

# HYE SHARZHOOM

## Armenian Action

### ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺԽՈՍ

# 21<sup>st</sup>

Year

March 2000

Vol. 21, No. 3 (69)

Supplement to The Collegian

1915 85th 2000

Armenian Students  
Organization

Armenian Genocide Day  
Remembrance

Monday, April 24, 2000

12:00 Noon

Free Speech Area  
Fresno State Campus

Featured Speaker  
Mayor Jim Patterson

The U.S. Premiere of

"Destination Nowhere:  
the Witness"

Tuesday, April 25, 2000

A documentary film about  
Dr. Armin Wegner

Alice Peters Auditorium  
University Business Center

Fresno State Campus

## Kouymjian Honored as "Man of the Year"

John Jabaghourian  
Editor

A lifetime of work, dedication and achievement in Armenian studies earned Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, director of the Armenian Studies program at Fresno State, the Armenian National Committee's honor of "Man of the Year" at a banquet on Sunday, March 5.

The day, which Fresno City Mayor Jim Patterson proclaimed "Dr. Dickran Kouymjian Ph.D. Day," attracted much attention from friends, family and notables from around the world as well as a crowd of over three hundred people from the Fresno community who filled the Tor Nino's banquet hall.

"Being chosen 'Man of the Year' by the ANC tells me and my colleagues and staff that the work I and we have done is important enough to the community to acknowledge it and honor it," Kouymjian said.

Congratulatory letters were received from His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, Archbishop Mesrob Moutafian, the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, and close colleagues and family members from other countries, all of whom wrote

to congratulate and acknowledge their respect for Dr. Kouymjian.

"Your contributions to the field of Armenian Studies is so great, that you are not only the 'Man of this Year,' but as a philologist-teacher-scholar, your works will for many years be a valuable and rich source for both Armenian and non-Armenian students," Archbishop Moutafian wrote of Dr. Kouymjian.

The afternoon began with some welcoming remarks by the master of ceremonies, Berj Apkarian, followed by an invocation by Fr. Vahan Gosdanian, Pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, and the singing of the Star Spangled Banner and Mer Hyrenik, the Armenian National Anthem, by Hygo Ohannessian.

A dozen special guests such as Mayor Patterson, City Council President Tom Boyajian, and others trying to gain support for their upcoming election were introduced.

Meher Chekerdemanian, chairman of the ARF Tehlirian Gomideh, spoke of Dr. Kouymjian and his achievements. "Dr. Kouymjian single handily has brought attention to the Armenian culture by



Richard Darmanian (left) presenting Dr. Dickran Kouymjian with the Armenian National Committee's "Man of the Year" Award.  
photo by Avedis Krikorian

establishing an Armenian Studies chair at Fresno State," Chekerdemanian said.

Fresno State Associated Students President, Arakel Arisian, who was asked to speak by the ANC, commented about students' appreciation for Dr. Kouymjian's work.

"Fellow students say he is a brilliant man, he knows everything," Arisian said.

"He respects students, and students respect him.

"His contributions will remain in each individual who has taken his classes," Arisian said.

Dr. Kouymjian, in an emotional moment, addressed the previous speakers and the crowd.

"I am touched by the comments and letters," Kouymjian said. "I am very humbled that you honored me."

With a touch of modesty Dr. Kouymjian said, "Teaching and doing research is so much easier

See Kouymjian, Page 5

## Yerevan State University Delegation Visits Fresno State for Three Weeks of Business Training

• YSU President and Six Business Faculty

By Barlow Der Mugrdchian  
Hye Sharzhoom Advisor



YSU President Dr. Radick Martirossian (left) presenting Fresno State President Dr. John Welty a commemorative 80th anniversary medal of Yerevan State University.  
photo by Eusebio Arias

A delegation of faculty and administrators from Yerevan State University, Armenia, headed by Rector (President) Dr. Radick Martirossian, arrived in Fresno on Sunday, February 27 for a three-week working visit.

Accompanying the Rector are Dr. Grisha Gharibian, Dean of the Faculty of Business; Harutyun Marzpanyan, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Business; Amalia Saribekian, Professor of Business; Ashot Kakosyan, Professor of Business; and Hasmik Hovhanesyan, Lecturer in Business.

The group is in Fresno as part of a \$104,440 grant awarded to

Fresno State for the purpose of conducting a Faculty Development Program in Business and Economics with Yerevan State University (YSU) under the Newly Independent States (NIS) College and University Partnership Program.

Yerevan State University is the premiere university in Armenia and has achieved international recognition in many disciplines. The University was founded in 1919 and has a student population of about 10,000.

Project director Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program, welcomed the delegation at the airport, along with Fresno State Finance Professor Elizabeth Shields and interpreter Ashot Hagopian.

The group spent the first week

See YSU, Page 6

## McCain Remarks Spark Firestorm Over Genocide Resolution in House

Republican Presidential candidate Sen. John McCain sparked controversy on Tuesday, February 29 when he said that he would not support a congressional resolution calling on the government of Turkey to acknowledge the 1915 Armenian Genocide. His remarks came at a town-hall meeting held in the North Gym on the California State University, Fresno campus. Many Armenian students and community members were in the estimated audience of over 1,500.

McCain's comments prompted a front-page article in the Fresno Bee on Wednesday March 1. He was quoted in the story as saying, "I will not support that resolution. I

See McCain, Page 7



California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program

## Fall 2000 Schedule of Courses

### Course Units Time Day Instructor

#### General Education

#### Division 9-Other Cultures

(Social Sciences Area D3, for students using 2000/2001 Catalog)

- Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies 3 0930-1045 TTh Staff
- Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies 3 1000-1050 MWF B. Der Mugrdechian

#### Division 7-Languages

- Arm 1A Elementary Armenian 4 1100-1150 MTWF B. Der Mugrdechian

#### Arts & Humanities, Area C1 for students using 2000/2001 Catalog

- Arm S 20 Arts of Armenia 3 1100-1215 TTH D. Kouymjian

#### Upper Division Courses

- Arm S 105 Arm. Genocide 3 1500-1800 M Kazan Visiting Prof.
- Arm S 108A Arm History I 3 0900-0950 MWF B. Der Mugrdechian

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

## Armenian Summer Studies in Venice, Italy

The University of Venice will hold its fifteenth annual summer program in Armenian language, history and culture at the University of Venice in August. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno will teach intensive courses in Armenian art and in Armenian history. Fresno State students can register for CSUF credit for the program. A limited number of scholarships will be available through Armenian Studies to help pay travel expenses. The courses run from August 1 to 26, with a short course running from August 1-15. Tuition is \$550, lodging is \$585 for single rooms and \$425 for double or triple occupancy. There is a reduced price for the short course. Meals are paid for as you eat them in the University restaurant at approximately \$3.50 a meal.

Details and registration forms are available through the Armenian office, 278-2669.

## ASP Book Donations

Professor Dickran Kouymjian and the Armenian Studies Program would like to thank the authors and publishers for the following books and periodicals.

**Ms. Silvia Kuyumcuyan**, Turkey. Markosian, Mkrtich (1999). *On The Shore Of The Tigris* (Istanbul: Aras Yayincilik).

**A. G. B. U., Cairo Chapter** Demirdjian, Ervand (1997). *Armeno-Egyptian Painter* (Cairo: A. G. B. U.). Gevorian, Astghik (1998). *Armenian Miniature Painters: A Bibliography 9th - 14th Centuries*. (Cairo, Egypt).

**R. W. Thomson**, Oxford. Thomson, R. W. (1999). *The Armenian History Attributed To Sebeos Vol. I & II* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press Oriental Institute).

## Position: Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor

Armenian Studies Program, CSU Fresno

1. Proposed Appointment: A one semester appointment as the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor; Full-time position
2. Available for the Academic Year: Fall term 2000
3. Salary: Placement on the salary schedule is dependent upon academic preparation and professional experience
4. Teaching Load: One course in Armenian studies covering modern Armenia (nineteenth or twentieth century)
5. Course Level: Undergraduate
6. Specific Position Characteristics: The successful candidate will be required to teach a single course in Armenian studies in the modern period (nineteenth or twentieth century). In addition, the successful candidate will be required to give three public lectures in conformity with the requirements of the professorship on a single topic to be published later as a monograph. The successful candidate may be called upon to teach in a distance education mode. The successful candidate will be expected to work cooperatively with faculty and staff in the program and college.

### Qualifications:

1. Academic Preparation: The university is seeking candidates who possess a record of distinguished publication and research in modern Armenian studies. Candidates with university teaching experience will be preferred for this initial appointment of a Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor.
2. Teaching or Other Professional Experience: The successful candidate must have the ability to work effectively with faculty, staff and students from diverse ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Applications: Correspondence, applications, and confidential papers should be sent to:

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Committee Chair, Armenian Studies Program, California State University, Fresno, 5245 N. Backer M/S PB04, Fresno, CA 93740-8001, Phone: (559) 278-2669 FAX: (559) 278-2129, e-mail: franz @csufresno.edu

**Open Until Filled:** To ensure full consideration, applicants are encouraged to have all application information on file by February 4, 2000.

### Books for Sale

<b>Armenia, Portraits of Survival</b> Donald Miller	\$15.00
<b>Saroyan's Armenians: An Anthology</b> Ed. Alice Barter	\$15.00
<b>Song of America</b> , George Mardikian	\$15.00
<b>William Saroyan: An Armenian Trilogy</b>	
(Soft Back)	\$12.95
(Hard Back)	\$21.95
Ed. Dickran Kouymjian	
<b>William Saroyan: Warsaw Visitor</b>	
(Soft Back)	\$13.95
(Hard Back)	\$23.95
Ed. Dickran Kouymjian	
<b>Armenia from the Fall</b> by Dickran Kouymjian	\$3.00

# HYE SHARZHOOM

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### Armenian Studies Program Faculty:

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Barlow Der Mugrdechian, *Lecturer, ASO Advisor*

Frances C. Ziegler, *Program Administrative Assistant*

## HYE-LIGHTS

If you look along the Fresno State Men's Basketball bench you will find another Armenian alongside Jerry and Danny Tarkanian helping out the Bulldogs.

Hovig Torigian, a Kinesiology major, is working his first season as a team manager for the Bulldogs.

In his aspirations to become a coach himself, Torigian says, "This experience is an excellent opportunity to learn the dynamics of the game from one of the best."

Torigian is involved with game-day and practice preparations, playing in practice drills and working one-on-one with the players.

"At first it is kind of strange to go from cheering as a fan, to sitting up close along the bench, talking with, hanging out and working with the players, but now I'm starting to grasp the game of basketball from a coaching aspect," Torigian said.

"I get exposed to what it takes to run a team, the intricate details



Hovig Torigian

photo by John Jabagchourian

involved in breaking down game footage and the emotional ups and downs that go with a season."

Although a lot of grunt work is involved, Torigian says he is having a lot of fun and enjoys working as a team manager for the Bulldogs.

Off the court, Torigian is busy with his classes, studying to get an Armenian Studies minor as well as his degree in Kinesiology. He is also active in the Armenian Students Organization.

The Hye Sharzhoom wishes Hovig Torigian continued success in his hard work.



## Armenians and the Internet

By Ara Mekhitarian  
Staff Writer

### The Official Armenia- Diaspora Home Page

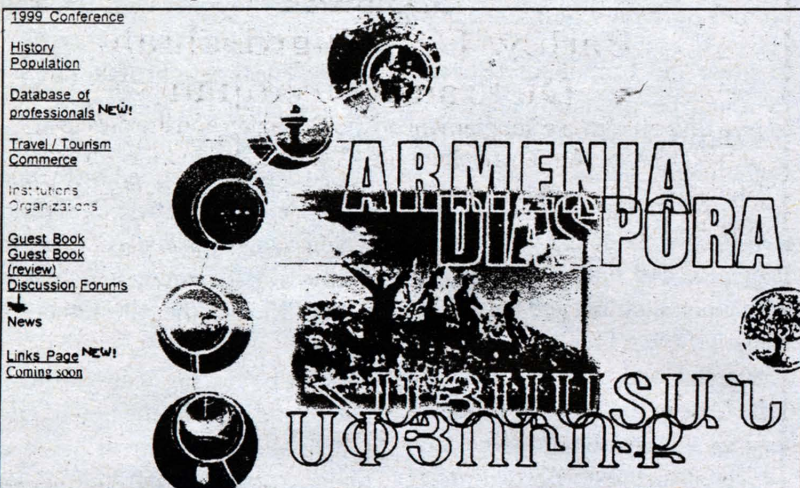
**Address:** <http://www.armeniadiaspora.com/>

**Contact:** [info@armeniadiaspora.com](mailto:info@armeniadiaspora.com)

**Categories:** History, Population, Database of Professionals, Travel/Tourism Commerce, Guest Book, Links.

**How to use:** Links are all listed on the left side of the page.

**Brief Summary:** Ever wonder how many Armenians there are in the world? The Armenian population of the world today is estimated to be a little more than 8 million. Armeniadiaspora.com gives you country by country figures of the Armenian population. It is interesting to see how many Armenians live in all of the different areas of the world. This site's "History" page also does a great job in educating readers on how the Armenian Diaspora came to be formed. If you are planning on visiting Armenia, check out their "Travel/Tourism Commerce" page. It offers links to all of the different Armenian travel agencies around the world to help you organize your trip to Armenia.



### 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Christianity in Armenia

**Address:** <http://www.freespeech.org/oneworld/1700/>

**Contact:** [onewm@usa.net](mailto:onewm@usa.net)

**Categories:** Introduction, Adoption of Christianity, The Armenian Church, History of the Church, Pilgrimage, Related Links.

**How to use:** Choose your language (Armenian or English), then select one of the sections on the right side of the page.

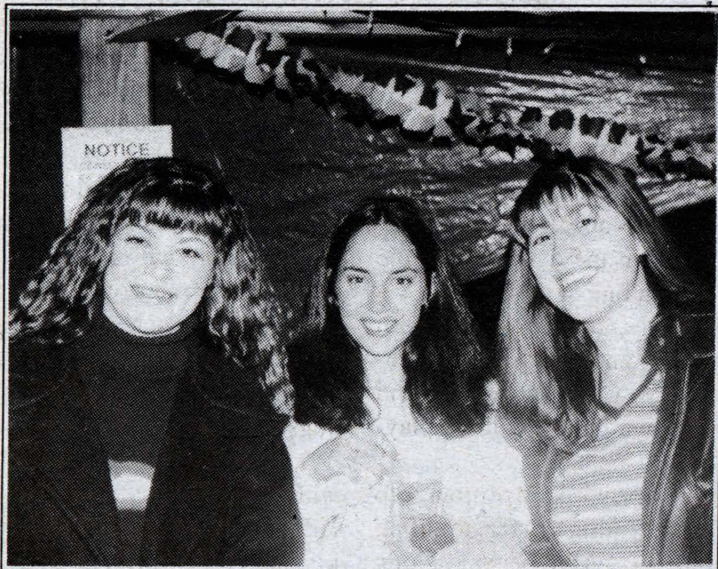
**Brief Summary:** In 2001, Armenia will celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the adoption of Christianity as the national religion of Armenia. It is the oldest Christian Church in the world. This web site offers information about the big celebration next year as well as interesting facts about the Armenian Church and the adoption of Christianity. The site also allows you to choose whether you would like to view the pages in English or Armenian depending on your preference. The "Related Links" page offers many other interesting pages with more information on Armenian Christianity, the Church, land and culture. Overall this is a great educational site that is easy to navigate and informs us more about Armenian Christianity.

## ASO Activities-Sp' 2000

By Shayla Srabian  
Staff Writer

This spring semester the Armenian Students Organization is on the

meeting led by new ASO President Armen Ghanbarian. Ghanbarian joins executive members Gary Atashkarian, vice-president; Talar Atarian, secretary; Tammy Karakashian, treasurer; Shayla



Left to right: Shushan Khalachyan, Heidi Dunbar, Hasmik Khalachyan-Cañas

move with many activities. The ASO began with their bi-weekly

Srabian, historian, who are planning activities together.

## Ag Students From Armenia Study for Semester

By Hasmik Khalachyan-Cañas  
Staff Writer

After several years of preparation by a team consisting of the United States Department of Agricultural (USDA), Fresno State University, College of Agricultural Science and Technology, Armenian Agricultural Academy (AAA), and the Armenian Studies Program, two exchange students from Armenia are finally here at Fresno State participating in the Armenian Agricultural Exchange Program.

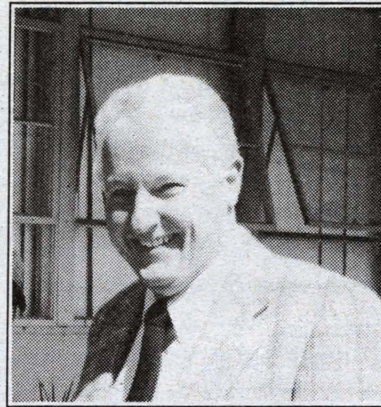
Mihran Movsisyan, 18, and Sona Vardanyan, 19, are the first students to participate in this program. They were selected for their outstanding academic achievements and their English proficiency and were approved by the AAA and the US Department of Agriculture.

The Armenian Agricultural Exchange Program is a campus partnership of the Armenian Studies Program, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and the International Programs office that is cooperating with the USDA to jointly sponsor these students. The aim is to expose students from Armenia on agricultural techniques and business so that they can take back to Armenia what they have learned and apply it. Fresno State was chosen to be involved in this exchange program because of the large Armenian community in the Central Valley and because it is in the center of the richest agricultural area in the world. In addition, a vibrant Armenian Studies Program with international ties is located at Fresno State.

Movsisyan and Vardanyan arrived in mid-January and will stay for a total of six months with all their expenses covered by the pro-

gram. They are living in dormitories with non-Armenian roommates and are getting a real taste of American culture.

Vardanyan's expectations were that the US would be a very



Dr. John Shields

modern country where everything is easy. So far she is pleasantly surprised how easily people communicate with each other.

They both have six classes and take most of the same classes. They are taking Introduction to Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Business Computer Applications, Agricultural Export marketing, Introduction to Armenian Studies, English as a Second Language, and a one-unit class in Contemporary American Culture that is required for all foreign exchange students.

They are enjoying their stay in America and say that people are treating them very well. Vardanyan said that it was difficult at first and she did not talk much, but now she is more comfortable and is opening up to people.

They both miss their family and friends in Armenia. Movsisyan said that his father might come to visit him in one month.

Their air-fare, health insurance, and room and board are being paid for by the USDA. The University is providing tuition-wavers,

while the College of Agricultural Science and Technology is paying all of their student fees and will attempt to find them summer jobs. The Armenian Studies Program is giving them each a scholarship that pays for books, supplies and miscellaneous living expenses.

Dr. William Rice of the Marketing Department at Fresno State headed the USDA-Fresno State-AAA project for nearly two years and was instrumental in the two students studying at Fresno State. From the time that the grant was first awarded, Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian from the Armenian Studies Program and Professor John Shields from the Agricultural Economics department have been working closely with Dr. Rice to make this program successful. They have both made several trips to the AAA in Armenian in conjunction with the grant. The Student Exchange Program is initially depending on USDA grant money that in time will hopefully be replaced by an endowment to continue the program for many years.

Vardanyan plans to take the knowledge that she obtains in America back to Armenia, and would like graduate and work with food companies as a food economic manager.

Movsisyan is interested in intentional trade and wants to become an export marketer.

They are the first students to participate in this program, and the program has had an excellent beginning.

In the future the exchange program plans to overcome the language barrier and have students go from America to Armenia. They will be looking towards the large Fresno Armenian community for help.

### Profile of Armenian Agricultural Exchange Program Students

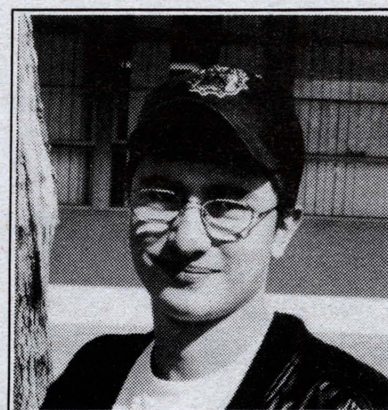
Nineteen-year-old Sona Vardanyan from Aramous, Armenia is the middle child of three daughters. She graduated in 1997 and joined



Sona Vardanyan

the Armenian Agricultural Academy. She hopes to finish school and become a food economics manager. Vardanyan enjoys cooking Armenian food, listening to classical music and reading Armenian literature.

Eighteen-year-old Mihran Movsisyan from Yerevan, Armenia is the oldest of two sons. He graduated school at the age of 15 and is now a sophomore at the Armenian Agricultural Academy. After he graduates from the AAA he plans to be an export marketer. Movsisyan loves soccer and is a member of the Armenian National



Mihran Movsisyan

Soccer team. He enjoys watching television and listening to rap music.

Ghanbarian's main goal as president he says, "Is to get back to Armenian brotherhood, to not only focus on the academic aspect of our collegiate careers but to embrace social and cultural perspectives in our own lives."

ASO's first activity of this spring semester was a Valentine's Day party at Armen Karlozian's house. It was a stormy night, but that didn't stop students from having a good time. It was an evening filled with dancing and socializing. The party was an occasion for members and friends to catch up with

each other, and a great way to start the semester.

On April 6 and 7, the ASO is organizing an Armenian Film Festival at Fresno State featuring the works of young Armenian directors/producers from throughout California.

Another talent the ASO is bringing to the Fresno State campus is Lory Tatoulian, an stage performer from San Diego. She will be performing her "One Woman Show," a drama and comedy, on Thursday, April 13.

ASO members are still work-

ing very hard to organize a commemoration and remembrance of the Armenian Genocide on Monday, April 24. This on-campus event, held annually at noon in the Free Speech area, is set to honor the 85th anniversary of the 1.5 million Armenian martyrs of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

The ASO is continuing their hard work and involvement to preserve their culture and heritage. The members are really excited for the upcoming events of this semester.



# Armenian Pilgrims Gather in Jerusalem to Celebrate Christmas

By Barlow Der Mugrdechian  
Hye Sharzhoom Advisor

The Year 2000 was ushered in with festivities throughout the world, but the millennial celebration of the Birth of Christ was celebrated with a unique series of events centered in the Holy City of Jerusalem. For Armenian Christians, these events took on an even greater significance, as the leadership of the Armenian spiritual and political worlds arrived in Jerusalem.

Armenian Christians in the Holy Lands are under the jurisdiction of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. In Jerusalem Armenians celebrate New Year's Eve according to the old Julian calendar, so the equivalent of December 31/January 1 is celebrated on January 13/14. Likewise the Birth of Christ is celebrated on January 6 according to the newer Gregorian calendar, but on January 18 according to the older calendar.

My ten day visit to Jerusalem, January 10-January 20, spanned the millennial activities planned in the Holy Sites. In 1999, His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem had issued an invitation to Armenian Christians throughout the world to visit Jerusalem for the millennial celebration of Christ's birth. For the first time in history, a

Catholicos of All Armenians, in this case His Holiness Karekin II, would be visiting the Holy Lands on Christmas. At the same time, the President of the Republic of Armenia, Robert Kocharian, was planning to arrive in Jerusalem on January 17 to participate in the celebrations and to become acquainted with the Armenians of the Old City.

Along with the visit of these leaders, the Patriarch of Constantinople, His Beatitude Archbishop Mesrob Moutafian was also leading a group of pilgrims from Turkey to the Holy Lands.

Christmas Eve was celebrated with singing in the courtyard of the St. James Monastery. The seminary students, the many clergy who had come from throughout the world, and the faithful gathered to sing "Glory to God in the Highest," followed by joyous celebrations that lasted well after midnight. The crisp, cool night, was punctuated with the sounds of fireworks.

The next morning, His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, received pilgrims from abroad in the second-floor reception room of the Patriarchate. He greeted the faithful and distributed the traditional oranges to the people.

On Monday, January 17, there was a feeling of anticipation in the air, as His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, was scheduled to arrive at the Jaffa



Second from left: His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian; His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians; His Beatitude Archbishop Mesrob Moutafian.

photo by Yoav Loeff, Jerusalem

Gate of the Old City of Jerusalem. He had been making his first pontifical visit to the Holy Land, arriving in Amman, Jordan several days earlier. He was escorted from Amman to Jerusalem by a convoy of cars, led by the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

By 4:00 PM in the afternoon, scouts from the local Homenetmen and Hoyetchmen clubs, with their colorful uniforms, had begun the official reception party. More than twenty bishops of the Armenian Church were in Jerusalem for the special events, and they too were in the procession

to greet the Catholicos. Several thousand people had gathered at the Jaffa Gate to greet the Catholicos.

When the official delegation arrived, the sound of trumpets, bagpipes, and music rent the air, with much shouting and noise. The Catholicos was greeted by the two Patriarchs, and escorted from the Jaffa Gate to the St. James Monastery in a ceremonial procession which attracted the attention of many tourists. Upon entering the monastery, he entered the St. James Church, where he addressed the crowded faithful. Following the

message, the traditional achahampouyr took place.

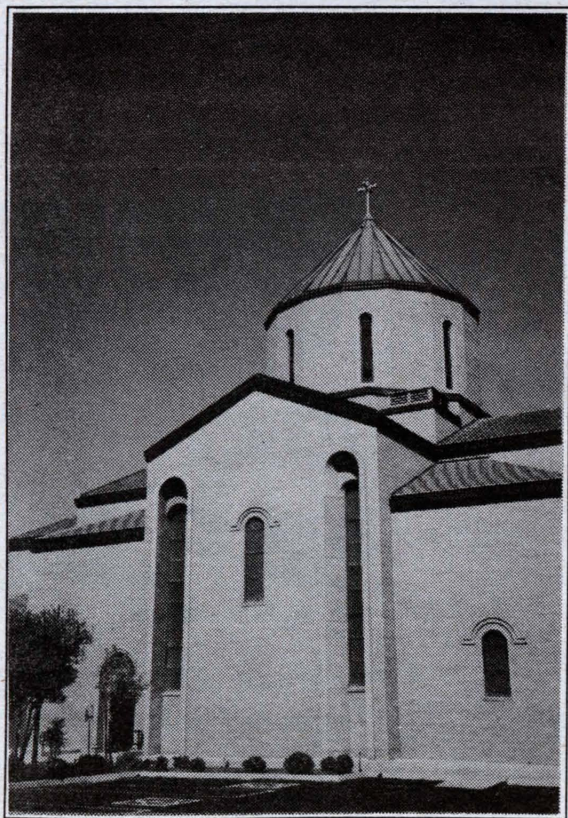
It is hard to describe the feelings which were expressed and felt by the pilgrims from Turkey, Holland, from Europe, and the more than 400 Armenians from the United States, who had arrived for a very special occasion.

Armenian Christmas eve and Christmas day activities centered on the city of Bethlehem and the Church of the Grotto. The official convoy, headed by the Catholicos and the Patriarchs arrived at 11:00 AM and a Divine Liturgy was celebrated by His Holiness Karekin II at 4:00 PM in the afternoon. Following the Liturgy, the people had a chance to meet with His Holiness and the other clergy.

The highlight of the day was the midnight Divine Liturgy celebrated in the grotto where Jesus Christ was born. Attending the special ceremony were Robert Kocharian, President of the Republic of Armenia, and Yasser Arafat, Head of the Palestinian Authority.

The making of new acquaintances and visiting the holiest sites in Christianity, while at the same time participating in religious services with the Catholicos and two Patriarchs contributed to a special ten days filled with unforgettable moments.

## Weekend Class on Armenian Church Provokes Spirited Discussion



St. Paul Armenian Church

By Michael Arakelian  
Staff Writer

On the weekend of February 11 and 12, the Armenian Studies Program offered a one-unit course on the Armenian Church. Fifteen students attended this class with almost everybody realizing, after a short quiz was given to start the class, that they had more to learn about the Armenian Church. Students left the class much more informed on the Armenian Church.

The class was taught by Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, who is a Deacon in the Armenian Church and is very knowledgeable on the subject. He treated the students to lectures, slide-shows, movies and a guided tour of St. Paul Armenian Church. Discussions were also held about various controversial issues involving the Armenian Church and its future in America and abroad.

There were many controversial issues that were discussed. The issues were whether the Church should focus on being more nationalistic or religious, the issue of celibacy of the clergy, the shortage of clergy, along with the effects of the Genocide on the Church, the split of the Church and the issue of language in the Armenian Church.

This article focuses on two issues: the split in the Armenian Church and language in the Armenian Church.

Armenians belong to many different Christian denominations;

however, this class focused on the original church in Armenia, the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church. Armenia adopted Christianity as its official religion in 301 AD. Prior to the Armenian Genocide, Protestant missionaries from England and America were able to convert some Armenians to other denominations.

Today, unfortunately, there exists a split in the Armenian Apostolic Church. For example, the church in the United States is now under two jurisdictions; the Diocese which is affiliated with the Holy See of Etchmiadzin and the Prelacy affiliated with the Holy See of Cilicia. This is one of many current issues that affect the Armenian Church today.

The issue of the split in the Armenian Church in the United States has been a long-standing one (about seventy years). Since the election of a Catholicos Karekin I, and even before when His Holiness Vazken I was Catholicos in the Holy See of Etchmiadzin, there has been talk of unity. Unfortunately, unity has not even come close to occurring. Although attempts were made, neither side did anything to bridge the gap. Members of the Armenian Church would like the problem solved. A few of the students in the class recalled times when they were growing up, citing that talking to members of "the other side" was just not done. In fact, there was much hostility between the two sides. Now, people from each side interact socially all

of the time. Among the younger generation, the split does not seem to harm any friendships from being made as they interact constantly and get along fine. The older generation has experienced the same feeling, patching up differences and not worrying about political differences that stem from the split of the Church. This interaction among the people of the Diocese and of the Prelacy seems to be a good start and hopefully a catalyst for the healing process to begin.

Another issue that was discussed in the class was the usage of the Classical Armenian language in the Armenian Church. In the world, there are Armenian Churches in Armenia, America, Canada, India, Brazil, Russia and France to name a few. The Armenian utilized in the church liturgy is different than the every-day spoken language of modern Armenian. Thus, even though Armenian is spoken in the church, it is not the type of Armenian language that is understood by the majority of Armenians around the world. Typically, only scholars use Classical Armenian and the numbers of people who understand it are very few. Sound confusing? This writer is also confused.

Not many people understand the spiritual message of the service unless following along in a book that has the translation in Modern Armenian or the language of choice. But, following along in a book takes away from the symbolism of the service.

There are a couple of solutions to this language barrier if one is a parishioner. First, the person can find a new church that utilizes

a language that is understandable to him/her. Or second, the person can do research into the symbolism of the liturgy and memorize its importance and relevance. The first option seems to be a more popular choice these days.

The class differed in opinion on this issue in the Armenian Church in America. At least one person believed that the Armenian language must be preserved in the Armenian Church. However, the student also believed that the classical language should be replaced with the modern day language that is now spoken. Another student did not care whether the language was changed to English, although it might help, but that the congregation should be more involved in the service. For instance, the entire congregation should participate in the singing of the hymns by the choir, so that the congregation becomes more active rather than passive. It has been brought up by many people, mainly non-Armenian speakers that the liturgy should be entirely in English, or for that matter, the language of preference in the respective countries. So far, the leaders of the Armenian Church have ignored this issue stating that the church stay in accordance with tradition and keep the classical language intact during the liturgy.

The split in the Armenian Church continues to be a bane to the faithful of each church. With the approach of the celebration of the 1700th anniversary of the Christianization of Armenia looming near, a big celebration will occur in Armenia and also through-



Kouymjian, Cont. from Page 1

than being honored."

Dr. Harold Haak, Director of the Maddy Institute and former Fresno State President, said, "He (Kouymjian) has been a distinguished researcher and scholar."

Dr. Kouymjian earned a BA in European history from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, a MA in Arab Studies from the American University of Beirut, and a Ph.D. in Armenian Studies from Columbia University in New York.

In 1977, Dr. Kouymjian was invited to Fresno to establish an Armenian Studies program at Fresno State. He also founded the Armenian student newspaper *Hye Sharzhoom* and the Center for Armenian Studies.

"Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno is now an integral part of the curriculum because more than half a dozen courses are a part of the General Education Program," Kouymjian said. "More than 5,000 students of all ages have enrolled in our courses."

Dr. Kouymjian has taught a wide array of subjects from Armenian, Islamic, and Byzantine history and art, to film, Genocide and Saroyan Studies. The wide spectrum of courses the Armenian Studies Program offers is matched by no other program and are taken by both Armenians and non-Armenians.

Currently Dr. Kouymjian is preparing an exhibit and catalogue for the Catholicosate of Etchmiadzin on "Armenian Altar Curtains" which will be exhibited at the Textile Museum in Lyon, France in preparation for the 1700th anniversary of the establishment of Christianity in Armenia.

For the same Anniversary preparations at the request of Catholicos Aram I, Dr. Kouymjian is preparing an exhibit and cata-

## Dr. Kouymjian Honored at Festive Banquet



Left to Right: Berj Apkarian, Master of Ceremonies; Dr. Harold Haak, former President of Fresno State; Dr. Dickran Kouymjian.

logue titled "The Treasures of the Cilician Catholicosate" for the Museum of Art and History in Geneva, Switzerland.

The ANC's program also consisted of a string quartet from Clovis West high school playing selections from Gomidas while a bacon wrapped filet mignon lunch, garnished with vegetables and red ripe grapes was served.

"The lunch was delicious and delightful," Talin Mekhitarian, a student attending the banquet said.

This award of "Man of the Year" adds to Dr. Kouymjian's accolades as a scholar. He has been awarded the St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Medal by the late Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians, the highest honor bestowed by the Armenian church to scholars and writers. He also has been awarded the Fulbright Senior Lectureship by the US government to teach in the department of Foreign Languages and Literature at Yerevan State Uni-

versity in Armenia.

Dr. Kouymjian joins a prestigious list of honorees of the "Man of the Year" award. Previous "Man of the Year" recipients are Congressman Frank Pallone, Supervisor Deran Koligian, Congressman George Radanovich, Professor Richard G. Hovannisian, Baroness Carolyn Cox, Congressman Richard Lehman, Raffi K. Hovannisian, Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court Marvin Baxter and Congressman Chip Pashayan.

Kouymjian concluded his address by saying "I thank you for this honor and promise to continue to be deserving of it."

People then lined up to personally congratulate and shake Dr. Kouymjian's hand.

The ANC, which awarded Dr. Kouymjian and set up the banquet, is a national organization whose purpose is to promote Armenian rights for the Diaspora and to lobby Congress on Armenian issues.

### Letters Congratulating Dr. Dickran Kouymjian

**His Holiness Aram I**, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia  
**Armen Aroyan**, Los Angeles, California

**Dr. Eileen Barker**, Professor Sociology, London School of Econ.

**Academician Dr. Georg Brutian**, Vice President Armenian National Academy of Sciences

**Dr. Valentina Calzolari**, Secretary, Association Internationale des Études Arméniennes

**The Reverend Bernard and Knar Guekguezian**, First Armenian Presbyterian Church

**Dr. Ellen Gruenbaum**, Dean of the School of Social Sciences

**Elizabeth Koojoolian**, Fresno, California

**Hagop, Lisbett, and Gabriel Khoubessarian**, Toronto, Canada

(Dr. Kouymjian's sister-in-law and family)

**Diane Majors**, Reference Librarian, Henry Madden Library

**Archbishop Torkom Manoogian**, Patriarch of Jerusalem

**Felix Ter-Martirossov**

**Archbishop Mesrop Moutafian**, Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople

**Mikael Nchanian**, University of Clergy-Pontoise

(Dr. Kouymjian's nephew)

**Dr. Richard Pinkerton**, Professor of Marketing, Fresno State

**Ara Sarafian**, London, England

**Dr. Robert Thomson**, Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian, Oxford University

**Prof. Dr. Father Levon Boghos Zekiyian**, Armenian Department Director, University of Venice

### Dr. Dickran Kouymjian

#### Dear Dickran:

How appropriate that you should be designated as the Person of the Year by the Armenian National Committee of Central California. You have dedicated your entire career to the advancement of Armenian Studies and in so doing have enlightened new generations and colleagues and helped to integrate Armenian history and culture into world history from ancient to modern times.

It is sometimes not recognized and perhaps not so obvious that scholarly, academic, and outreach programs making known the past and present of the Armenian people are in themselves an important component of the Armenian Cause or Hai Tad. The battle for truth takes place not only in the political arena but now more than ever in the academic arena. You have always been present as a champion of the truth, whether subtly through illustrated presentations of Armenian art and architecture or directly by confronting the deniers and rationalizers of the indefensible.

Vartiter and I warmly congratulate you and Angèle on receipt of the public recognition extended by the Armenian National Committee, with wishes for continued service and achievement.

Sincerely yours,

**Richard G. Hovannisian**

Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History, University of California, Los Angeles

### Archbishop Mesrob Moutafian, Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople

We have learned with great happiness that the Armenian community of California has found you worthy to be named as "Man of the Year," and at the same time has decided to honor you with a special banquet in Fresno this weekend.

From the historic branch of the Western Armenians in Constantinople and from the shores of the beautiful Bosphorous, we have registered that this is a "worthy and true" choice.

Dear Dickran, your contribution to the field of Armenian Studies is so great, that you are not only the man of this year, but as a philologist-teacher-scholar, your works will for many years be a valuable and rich source for both Armenian and non-Armenian students and readers who have become familiar with your studies.

It was not an accident that His Holiness Karekin I of blessed memory, Catholicos of All Armenians, and His Holiness Aram I of the Holy See of Cilicia both bestowed you with encyclicals in appreciation of your multi-faceted studies in the field of Armenian Studies.

Therefore, with great happiness at you being named as "Man of the Year," we also, through this Patriarchal Letter of Blessing, warmly recognize your productive work.

With heart-felt prayers that the Lord grant you and your kind wife Angele many more healthy years. May the Lord strengthen you, may he grant you unending vigor and energy, on the eve of the third millennium, to continue your dedicated mission to sow, cultivate, and reap in the field of Armenian Studies.

Be well in the care of the Lord, strengthened by the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and be eternally blessed by Him.

Amen.

Mother Cathedral of St. Mary the Mother of God  
Kum Kapu, Constantinople  
March 3, 2000



ԹԻՒ 30/00

Սիրելի՛ Պրն. Տարմանեան,

Շնորհակալութեամբ ստացանք Ձեր 25 Յունուար, 2000 թուակիր նամակը, որով կը հաղորդէիք թէ Հայ Դատի Յանձնախումբը «Տարման Մարդը» կը հռչակէ Ձեր գնորդի Համալսարանի Հայագիտական Ամպիոնի Նախագահ Դոկտ. Տիգրան Դուլումեանը: «Արդար եւ իրաւ» գնահատում մըն է որ կը տրուի Ձեր Գույնընկեր, որուն հայագիտական մարզէն ճիշտ քերականութեամբ կարեւոր նշանակեց ինչ որ կը շարունակէ մնալ Մեր բարձր գնահատմանի առարկան:

Երեսուն տարիներէ յ վեր Մենք անճնապէս մօտէն ճանչցած ենք Ձեր Գույնընկերը. եւ ճշդօրէն ենք իր կատարած աշխատանքներուն ու իրագործած նուազումներուն: Արդարեւ, բազմակողմանի տաղանդով օժտուած մտաւորական ու բանասէր Քրոն. Տիգրան Դուլումեանի բերած նպաստը կ'անդրանցնի ազգային սահմանները՝ հասնելու միջազգային մակարդակի: Իր հրատարակած մեծ թիւով հատորները, որոնք նուիրուած են յատկապէս հայ արուեստի ծառանգութեան, յուսարձանի տակ կը բերեն մեր ժողովուրդի հոգեմտաւոր գանձերը, գանձեր կը ներկայացնեն հայ թէ օտար հանրութեան, եւ կը նպաստեն անոնց պահպանման ու առաւել հարստացման: Այս կարեւոր աշխատանքներուն կողքին, Քրոն. Դուլումեան հետամուտ եղած է հայ ժողովուրդի արդար իրաւունքներու: Անոր հետեւեալ, եւ հայ դատին նուիրուած իր աշխատանքներուն հետեւեալ իր զանազան գործունէութիւններով արժարձ պահած միշտ հայկական հարցը՝ միջազգային շրջանակներէն ներս:

Արդարեւ, Մեր մայրող Հայրապետները գնահատած են Ձեր Գույնընկերի գործունէութիւնը: Մենք եւս, յատուկ օրհնութեան Գիր ենք շնորհած իրեն, 1998-ի Հոկտեմբերին, Ձեր գնորդի Համալսարանին նախաձեռնութեամբ տեղի ունեցած մեծարանքի հանդիսութեան առթիւ:

Այսու գրով, դարձեալ կը գնահատենք Դոկտ. Տիգրան Դուլումեանին կատարած երախտարժան աշխատանքը: Մեր գնահատմանը կ'ուզենք յայտնել նաեւ իր ազնիւ Տիգրան Դուլումեանին, որ միշտ եղած է լծակից ու գործակից Տիգրանին, ինչպէս նաեւ՝ իր մտաւորական կարողութիւնները ի սպաս դրած հայ մշակույթի ծաղկման:

Մեր մարտնչական է, որ Աստուծոյ ճշմարտութիւնը եւ երկար կեանք շնորհէ Տիգրանին եւ Անձէլին, որպէսզի անոնք կարենան վերանորոգ յանձնառութեամբ շարունակել իրենց նուիրեալ ծառայութիւնը հայ ժողովուրդին ու հայ մշակույթին:

Հայրապետական օրհնութեամբ եւ սիրով ջերմ ողջունելով,

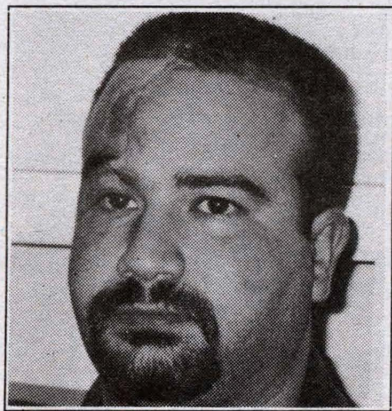
Ստորագրող  
*Մարտին Գալստիան*

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## Student Quotes ■ What do you think about April 24th?

April 24th, 2000 will mark the 85th commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. What does this day mean to you?

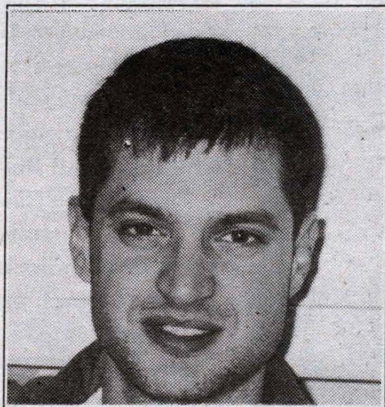


**Mano Handian**

**Mano Handian,**  
Senior majoring in Graphic Design

"Here we are 85 years later remembering the Genocide as if it was yesterday. We Armenians have a big wound which will not heal until we are heard all over the world and justice has been done."

**Jude Dunbar**  
Junior majoring in Geography

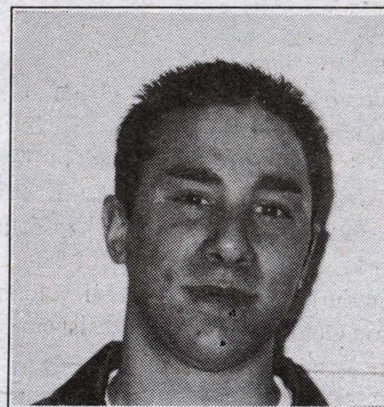


**Jude Dunbar**

ing the Genocide and she was able to live a full life with a positive outlook on everything. I can only hope and pray that I would be strong enough to get through such a dra-

"This is a day for me to put everything in perspective and thank God for everything I have and take f o r

granted. My grandmother lost all five of her siblings she had dur-

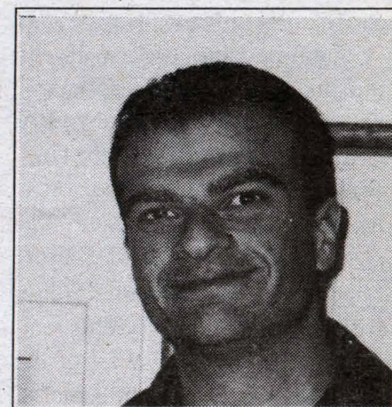


**Aaron Emerzian**

matic experience.

**Aaron Emerzian,**  
Junior majoring in Mass Communications

"This day marks a very sensitive and memorable event."



**Brian Serimian**

**Brian Serimian**  
Junior majoring in Business

"To take the present day for all it's worth, and let our hopes and dreams be the guides for our future."

### YSU, Cont, from Page 1

acquainting themselves with the Fresno state campus and meeting with faculty from the Sid Craig School of Business and various other departments on campus.



**Provost Dr. Michael Ortiz (left) with YSU Dr. Radick Martirossian.**

Fresno State President Dr. John Welty hosted the delegation at the University House on Tuesday evening, February 29. Joining Dr. Welty in greeting the guests were Provost Dr. Michael Ortiz, members of the Advisory Board of the Center for Armenian Studies, and faculty from the University.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program, welcomed Rector Martirossian and his faculty to Fresno on behalf of the Armenian Studies Program and the community.

Earlier in the day the YSU group had met with Fresno State Provost Michael Ortiz, who discussed the academic structure of the university. YSU President Dr. Radick Martirossian in turn discussed the changes that had taken place at his University over the past ten years.

Former Fresno State President, Dr. Harold Haak, who is currently the director of the newly established Kenneth Maddy Institute, gave the visitors from Armenia a tour of the campus. Dr. Haak will be visiting Armenia in late March

as part of the project.

Dean Fred Evans of the Craig School of Business met with the group early in their visit and discussed a range of possible interactions between the two universities.

Dean Grisha Gharibian of the YSU School of Business expressed interest in exchanging graduate students and faculty between the two universities.

The first week was a busy one, full of excitement, as group members explored the workings of the Craig School of Business Graduate MBA Program. YSU faculty

are in the process of modifying their curriculum and have recently moved from a five-year baccalaureate program to a Western-style four-year baccalaureate, with a two-year Masters program, followed by a three year doctoral program.

Dr. Mark Keppler, who heads the MBA program for the Craig School of Business, explained how the MBA program works at Fresno State.

Since international programs are a vital part of the University, Dr. Peter Klassen, Director of International Programs discussed Fresno State's wide range of ties

with foreign universities. Yerevan State University is a leader in Armenia in exchange programs with foreign institutions.

The Henry Madden Library, with its wide range of facilities and computer links is one of the leading libraries in the California State University system and was a focus of interest for the group. Librarian Ross LaBaugh escorted the delegation through the various library departments.

Four Fresno State faculty will be traveling to Armenia in early June to conduct a series of workshops and seminars with students and faculty from YSU.

The goal of the NIS College/University Partnership Program between Fresno State and YSU is to contribute to economic and political stability in Armenia by fostering educational reform in the area of business/economics at YSU.

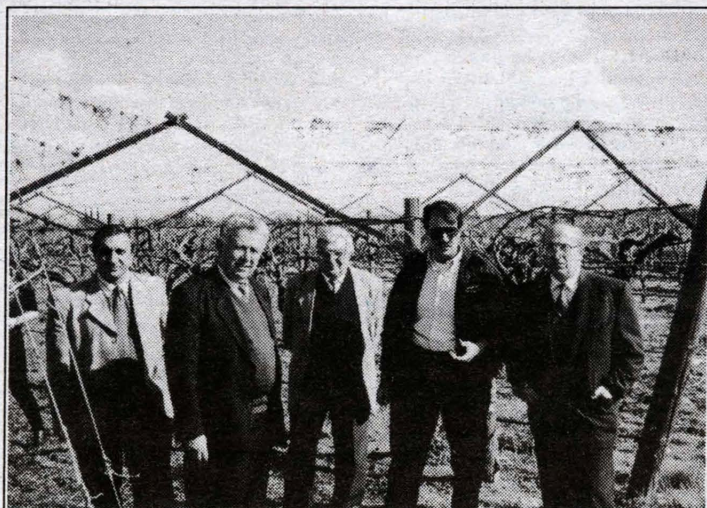
The project was assisted financially by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Information Agency under the authority

Dr. Karen Bowerman, Associate Dean of the Craig School of Business; Dr. Peter Smits, Vice President for University Advancement; faculty of the Craig School of Business; Dr. Audrey Anderson, Division of Extended Education; Rob Saroyan, Events Center; Dr. Dan Griffin, Grants; Dr. Brandt Kehoe, Interim Associate Provost; Dan Westbrook, Craig School of Business; Dr. Don Leet, Economics; Dr. William Rice, Marketing; Dr. Scott Houser, Economics; Dr. John Moghaddam, Management; Dr. Ali

Haak, Greg Kohayan of Koko's Restaurant, Agnes Saghatelian of Valley Lahvosh Baking Co., Dr. and Mrs. Varoujan Aldebarmakian, Mr. and Mrs. Sarkis Kalfayan, Wahaken and Mary Vanoyan, Dr. Peter Klassen, George Koroyan of George's Restaurant, Middle-East Restaurant, Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Bedrosian (National Raisin Co.), Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Bedrosian, Victor Packing (Sahatdjian Family), the Bread-Basket Bakery, Burger Time Restaurant, the Armenian Community School of



**Standing (left to right): Amalia Saribekian, Hasmik Hovhanesian, Harutyun Marzpanyan, Dr. Grisha Gharibian, Ashot Kakosyan. Seated (left to right): Dr. Fred Evans, Dean of the Craig School of Business and YSU President Dr. Radick Martirossian.**



**Left to Right: Harutyun Marzpanyan, Dr. Radick Martirossian, Dr. Grisha Gharibian, and Ashot Kakosyan listen to Bryan Bedrosian of National Raisin Co. in Fowler explain new techniques in grapes.**

*photo by Barlow Der Mugrdchian*

of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, as amended.

During their three-week visit, the YSU delegation had workshops/colloquia with the following individuals and departments: Dr. Steven White, Physics; Dr. John Shields, Agricultural Economics; Dr. Ben Quillian, Vice President for Administration;

Peyvandi, Accountancy; the Fresno City College Training Institute; Dr. Tim Stearns, Management; Susan Vasquez, Distance Learning, and the faculty of the Department of Economics.

They also visited many classes and got acquainted with a wide range of faculty at Fresno State.

Special thanks to Dr. Harold

Fresno (Principal Seth Atamian and staff), Dr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Shields, Mr. and Mrs. Hovig Semerdjian, Mr. Rob Saroyan, Mr. Larry Balakian, Dr. Dan Griffin, Mr. Ashot Hagopian, Mr. Chad Kirkorian, and Frances Ziegler for their hospitality and assistance in the successful completion of the three-week visit.

### "Reshaping a University in a Former Soviet Republic: The Armenian Experience"

**by Dr. Radick Martirossian**  
President, Yerevan State University

**Tuesday, March 14, 2000 • 7:30 PM**  
Alice Peters Auditorium

co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization



News from Armenia

General Andranik  
Reburied in Armenia

About 20,000 Armenians turned out for the reburial of general Ozinian Andranik, a leader of the Armenian resistance to the Ottoman army in the early 1900s, whose remains were brought back Friday after resting more than 71 years in Paris' Pere Lachaise cemetery.

Armenian Primate Karekin II officiated at a service at his residence in Echmiadzin, west of the capital, in memory of the general, who died in exile in California in 1927, aged 62.

After the mass, Andranik's body was taken in a funeral procession through Yerevan, with 20,000

people, including President Robert Kotcharian and other political leaders, participating. Andranik was reburied in the city's Yerablour cemetery, the resting place of Armenian officers killed during the 1988-1994 Nagorny Karabakh conflict with neighboring Azerbaijan. Nagorny Karabakh is a self-proclaimed Armenian Republic on Azerbaijani territory. More than 20,000 people have died and nearly a million were displaced since the ethnic Armenian majority there rebelled in 1988.

Andranik's tomb is adjacent to that of the late prime minister Vazguen Sarkissian, assassinated in parliament during an attempted coup d'etat on October 27, 1999.

Before Armenia's indepen-

dence in 1991, the Soviet authorities had refused to let Andranik's body be repatriated.

Armenia Aid Set at \$75 million

The Administration's proposed budget figures would decrease U.S. aid to Armenia to \$75 million, down from over \$102 million in fiscal year 2000. At the same time, the White House proposes increasing aid to Azerbaijan by more than 77%, from \$30 million in fiscal year 2000 to \$54 million in fiscal year 2001. Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which restricts U.S. aid to the government of Azerbaijan, allows for certain types of democracy, human rights, trade development and humanitarian assistance.

McCain Pulls Out of Republican Race  
after Losing California Primary

McCain, Cont. from Page 1

think that it is terrible what happened. I condemn it." He later added, "It was not under this government in Turkey. I don't see what this resolution does to improve the situation one iota."

The resolution referred to is House Resolution 398 (on the Armenian Genocide), introduced by Fresno Congressman George Radanovich (R-CA) and Minority Whip David Bonior (D-M), which establishes the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide and calls upon the President to 1) ensure that U.S. diplomats dealing with human rights are educated about the Armenian Genocide and 2) to properly characterize the Armenian Genocide as a "genocide" in the President's annual April 24th address.

Richard Sanikian, a member of the Armenian National Committee of Fresno, posed the question regarding the Genocide to McCain. Sanikian noted that Senator McCain had failed to make his position clear on the Armenian Genocide.

McCain's response rejected support for passage of the Armenian Genocide resolution but did call for reparations for the victims.

Later on Tuesday, at a press conference following the talk, McCain expanded on his response earlier in the day to a question on the Armenian Genocide, characterizing - for the first time - the crime against humanity as an act of "genocide," but again voicing his opposition to Congressional Armenian Genocide legislation, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA). McCain fielded questions from the media on the Armenian Genocide. His response, broadcast on the 11:00 p.m. newscast on KJEO Channel 47 in Fresno, was that: "It was not carried out by the present Turkish government. It was carried out by other people. And I am in deep

sympathy for one of the greatest acts of genocide ever committed by a previous Turkish government against innocent people. It's one of the most terrible tragedies in history. I will not support this resolution which is condemning the present Turkish government."

Senator McCain's history of opposing legislation commemorating the Armenian Genocide dates back to his days as a U.S. Representative. Through his years in the House, he worked against successive legislative initiatives to mark April 24th as a day of remembrance for the victims of the Armenian Genocide. As a U.S. Senator, he voted in 1990 against Senator Bob Dole's Armenian Genocide resolution.

The Armenian Assembly earlier in the week reported that in a strongly-worded letter to two prominent Armenian-American supporters, Republican Presidential candidate George W. Bush recognized the Armenian Genocide, called on "all decent people" to "remember and acknowledge" this event, and pledged to ensure that the United States "properly recognizes the tragic suffering of the Armenian people" if elected President. Also, Bush cited the Armenian Diaspora and the independent Republic of Armenia as examples of the "resiliency of the Armenian people." He called on the United States to back the independence of the Caucasus nations by supporting the peaceful resolution of regional disputes and regional economic development. He said that although the US can act as a mediator, clearly, a lasting peace in the Caucasus region must be negotiated by the parties involved. Bush expressed his full support for American assistance to Armenia, the promotion of democracy, the rule of law and a free and open society.

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Church, Cont. from Page 4

out the Diaspora. The Diaspora consists of all the Armenian Churches not including Armenia. But with the separation of the church in the United States, it seems hard to celebrate. The churches are exactly the same in terms of their theology, yet political differences and leadership quarrels have kept them apart. Only small attempts have been made to heal the split in the Church. If the leaders of the Diocese and the Prelacy put as much effort into healing the division in the Church as they have planning this celebration of Armenia's Christianity, the celebration might actually have real meaning to it. It is ironic to consider ourselves as Christians, and yet not forgive each other for past transgressions.

The language issue in the Church is yet to be resolved. Some parishes enjoy the Classical Armenian language of the Liturgy and are spiritually fulfilled by it, while

others are not. Basically, the fear of changing the language is that the Church would no longer be universal. Certain countries would worship in different languages than others. This scares some people in the Church because they want every Church to be the same and that includes the language that the liturgy is celebrated in. However, this problem should not be handled in this way. Changing the language will not change the essence of the church; it will only change the feelings of people toward the Church. Peoples who do not speak Classical Armenian, whether they are Armenian or non-Armenian will be able to appreciate the religious beliefs expressed through the liturgy.

The Armenian Church has many widely debated issues. It is my hope that 1,700 years of wisdom can guide it through these obstacles.



US Premiere Tour of the Italian Documentary  
***Destination Nowhere: The Witness***

by **Carlo Massa**

and a public lecture by

**Dr. Martin Rooney (Bremen, Germany)**

**Tuesday, April 25, 2000  
7:30 PM**

Alice Peters Auditorium • University Business Center

**Admission is Free**

co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program  
Armenian Students Organization  
California State University, Fresno

*Destination Nowhere: the Witness* is documentary on the Armenian Genocide. It depicts Armin Wegner's personal testimony to the Armenian Genocide in the Syrian deserts where he served as an Austrian officer in 1915-16. Wegner photographed the destruction of Armenians in the deserts of Der Zor, and his photographs provide some of the most powerful images we have of the Armenian Genocide. The documentary was shot in Italy, Armenia, and Syria. Armin Wegner was recently honored at the Armenian Genocide museum for championing the plight of Armenians till the end of his life. "Destination Nowhere: the Witness," which is dubbed into English, was shown in London last year to great acclaim.

Dr. Martin Rooney is a specialist on Armin Wegner and the Armenian Genocide. He is the founding member of the Armin Wegner Society in Germany. His published works include several articles and translations on the Armenian Genocide. His talk will engage Armin Wegner and the role of Germany in the documentation, as well as denial, of the Armenian Genocide.

This is the first US tour of the film "*Destination Nowhere: the Witness*." It is organized through the Gomidas Institute Outreach Program. For further information on how to bring the film to your community please contact [wegner@gomidas.org](mailto:wegner@gomidas.org)

The Armenian Students Organization  
presents

## An Armenian Film Festival

*Featuring the films of a new generation  
of Armenian/American film makers*



**Thursday, April 6  
and  
Friday, April 7**

**7:00-10:00 PM-both evenings**

**Alice Peters Auditorium  
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**Free Admission**



This program is supported, in part, with funds  
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The Armenian Students  
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presents

**Lory Tatoulian**  
in a

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**Thursday  
April 13, 2000**

**7:30 PM**

**Satellite Student Union  
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**Free Admission**

**Donations to the Armenian Studies Program  
in Memory of Norma Der Mugrdechian**

(Norma Der Mugrdechian was a graduate of  
Fresno State who returned to teach Armenian cooking  
courses. She is the mother of Armenian Studies  
Program lecturer Barlow Der Mugrdechian.)

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