends in October. I hope it will humor you.

*Impressions of Yerevan*  
(October 1, 1997)

After several trips into Yerevan, on my own and without a Yerevanite as a guide, I've acquired the distinct impression that Yerevan is not Paris.

I have come from the cleanliness of Seattle's passive greenery into the bombast of a swarm of crowds traversing on unkempt streets of a gigantic garage sale that must have been the ancient system of order Yerevanites thrived in. Every vendor and every beggar, bar, bus tour, businessman, mulls through shrill sounds, impatient horns, make-your-own-rules crosswalks, wild aromas of *khovovads* (BBQ, or shish-kebabs), and women....and men....in throngs, packed in buses, hanging from trol-

leys, standing in trams, jammed in the underground Metro, but mostly on foot in broad daylight and at night.

Ah, the way they dress! The first thing that hit me about the women's attire was in the prevalence of contrasting brilliant solid colors: glistening red on black, jarring yellow with black, brilliant chartreuse and black, glittering salmon in black. The styles are grabbers too: hot pants, micro-shirts zippered to the hemline, long tight skirts slit to the upper thigh, lacy see-through, all in stark view in this perpetual clear skies of the glaring sun. The coiffeurs and the make-up can easily put soap-opera stars to shame. And, I haven't met a short Armenian yet. How they walk in those stacked-high-heels along the cracks of dusty and unmaintained sidewalks is beyond me! I thank Nordstrom's Easy Spirit for sparing me the agony of juggling heels on chips of concrete.

Not only how they walk, but how much they walk! Errands are done on foot. Visiting friends is done on foot. Going to work or school is done on foot. Women drivers are a rarity, and I was told that "Nice girls don't drive" All this glamour in broad daylight and a bag to carry too - a cellophane bag, that is.

And I used to pride in my uniqueness of being the Bag of Baghdad.

The male gender on the other hand is a unique race of his own - a

cross-breed between Omar Sherif and Anastas Mikoyan. They, too, are dressed for success, mostly in silk suits and Nehru shirts with embroidered cuffs and collars. They smoke incessantly, and gulp down bottles of Coca Cola and Fanta in humongous quantities. They drive the small Russian two-door Neva and do they show off for a walker they fancy-burning rubber and making illegal U-turns (but then everybody makes his own driv-

ing rules, anyway). I've had my share of admirers - a 20 year Omar Sharif-type with healthy mustache, who doesn't drive at all and is retired on \$7.00 per month (that's not a typo). Obviously, I've left them in their respective niches, and ...and...continue to look for a better match.

So much for impressions, as I

See Armenian, Page 7

1998

## William Saroyan Calendar of Events

### Saturday, March 27-29

WIN-WIN presents William Saroyan Writer's Conference at Airport Piccadilly Inn. Authors, editors, publishers from California, Nevada, and Hawaii.

### Saturday, April 25

Annual Saroyan Walk through Old Armenian town. Meet at 9:00 am across the street from the Saroyan Theatre.

### Monday, May 4

Entry deadline for Saroyan Writing Contest. Open to all students, first grade through university level.

### "The Time of Your Life"

William Saroyan's Drama Critics Award and Pulitzer prize-winning play will be presented in the Memorial Auditorium, co-produced with Fresno Playhouse, Inc., theatre J'Nerique and the William Saroyan Society on these dates:

Friday, May 8 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 15 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 16, at 2 and 7:30 pm

Friday, May 22 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 23 at 2 and 7:30 pm

### Tuesday, June 23

Prizes for Saroyan Student Writing Contest will be awarded during the Band Conference at Woodward Park. Winning stories will be read on FM radio KFCF 88.1 from 5 to 6 o'clock, July 10.

## New Saroyan Anthology

By: Alice Barter  
Special Price \$15.00 a copy

Make Check payable to:  
**Armenian Studies Program**  
5245 N. Backer Ave. M/S 4  
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California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program

presents

### Twelfth Annual Dinner

featuring

**Janet Momjian**

oratorio and concert performer

### Sunday, March 15, 1998

Reception - 4 P.M. • Dinner - 5 P.M. • Residence Dining Facility  
California State University, Fresno

\$40 per person • Students \$10  
Please respond by March 6, 1998



# Armenians and the Internet

The Internet and the World Wide Web are one of the fastest growing areas in computers today. There is a web site for almost any subject, including the Armenians. Using any search engine, one can receive hundreds or even thousands of matches just by typing keyword "Armenian." There are web sites for educational institutions, churches, youth organizations, political organizations and so on. But with all of these different sites and different subject areas it can often be difficult find exactly what one wants. Fortunately, there are sites that can be helpful in locating the information desired. Here are some of those sites.

## Armenian Sites on the Internet:

**Address:** [www1.shore.net/~narbey/armen/armen.html](http://www1.shore.net/~narbey/armen/armen.html)

**Maintained by:** Narbey Derbekyan

**Date started:** Jan/Feb 1995

**Categories:** Showcase, List & Reference, News, Culture, Organizations and Institutions, On-line communities, Recipes, Religion, Business, Miscellaneous, People, Fonts & Software.

**How to use:** By simply clicking any of those categories one will get a list of Armenian web sites in that category.

**Comments:** This site is well organized and easy to use. With a variety of categories it is good for anyone seeking information on Armenian subjects.

## Arminco Online:

**Address:** [www.arminco.com](http://www.arminco.com)

**Supported by:** Arminco Global Telecommunications

**Graphic and Design by:** Vahan Yerkanian

**Categories:** Armenia, Armenia: Country Commercial Guide, HAIK: Institute Database, Armenian Sites on the Web, News Around Armenia, Notes from Armenia, Armenian International E-Mail Directory, Armeconmbank, Artsakh Online, Presidential Elections '98.

**How to use:** Selecting any of the categories will give other resources for obtaining the information desired. When using the "Armenian Sites on the Web" one can choose sites in or sites outside of Armenia.

**Comments:** The graphic and design of this site are done very well. It is especially useful for those seeking information on Armenia itself.

## Armenian Embassy Home Page:

**Address:** [www.armeniaemb.org/](http://www.armeniaemb.org/)

**Supported by:** Embassy of the Republic of Armenia to the US

**Designer and Creator:** Michael Bagratuni

**Categories:** Embassy Tour, Country Brief, News and Views, Travel and Tourism, Investment Opportunities, Foreign Relations, Visa Regulations, Announcements, Links, Nagorno-Karabagh Peace Process, Snapshots.

**How to use:** Clicking any of the categories lead to explanations and information accompanied by other useful sites.

**Comments:** The links section is divided into related sections that makes finding the site easy. Additionally, the site itself contains much of the important information with regards to Armenia.

## Armenian Resource Page:

**Address:** [www.soros.org/armenia.html](http://www.soros.org/armenia.html)

**Supported by:** Soros Foundations Network and Central Eurasia Project

**Site Contact:** [eliza@osi.am](mailto:eliza@osi.am)

**Categories:** Brief History, Latest News, Government Department and Agencies, Business, International Involvement, US and the UN, Human Rights, Media, Arts & Culture, Maps, Factbook and Ethnicity Info, the Academy, the Environment, Travel Info, Selected Links, Central Eurasia Suggested Reading, Central Eurasia Public Health.

**How to use:** All of the categories display requested information when selected.

**Comments:** This site is full of information on Armenia and is well-organized. It has a number of unique categories.

## Other useful and interesting sites:

Central Eurasia Project

Armenia Resource Page

BRIEF HISTORY

THE LATEST NEWS ON ARMENIA

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

MAPS, FACTBOOK AND ETHNICITY INFO

ARTS AND CULTURE

THE ACADEMY

THE ENVIRONMENT

TRAVEL INFO

SELECTED LINKS

CENTRAL EURASIA SUGGESTED READING

CENTRAL EURASIA PUBLIC HEALTH

BUSINESS

INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT: US AND THE UN

HUMAN RIGHTS

MEDIA

CLICK MAP FOR FULL VIEW

Map of Armenia is property of Magellan Geographix

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## Armenians In Cyberspace

[www.flash.net/~hamoarb/armenweb.html](http://www.flash.net/~hamoarb/armenweb.html)

## The Armenian Genocide

[www.-scf.usc.edu/~khachato/genocide/](http://www.-scf.usc.edu/~khachato/genocide/)

## Armenia: Extensive Info & Links, Cilicia

[www.cilicia.com](http://www.cilicia.com)

## Holy Trinity Church Youth Group

[www.attitude.com/hyeyouth/](http://www.attitude.com/hyeyouth/)

## CSUF - Armenian Studies Program

[www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies/](http://www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies/)

## HyeNet - Armenia Online

[www2.hyenet.com/HyeNet/](http://www2.hyenet.com/HyeNet/)

## Asbarez Armenia Daily Newspaper

[www.asbarez.com/](http://www.asbarez.com/)

## Window to Armenia

[collide.informatik.uni-duisburg.de/~baloian/](http://collide.informatik.uni-duisburg.de/~baloian/)

## ArmeniaNet

[www.armenia.org/](http://www.armenia.org/)

## Excite Travel: Armenia

[www.city.net/countries/armenia/](http://www.city.net/countries/armenia/)

## Yerevan State University

[www.ysu.am/](http://www.ysu.am/)

## American University of Armenia

[www.aua.am/](http://www.aua.am/)

This is just a sampling of the many Armenian web sites that exist. *Hye Sharzhoom* is going to begin a project to find and bring to its readers the most useful and interesting web sites. If anyone has any ideas or knows of any good web sites please e-mail us at [arakela@csufresno.edu](mailto:arakela@csufresno.edu) or [barlowd@csufresno.edu](mailto:barlowd@csufresno.edu)

Armenian sites on the Internet

A touch of Sarovan to set the mood.

[About this site](#) | [Status and updates](#) | [Add me to the list](#)

[Framed version](#) | [JavaScript Index](#) | [Search](#)

[Adding Armenian text to web pages.](#)

**Pick of the week:**  
**KHENT**  
Raffi's Kent@ on-line (scanned by Raffi Kojian)

Showcase

A collection of top Armenian web sites listed on these web pages

Lists & References

Other hotlists and important Armenian and non-Armenian references, maps and flags

News

Various sources on Armenian news

Culture

Arts and Architecture, Genocide, History, Language & Literature, Music, Sports

Organizations and Institutions

Armenian political, non-profit, civic and student organizations, as well as educational institutions

On-line Communities

Armenian on-line communities for chat, news and announcements

Recipes

Virtual Pilaf!

Religion

Armenian churches on-line

Business

Armenian businesses and economic related sites

Miscellaneous

Everything else, plus stamps and photography sites

People

Armenians on the Net!

Fonts & Software

Free and consumer fonts and Armenian software

Maintained by Narbey Derbekyan (Narbe3.Derbekyan@shore.net) Home page  
- I will never forget -

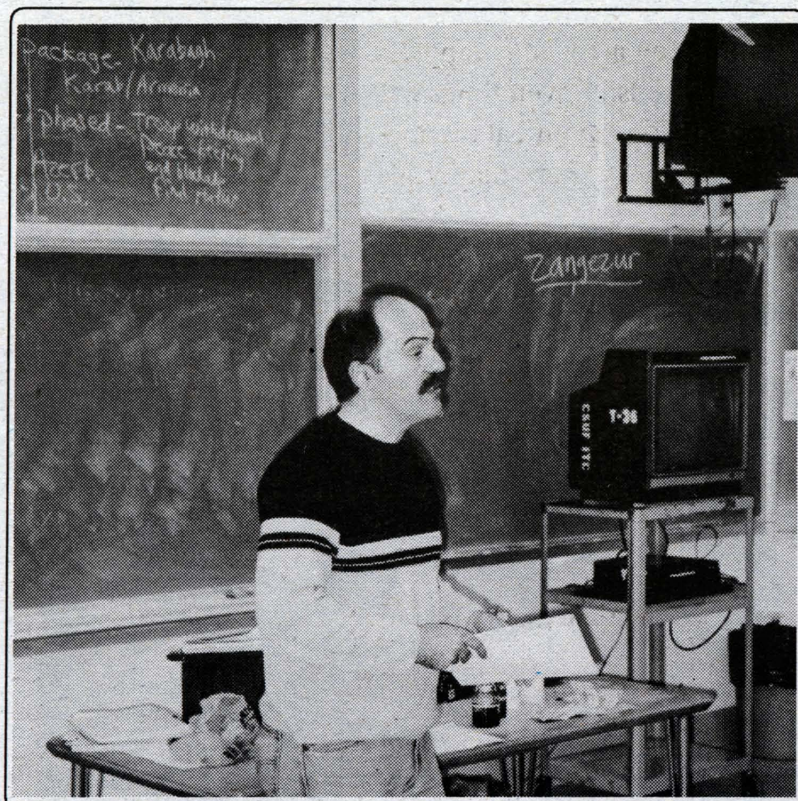


# Armenia Today Explored in Weekend Class

By Matt Maroot  
Staff Writer

As students found their way into Social Science Room 104 on Friday, February 27, 1998, many of them already had an idea about the current status of the Republic of Armenia. And as the weekend progressed, they soon learned whether or not those ideas were myths or realities. The course, Armenian Studies 120 T: Armenia Today, taught by Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, focused largely on Armenia in the late 20th century. Through various slide presentations and films, Professor Der Mugrdechian painted a vivid picture of Armenian life as it is today.

Though each student had a different reason for enrolling in the course, one thing remained the same, a genuine interest in the country and in its people. "I enrolled in the class so that I could learn how Armenia got to where it is today and how it is handling its current situation," said Talin Mekhitarian. Indeed, the current situation in Armenia is a point of great interest to Armenians the world over. Many of us have heard the questions: Do they have electricity? Is it safe to walk the streets? What about the earthquake zone? Professor Der Mugrdechian's course thoroughly answered these questions and many more in a weekend that proved to



Barlow Der Mugrdechian

be interesting as well as informative.

In terms of everyday life, nearly all of the comforts that we enjoy and often take for granted here in America can be found in Armenia. The question lies in whether or not the Armenians can afford them. With an average monthly salary of only \$25.00, Armenia is struggling to stay afloat in its new free-enterprise economy, a dramatic contrast to the old Soviet System. Some would argue that Armenia was better off under the

Soviet System, but to others, the struggle to stabilize the economy is a small price to pay for independence.

With the reopening of Metzamor in 1995, Armenia's lone Nuclear Power Plant, Armenians now have electricity 24 hours a day. This represents quite a comfort compared to the 2 hours of electricity available each day throughout the energy crisis that resulted from the Karabagh Conflict. However, with 80% of the population living near the poverty

level, paying for electricity, telephone, rent, and heating can often prove more than difficult. For many students enrolled in the course, Armenia's switch to a free economy was of interest. "I am interested in seeing how Armenia will come out of its crisis and away from poverty, to become more American," stated Tiffney Kuckenbaker.

Politically, Armenia is in a state of uncertainty. With the recent resignation of President Levon Ter Petrosyan, Armenia is led by acting President Robert Kocharian, former President of Karabagh and one of the chief candidates in the upcoming March 16th elections. Though a ceasefire in 1994 has brought relative peace to Armenia and to those living in the region of Nagorno-Karabagh, the struggle over this region still weighs heavily on the minds and the hearts of many Armenians. "I took this course because I wanted to learn the political background of Armenia and why we don't have the land we once had," said Rita Aramian. With approximately 81% of the population of Nagorno-Karabagh being Armenian (1985 estimate), it is easy to see why so many Armenians today are so strongly tied to this region. The struggle over Nagorno-Karabagh is likely to take center stage on the political platforms of those seeking the Armenian Presidency. And it appears that Armenia will be faced with

solving this conflict from within as the United States has recently signed a \$14 billion deal with Azerbaijan to drill for oil in the Caspian Sea. Moreover, the Karabagh region could serve as a strategic pipeline for the United States to transport this oil.

Another issue of concern facing many Armenians is the current status of the earthquake zone located in and around Gyumri, Armenia's second largest city. The earthquake which shook the region on December 7, 1988 caused widespread devastation and left thousands homeless. Many new housing complexes have been built but much of the region remains in ruins. With few resources and even less capital to purchase these resources, many Armenians are doing their best to get by.

Despite these hardships, Armenians are surviving. A walk through Yerevan illustrates the changing face of Armenia. The city is modernizing rapidly as Armenians attempt to get a handle on free-enterprise. The current Republic of Armenia declared its independence on September 21, 1991. And with a population of 3,500,000 people, 98% of which are Armenian, the Republic of Armenia is one of the world's most homogeneous populations. And as all Armenians know, this could mean only one thing, that Armenia will prosper.

## 1998 Presidential Elections

### President Announces His Resignation

Yerevan, February 3 (Noyan Tapan). At 9:50 p.m. on February 3 the state television of Armenia broadcast the speech by President Levon Ter-Petrosian.

Below is the full text of the statement:

"The well-known bodies of the power demanded my resignation. Taking into account the fact that the fulfillment of the president's constitutional duties under the current situation is fraught with a real danger of destabilization in the country, I accept that demand and announce my resignation.

I refrain from any comments or assessment, in order not to aggravate the situation. I just think it necessary to note that the speculations over the Karabakh problem was just a cause in the crisis of power. The problem is much deeper and is connected with the fundamental principle of the statehood and the alternative between peace and war.

The time will show who did what for Karabakh and who is indeed selling it. Nothing extraordinary happened. Simply "the party of peace and decent accord" has lost. Let us not burst into complexes. The party of peace has suffered defeats in more developed countries, like Israel. But both in Israel and Armenia this everything is transient. Just a temporary defeat. Anyway, sooner or later peace will make a path for it. I call on you to display restraint, keep the order in the country and run legal, civilized elections of the new president. That will be a manifestation of the maturity of our state we have formed for the last eight years and a deposit of maintaining the image abroad.

I wish the new president success for the good and welfare of the Armenian people. I am very grateful to you for your trust and support.

I also thank all my supporters who were near by me all the time and remain with me now. If I take the decision to resign, believe me, that means I thought that the alternative would be more dangerous for our state. If I did something good, I do not expect any gratitude. I ask your indulgence for all my errors and the things I did not do.

With best regards."

### As of March 5 twelve candidates running in the March 16 Presidential Race

The March 16 election is heating up as twelve candidates have received the 25,000 signatures required to be a presidential candidate. The following is a list of the candidates:

- Robert Kocharian - acting President and Prime Minister. Non-partisan
- Vazgen Manoukian - Member of parliament and Chairman of National Democratic Union.
- Sergey Badalian - Member of parliament and leader of the Communist Party of Armenia.
- Paruyr Hairikian - Member of parliament and Chairman of Democratic Party of Armenia.
- Aram Sargssian - Chairman of Democratic Party of Armenia.
- David Shahnazarian - Member of parliament.
- Karen Demirchian - Head of "Armelectromash" company
- Vigen Khachatrian - Member of parliament and Chairman of Liberal-Democratic Party.
- Ashot Bleyan - True path or "New Route" party
- Hrant Khachatrian - Chariman of Constitutional Right Union.
- Artashes Geghamian - Chairman of National Unity Party.
- Yuri Mkrtichian - Non-partisan





# Ag Group Concludes Successful Visit

## AG, cont. from Page 1

Levon Margaryan are the core of a marketing cadre who were in Fresno to undergo intensive training in the area of marketing and economics. They were accompanied by interpreters Gayane Mkrtchyan and Shushan Arakelian.

When asked to comment at the conclusion of two weeks of on-the-go training and visits to local area businesses, it was a unanimous "Great!" Each of the students were involved in asking questions and finding out as much as possible how things work in the United States.

The visit was directed and arranged by Professor William Rice, Professor of Marketing at CSU Fresno, who is the head of the USDA-CSU Fresno-Armenian Agricultural Academy Marketing Assistance Project. Several years ago the United States Department of Agriculture initiated a Marketing Assistance Program with Armenia. The headquarters is in Yerevan. For

view exhibits from more than a dozen countries as well as from the United States. Armenian Agricultural Academy Rector (President) Armen Khachatryan, Rubik Tovmasyan, Ashot Bayadyan, Gayane Gasparian, Varduhi Khachatryan, Gevork Afian, Razmik Minasyan, Henrik Sargsyan, Arshaluys Tarverdian, Styopa Margaryan, and Vardan Ghushchyan had been in Fresno since January 28, and were involved in a program of technical training and mentoring by CSU Fresno administrative officials.

Later that day the entire group had the opportunity to meet with CSU Fresno President Dr. John Welty at a reception held at the University House. **Visit with Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson**

Their visit was highlighted



Jim Patterson who awarded the Rector with the key to the city of Fresno.

This entailed visits to farms, processing plants, warehouse facilities, advertising agencies, and finally to retail consumer outlets. And what better place to do all of this than the fertile San

Mondays through Fridays, a combination of courses and site visits were arranged for the marketing group. Trips to local businesses, agricultural centers, the Fresno Bee, local media, the U.S. District Court, and various other sites highlighted the tour.

The purpose of the training program was for the students to see

the entire marketing process as it functions in the United States-

Joaquin Valley.

Their first weekend in California included a visit to Los Angeles, where they had a chance to see Disneyland and Universal Studios. During their second weekend, the group

Chocolate Factory and the Mirasou vineyards.

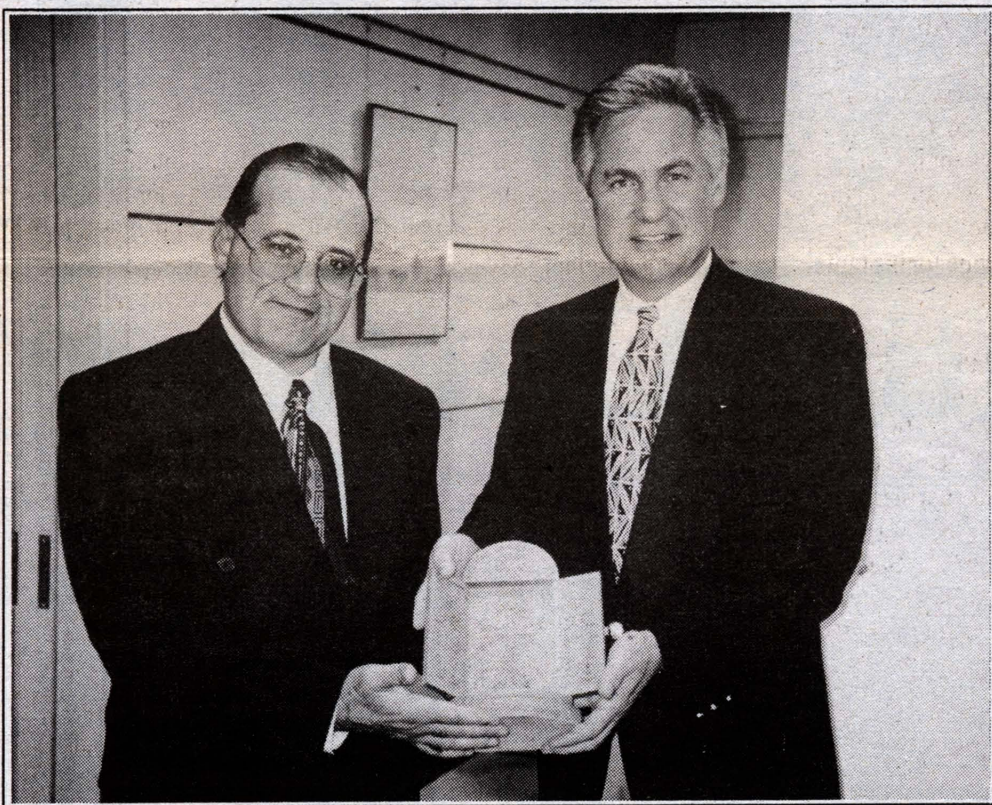
## 23rd Winter Fancy Food Show, San Francisco, 1998

Through the assistance of the USDA, for the first time the Republic of Armenia was officially represented with a colorful booth at the 23rd Winter Fancy Food Show, held on February 22-24 in the Moscone Center in San Francisco.

The marketing cadre visited the Fancy Food Show and the Armenian booth. Featured products included Areni wine, Armenian champagne, dried fruit, jams, dried tomatoes in sunflower oil, and chocolate covered apricots with walnuts. Armenian Export Promotions handled the arrangements for the show.

The Armenian presence at the Fancy Food Show caused quite a stir as crowds gathered closely to see the products from Armenia. Many new contacts were formed and contracts were signed for Armenian exports to the United States.

On the return trip to Fresno, the group had an opportunity to visit the Monterey and Carmel



**Rector Armen Khachatryan with Mayor Patterson**

the past two years CSU Fresno has been working with administrators, faculty, and students at the Armenian Agricultural Academy to help develop their curriculum and to develop a Western-style marketing program. The Craig School of Business, the School of Agriculture and the Armenian Studies Program have been involved in the joint effort. As part of the collaborative program, thousands of textbooks on economics, marketing, and business have been collected and sent to Armenia. In addition, for the first time the AAA has been set up with a computer laboratory where students and faculty have access.

On Thursday, February 12 the marketing cadre, plus a group of five administrators and five technical people also from AAA, visited the Tulare International Agriculture Show. The world's largest farm equipment show was a unique opportunity to



areas and to see the Pacific Ocean.

## Visit with Armenian Students Organization

An already special visit to the United States was made even better when the students from the AAA met with members of the Armenian Students Organization on two occasions. A joint outing for pizza, video games, and bowling was a new experience for all. A few days later another outing was made to play Lazer Tag followed by more bowling. The warm interaction of the students from two countries was followed by an exchange of addresses and telephone numbers and a promise to host the Armenian students from Fresno when they came to Armenia.

## Farewell Dinner

On Thursday, February 26, a gala farewell dinner was held for the marketing group at Koko's Restaurant in Fresno. Diplomas were awarded for the successful participation and completion of the two week Program.

The Marketing Assistance Program is continuing with CSU Fresno faculty visits to AAA.



**The booth of the Republic of Armenia at the San Francisco 23rd Winter Fancy Food Exhibit. A variety of food products were exhibited for the first time in the U.S.**



# My Grandfather and His Rich Heritage

The following is a continuation in a series of student essays to be published by Hye Sharzhoom. If you have an essay about any aspect of Armenian life or culture that you would like to publish in Hye Sharzhoom, please contact Dr. Kaprielian in Social Science Room 216 or call her at 278-6493 or the Armenian Studies Program office at 278-2669.

**By Robbie Sahatjian**  
Staff Writer

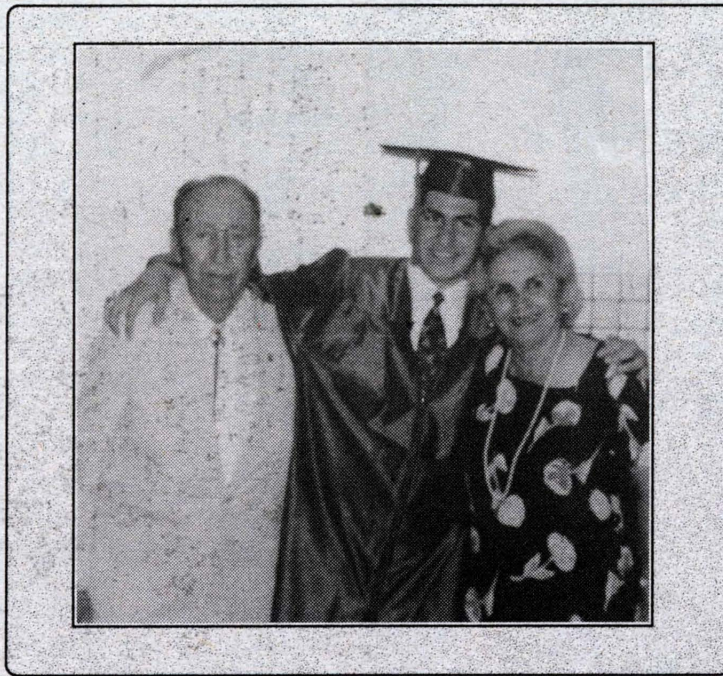
An Armenian background, with strong Christian beliefs and values, has played a vital role in shaping the person I am today. A family of lasting traditions and family closeness have always meant a lot to me. Being Armenian makes me feel proud because of the many hardships that our people have gone through and have overcome. My grandfather, Sarkis Sahatdjian, has faced many tough times and has had to overcome many hardships and obstacles throughout his life. He is a man that I am extremely proud of because of all the accomplishments that he has fulfilled throughout his lifetime.

My grandfather is one of the strongest willed men I have ever known. In a life that has always been a constant struggle for him, he has always kept on fighting. Grandpa always told me, "Never give up, and strive to reach your goals." There was a time in my life was when I was in high school, and wanted to quit the basketball team during the middle of the season of my senior year, but in the midst of all of this I recalled hearing my grandfather's words. I remembered how he had told me never to give up in what ever you do in life and to keep fighting to the end, so I listened to him and did exactly that. I just could not let myself nor him down.

Perhaps the reason that he

strives so diligently is because of his background. Born in Constantinople, in 1920, he and his family, as thousands of other Armenians, were forced to leave their homeland, to find a new home. They left to seek a better life in South America. In South America, his family still struggled to survive and saw that there was no future for them in the business field. A year later they received notice that they had been accepted to enter the United States. They arrived in Fresno, California in 1924, and my great-grandparents found work in the canneries. They would work up and down the coast of California, and would save their money, hoping to purchase a farm. It was my great-grandfather's dream to own his own business, preferably in agriculture. Directly after graduating from Central High School in 1937, my grandfather worked in the cannery in order to help provide for his family. He spent five seasons in the cannery where he worked long hours and received low wages, but it was something that helped to keep the family going. Then, he enlisted in the Army Air Force where he served three and a half years, during World War II. My grandfather said that he was earning more money in the Army, then in the canneries, but it was not the same, as being at home. He missed his family and was excited to return home after the war.

He always wanted to be a mechanic and loved working on car and tractor engines, but he was needed to help out on the farm which his father purchased. His father had purchased a vineyard that was located in Chateau Fresno, near Mc Kinley. He had purchased this farm right before the "Depression" and this caused the value of the farm to decrease drastically. During this time it was a constant struggle to survive and it was an



**Sarkis Sahatdjian, Robbie Sahatdjian, Iris Sahatdjian**

extremely difficult time for my grandfather's family. He had to help out on the farm and worked many long tiresome hours in order to keep the farm going. This led him into the agricultural industry.

He married my grandmother, Iris, who was born and raised in Mexico City. Her family had also been forced to leave Armenia, and they had ended up in Mexico City. She had a sister who lived in Fresno. While she was visiting her, when my grandfather met her, and later they married in Fresno, California. The times were very tough, and to make ends meet, he drove the Madera High School bus to make extra money to provide for his family.

In Madera he also purchased a farm, and later with his brother they were able to build a Raisin Packing plant in 1963. In doing this they had fulfilled my great-grandfather's dream, in which they named the business after him, calling it "Victor Packing." Starting this business was not an easy task. The first few years they struggled to maintain and manage the busi-

ness. As I look at my grandfather I can see all the years of hardship, though his dark brown eyes, and tough but wrinkled hands. I know it was not easy for him and his family, because he tells me stories of how he sometimes would get very little sleep. In interviewing my grandpa he told me the he never imagined himself going into the farming business. He also said, "Farming is a big gamble, because you work hard all year and you do not know how much you are going to get paid for your fruit or commodity." After the business got going, things started to change for the better. The future was starting to look much brighter. My grandfather also told me something that his father told him: "In business it is very important to always be honest and to have integrity, in order to be successful." These values have always been important to our family. The business has grown to what it is today through word of mouth.

My grandfather and family have always believed in giving back to the community. He has

made donations to California State University Fresno, Fresno Community Hospital, several different schools, others charities, and organizations. He has always believed in helping others who are less fortunate. Throughout much of his life he has been faced with many hard times, and I feel that he truly knows what it is like to go through life's difficulties. This leads me to believe that this is in why he tries to help others.

The one major thing that struck me the most in talking with my grandfather was that he would sacrifice almost anything to provide for his family. I am extremely proud to come from such a background. My family has grown tremendously over the years and I feel very fortunate to come from such a great family. I learned a lot through this interview and it has inspired me to find out more about my roots and origins. After listening to my grandfather's stories of all the struggles he faced and overcame, I feel honored to come from such a wonderful background. I hope one day to be able to go into our family business and to add something positive to it. My grandfather started the business and got it on its feet, along with my father, Victor, who has played a vital role in expanding the business and taking it onto the next level. Throughout my life I have seen some major changes and expansions to the business, such as building more storage rooms for the raisins, and replacing old machinery with new and modern technology. Now as I look into the future, I hope to one day go into Agriculture and to work my way into our family business. I hope to be able to live up to my grandfather's words, and keep the business running strong, for the next generation.

## ARMENIA, Cont. from Page 3

know you'd like to know about my life. Let me tell you what I miss most-a shower. The last real shower I took was in Amsterdam, on August 23, 1997, where I spent a night in a five-star hotel because Dutch authorities grounded the Armenian Airlines overnight.

Since then, my living conditions at the Yerevan State University dorms have not differed from that of a camper. I have a good sized room with 12 foot ceiling, a tiny bulb hanging from it. We have running water three hours in the morning and three hours in the evening. The piled up washing chores receive priority at those hours. I've had to decline a dinner engagement, and I've had my neighbor dash out of my room because he heard the running water in his room.

So what do I eat? Never fear - the American Embassy is near. After 6 weeks, though, I am tired of their cooking - it's neither American nor Armenian. I've been lucky to have a plethora of *khovadzh*, stands in my neighborhood. Pork *khovadzh*, lamb *khovadzh*,

ground meat, liver, lungs - each rolled in lavish bread with parsley, tomatoes and onions - so aromatic and tasty - in spite of flies and bees, and the dire need for Imodium AD. Everyday, cafe-like restaurants pop up, such as Yum - Yum Donuts, Pizza de la Roma, and Queen Burger (not Burger King).

I must confess that the tomatoes, vine-ripened and juicy, are delicious. So are all fruits and vegetables, though strictly seasonal. I've been eating eggplant everyday, prepared in a thousand and one ways. Do you people out there want a recipe book?

I should mention the bakeries and pastries. My, Oh my! I used to think that Vienna was the capital of pastries. Yerevan puts it to shame. Yes, the *pakhlava* and *choreg* (nazook) are available at many bakeries within a block from each other, but you ought to see the trays of Napoleons, cream puffs, and giant-size tortes - it's fabulously European and pricey.

### Teaching Assignment

When I first arrived, I was assigned to 60 female and 3 male 5th - year English major students at Yerevan State University. They are smart

and fluent in British English. So I am orienting them to Americanism, the culture, lifestyle, idiomatic expression, and US history-my own devised curriculum. The students come to class dressed

in department of Agriculture (USDA) is truly gratifying. The students there are the professors of the Armenian Agricultural Academy-better known as AAA, and under my tutelage pronounced Triple A-



**Yerevan State University**

to kill, that is when they do actually come to class- absenteeism is like 70% each session. I've been told that students attend classes at whim. My job with the United States De-

partment of Agriculture (USDA) is truly gratifying. The students there are the professors of the Armenian Agricultural Academy-better known as AAA, and under my tutelage pronounced Triple A-

highly motivated and serious about taking time off their duties to attend my sessions. Above all, they are fun and funny - and most of them are men-quite a contrast from YSU.

So how do I get around? I walk for personal needs. But I have two, not one, chauffeurs who drive me to work. One is provided by the USDA for the Academy sessions, and the other one I've hired for \$10 per week, to take me to the YSU, and occasional shopping sprees. I set the rate myself and I've been told that's too generous. What the heck - the guy hasn't had a job in two years, and supports three daughters, a wife and his mother.

As I write this last paragraph from Seattle, I suddenly realize that there is no conclusion for Armenia, but one peerless continuous memory - Armenia has become my "Shangri-La". Unlike James Hilton's heroine of *Lost Horizon*, I haven't suddenly aged upon my departure. Instead I've discovered that my intellect is imbedded in Americanism, my heart lingers for Baghdad, and my soul hovers at the foot of Mt. Ararat.



## April 24th Activities

The following activities are in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

- **Film Showing: Thursday - April 16**  
7:00pm "Hidden Holocaust"
- **Film Showing: Tuesday - April 21**  
7:00pm "Back to Ararat"
- **Candlelight Vigil: Thursday - April 23**  
8:00pm Downtown Fresno
- **April 24th Rally: Friday - Fresno State**  
12:00pm Free Speech Area
- **Community-wide Observance:**  
Friday Evening, Divine Liturgy

All events tentative and subject to change.  
More information forthcoming.

### KAZAN, Cont. from Page 1

immigration, the Armenian genocide, and refugee settlement and rehabilitation. In Toronto she also taught in graduate and undergraduate programs at Ryerson Polytechnic University, York University, and the University of Toronto.

Professor Kaprielian has presented academic papers in many forums in Canada, the United States, Armenia, and Europe. She recently gave a paper at the Paris Conference of the Armenian International Women's Association entitled "Intermarriage: Integration or Alienation?" The paper, which examines the issue of intermarriage within the scope of community development, will appear shortly in the conference proceedings.

A prolific writer, Prof. Kaprielian has authored more than thirty scientific articles, four books and a variety of materials for schools. Prof. Kaprielian's books

include: *The Pulse of the World: Refugees in our Schools*, *Facing Pluralism: the Future of Francophone and Acadian Communities in a Pluralistic Society*, and *Polyphony: Armenians in Ontario*.

In addition to her scholarly work, Professor Kaprielian has produced three video documentaries in Armenian and English about Armenian picture brides and Armenian orphans following the genocide. The ones relating to family and community are extremely important in her writing, particularly as they portray the story of the revival of community life after the genocide.

Dr. Kaprielian's major history of Armenians in Canada entitled *Like Our Mountains: Armenians in Canada*, is forthcoming. Her current research and writing focuses on orphans and orphanages in the post-genocide period.

### ASO, Cont. from Page 1

central theme this semester as far as cultural activities. The month of April is going to be, for the most part, dedicated to commemorating the Genocide. The ASO, in conjunction with other youth organizations in the valley, will educate the campus and the community on the Armenian Question. In addition, our goal is to remember the tragic event in the most special way possible. Some events include a library exhibit, speakers, panel discussions, film showing, and a candle-light vigil downtown. Plans also include the building of a replica of the Armenian Genocide monument in Armenia. Please look at the schedule of events and keep an eye out for future activities.

The social function of ASO is probably the easiest to organize. Most of the ASO members are good friends anyway so it is just a matter of getting together and having a good time. Intramural sports is one the ways we get together. Right now ASO's intramural basketball team is 1-1 and hopes to make it into the playoffs with a victory next week. After basketball season ASO will participate in coed softball and coed soccer. In addition to



Students from Armenia with ASO students enjoying pizza and later an evening of bowling

intramurals, ASO also has other fun social get togethers. For example, the ASO did a number of things with a group of Ag students from Armenia. We went bowling twice, to pizza, and also to Laser Tag. It was interesting spending time with these students since we could share our stories with each other. What made it even better was that they had never gone bowling or to play Laser Tag. These are just some of the social gatherings that the ASO does. When the weather gets a little nicer ASO plans to have Shish Kebab Sales, Car Washes, and BBQ parties.

Besides all those things that the ASO hopes to do this semester it has many great ideas

for the summer and next fall. Work on a statewide or nationwide Armenian Students Conference next October will begin soon. There also is much interest in visiting Armenia and some of the ASO members are thinking about planning a trip. The executive has also decided to have a ASO shirt made for all members. If anyone has any ideas or designs let us know.

The ASO has come a long way and hopes that it can improve itself and make it even better. If the balance of education, culture, and fun can be achieved then the ASO can truly be a place for all students with Armenian interest to come and belong.

## Ռուսացողական Հուրեր

Գրեց՝ Մարալ Էլմազլու

Մեր առաջին կիսամեակը մեզի համար սքանչելի ժամանակ էր: Նախորդ շրջանի համեմատ, ունիք կարգ մը գործունեություններ:

Փետրուար ամիսը, Հայաստանի Հայկական Գիտատնտեսական Ակադեմիային ուրիշ ուսանող էր կրկին Փրոֆեսոր Էկաժ Էին մեր համալսարանը եւ քաղաքը: Տասնվեց միջն էլ տասնըութ տարեկան այս ուսանողները երկու անգամ հանդիպում ունեցան մեր Հայ Ռուսացողներու Միութեան անդամներուն հետ: Առիթ մըն էր ուրախ եւ գուարթ ժամանակ ունենալ իրարու հետ: Խումբը Հայաստան վերադարձաւ Փետրուար 28ին:

Այս Ապրիլ, Ապրիլ 24ի առիթով, Ֆրեզնոյի համալսարանի մատենադարանի մէջ ցուցահանդէս մը տեղի պիտի ունենայ: Մեր Միութեան կողմէն, հայկական դրօշակ եւ այլ հայկական նկարներ պիտի զետեղուին: Նաեւ Երեւանի Օիմպեական կոմիտէի փոքր մոտէլ մը պիտի դնենք նոյն մատենադարանի մէջ:

Փետրուար եւ Մարտ ամիսները Հայկական Ռուսացողներու Միութեան տղաքը ամէն Երեքշաբթի իրիկուն Պասքեթպոլ կը խաղան համալսարանի մրցումի մը մէջ:

Այս գարնան մեր Միութեան ժողովները տեղի կ'ունենան Զորեքշաբթի գիշերներ՝ ժամը եօթուկէսին, ամիսը երկու անգամ:

Կը յուսանք թէ մեր խումբի անդամներու թիւը կ'աւելնայ:

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