# HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action 22 LUB CUIPANTU Year

October 2000

Vol. 22, No. 1 (71)

Supplement to the Collegian

### Armenian Studies Program Hosts Vardan Mamikonian in Benefactor Henry S. Kazan —



Dr. Richard Hovannisian (left) with his mother Mrs. Siroon Hovannisian and Mr. Henry S. Kazan.

Staff Report

The Armenian Studies Pro gram major benefactor, Mr. Henry Kazan, visited Fresno State during a long weekend from the 16th to the 19th of September. The principal reason for the trip was to attend the Monday afternoon course of Dr. Richard Hovannisian, the first incumbent of the Henry S. Khanzadian, Kazan Visiting Professorship of Armenian Studies.

Mr. Kazan, who is from Juno Beach, Florida, came from Long Island where he keeps a summer residence. This is his fourth trip to California State University, Fresno.

In addition to a nearly \$400,000 endowment in support of the Kazan Visiting Professorship, he and his wife have also established the M. Victoria Karagozian Kazan Endowment Fund for the Armenian Studies Program, which is intended to provide general support for the Program and financial support for research, publications, and conferences related to Armenian studies.

Mr. Kazan said he has invested in Armenian Studies at CSU Fresno because he considers it the most active and the best undergraduate

program in the country.

During his visit he attended Prof. Hovannisian's Monday afternoon course, Armenian Studies 105 dealing with the Armenian Genocide and its denial. Henry Kazan is himself an historian having completed his bachelors in history from New York University before going on to complete law school. His working career was with NuTone Company from which he retired some thirty years ago.

During Mr. Kazan's stay, the Armenian Studies Program Advisory Board held a special reception at the home of Dr. Arnold and Dianne Gazarian. Mr. Kazan was given a surprise 95th birthday cake.

Also in attendance were members of the Armenian Studies Program Advisory Board, faculty of the Armenian Studies Program, Dr. Hovannisian and his wife Dr. Vartiter Hovannisian, President John Welty and his wife Dr. Sharon Brown, Vice President for Development Dr. and Mrs. Peter Smits, Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities, Dr. Luis Costa and hi wife Wendy, and Acting Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, Dr. Stanley Ziegler and his wife Frances, who is secretary of the Armenian Studies Program.

See Kazan, Page 2

#### California State University, Fresno **Armenian Studies Program**

Invites you to a special lecture by

### His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the See of Cilicia

Moderator of the Central Executive Committees, World Council of Churches

Speaking on "The Ecological Crisis, Its Causes and **Implications:** A Christian View"

Monday, October 23, 2000 11:00 AM **Satellite Student Union** 

Free Admission and open to the public.

A luncheon with the Catholicos will take place immediately following the lecture. Students will have a private meeting with the Catholicos at 1:45 PM.

# **Bravura Piano Performance**

By Arpik Paraghamian Staff Writer

rench-Armenian pianist, Vardan Mamikonian opened this year's Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concerts to a turn away crowd of 400 at Fresno State's Concert Hall on the evening of September 15, 2000.

"It was a stunning performance, and I believe he combines all necessary qualities of a great artist: taste, imagination, unlimited technique and modesty. He deserves to be counted among the greatest pianists of the time," said

Prof. Andreas Werz, director of the Concert Series.

Mamikonian divided the program into four sections beginning with his first piece, Theme and Variations in F Major, Op. 19 by Peter Tchaikovsky.

The audience's thunderous round of applause foreshadowed the captivating performance to come. Mamikonian took a bow in his gray suit and walked off-stage, returning moments later to play Sergei Prokofiev's Second Sonata in D Minor, Op. 14.

See Mamikonian, Page 6



Left to right: Dr. Arnold Gazarian, ASP Coordinator Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, pianist Vardan Mamikonian.

### **Genocide Resolution Gains Momentum in Congress**

By John Jabagchourian Editor

aking steps towards the truth, yet not quite through the door, the 106th U.S. Congress has experienced a last minute spark in moving House Resolution 596 through the legislative process.

The resolution, affirming the Armenian Genocide, will be heard and voted on in the U.S. House of Representatives after the full House **International Relations Committee** passed H. Res. 596 on a 24 yes, 11 no and 2 present vote on September 3, 2000.

"I am very proud of this measure and of the committee members for voting to do the right thing despite the overwhelming Turkish lobbying efforts we have all felt,"

co-author and local Congressman George Radanovich (R-CA) said. "I continue to reject Turkey's presumption that it can impose its views regarding our response to the Armenian Genocide."

Up until the August Congressional break, H. Res. 596 formerly known as H. Res. 398 remained dormant and stuck in committee, likely to have expired with this session of Congress.

Speaker of the House, Denis Hastert (R-IL), Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-TX) and Chairman of the International Relations Committee, Benjamin Gilman (R-NY) were initially not in favor of the resolution and would not give it a chance to get passed by the com-

See Genocide Resolution, Page 7

### "The Fresno Armenians"

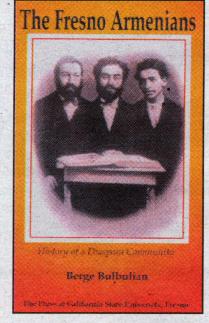
By Tamara Karakashian Staff Writer

he intriguing history of the Armenian Diaspora com munity of Fresno is captured in a new book titled The Fresno Armenians by Berge Bulbulian.

The Fresno Armenians tells of the triumphs and lifestyles of the first Armenian settlers and their evolution into today's community.

Bulbulian decided to pursue this project through the support and enthusiasm of Professor Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies.

While discussing with Dr. Kouymjian the lack of published material on the Armenians in Fresno, Bulbulian decided to undertake the task of fulfilling this void. He had never thought of



writing a history of the Fresno Armenians before; however, once faced with the challenge, he thought it a good idea, because he knew there was a lot of information out

See Bulbulian, Page 8

California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

### **Spring 2001 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 1230-1345 TTh Staff

Intro to Arm Studies 3 1000-1050 MWF B Der Mugrdechian • Arm S 10

### **Division 7-Languages**

Arts & Humanities, Area C2 for students using 2000/2001 Catalog

1100-1150 MTWF B Der Mugrdechian • Arm 1B **Elementary Armenian 4** 

Arts & Humanities, Integration, IC, for students using 2000/2001 Catalog

 Arm 148 **Mastrpcs Arm Culture 3** 0900-0950 MWF **B** Der Mugrdechian

### **Upper Division Courses**

Arm S 108A Arm History II

3 0930-1045 TTh **B** Der Mugrdechian

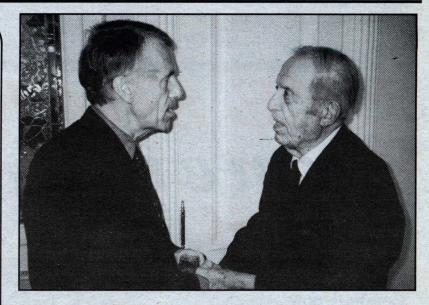
• Arm S 121 Arm. Architecture

3 1600-2100 Fri 0900-1700 Sat

D Kouymjian

Course meets March 2/3; 9/10; 16/17.

For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit our offices in the Peters Business Building, Room 384.



CSUF President Dr. John Welty (left) with Mr. Henry Kazan.

#### KAZAN, Cont. from Page 1

Accompanying Mr. Kazan was his close friend from Long Island, Joe

Dr. Varoujan Altebarmakian, Chair of the Advisory Board, invited Mr. Kazan to make some remarks. After thanking the Advisory Board and the Program for the reception, especially Board member Arlene Srabian, who was responsible for the arrangements, along with the Gazarians, and Frances Ziegler, Mr. Kazan pre-

sented a detailed narrative of just how the Visiting Professorship was established.

The following day, Monday September 18, after individual meetings with officials at the University Foundation and the Development Office, Mr. Kazan visited with Coach Jerry Tarkanian and attended Dr. Hovannisian's class.

Early the next morning he returned to New York pleased that the new endowed professorship has gotten off to a good start.

### ASPANNUAL FUND (as of 9-27-00)

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# YE SHARZHOOM ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

**Editor** John Jabagchourian Staff Tamara Karakashian Ara Mekhitarian Arpik Paraghamian **Edward Thurber** Photographer Barlow Der Mugrdechian Advisor Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Hye Sharzhoom is a supplement of The Collegian and the newspaper of the C.S.U.F. Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program and is funded by the Associated Students. Articles may be reprinted provided Hye Sharzhoom is acknowledged. Hye Sharzhoom welcomes prose, poetry, articles and other material from its student readers. For further information concerning the newspaper or the Armenian Studies Program:

**Armenian Studies Program** 5245 N. Backer Ave. PB4 Fresno, CA 93740-8001 Telephone (559) 278-2669 • FAX (559) 278-2129 http://www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies/

### Armenian Studies Program Faculty: Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, Coordinator Richard Hovannisian, Kazan Visiting Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Lecturer, ASO Advisor Van Der Mugrdechian, Lecturer Frances C. Ziegler, Program

Administrative Assistant

### **Banner Semester for Armenian Studies Program** A Report

### By Dickran Kouymjian Coordinator and Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies

his fall 2000 semester is one of the best ever for Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program, and its four faculty members: Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Lecturer in Armenian Studies and Van Der Mugrdechian, part-time Lecturer. This is by far the best year for enrollment in the past 23 years of Armenian Studies.

Some 170 students are registered in eight sections of Armenian Studies courses, well above the five year average of 134 students per semester. In the past nine semesters Armenian Studies courses have

been offered to 1,201 registered students. This semester nearly 100 students or 60%, are non-Armenian, an extraordinary statistic, which makes it clear that our Armenian Studies course offerings have become incorporated into the general university curriculum. It is also the first time that two sections of Armenian Studies 20, The Arts of Armenia is being offered to the entire sophomore class of the Smittcamp Honors College, 48 of the top students in the University.

We have had more applicants for our scholarships than ever; 51 students have been awarded some \$31,400 dollars from endowed Armenian scholarship funds. This increased interest in Armenian Studies is further reflected by the eight students who graduated last year with the officially recognized 25-credit Minor in Armenian Stud-

We are particularly pleased to welcome to our Program and campus, Dr. Richard Hovannisian of UCLA, who is serving as the first incumbent of the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professorship of Armenian Studies. In addition to a semester course on the Armenian Genocide and Its Denial, Prof. Hovannisian will present a series of three public lectures in October and December. In conjunction with this exceptional examination of the Armenian genocide, we have invited three specialists for our lecture series: Dr. Israel Charny, Director of the Institute for Genocide Studies, Jerusalem, Dr. Yair Auron, The Open University of Israel, and Hilmar Kaiser, European University, Florence.

This year's most distinguished guest will be His Holiness, Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, who will visit CSUF on October 23. He will present an address to the University community entitled "The Ecological Crisis, Its Causes and Implications: A Christian View." A public luncheon and meeting with students will fol-

### **LETTERS**

### To the Program,

How lucky we are in the land of the Free to pursue truth and justice in our program. What a great cultural and historical legacy the Armenian Studies Program engenders for all, Armenians and non-Armenians alike. May it live and prosper for a long time.

I would like to honor Dickran

Kouymjian for all he has given us and the world.

#### Sincerely, Roxie Jizmejian, Fresno

### To the staff and students of the **Armenian Studies Program**

Thank you for all the work and effort you put in for the April 24 commemoration. It gave my twin-9 1/2 year old daughters an opportunity to think and question the why, what, how, and who questions about the Genocide; most importantly, it planted a seed of what they can do about the Armenian cause when they grow up. Thanks again,

Zepur Karkazian, Fresno

## **Armenians and the Internet**

By Ara Mekhitarian

#### Etchmiadzin

Address: http://www.etchmiadzin.com

Brief Summary: Etchmiadzin.com is one of the newest Armenian web sites on the Internet with the latest Java effects. Here you will find information regarding the Armenian Church and Christianity. This web page offers a full overview of the recent consecration and ordination ceremony of our 132<sup>nd</sup> Catholicos. Learn about the process of electing the Armenian Catholicos and the history of the Armenian Church. Click on their "How Can I Participate" link and find out how to be a part of the big 1700th anniversary celebration of the Armenian church in Armenia next year. This web site is also affiliated with www.armgate.com, providing a variety of Armenian Church images and interesting information on Armenian art and culture.

Categories: Message from Church Leaders, Mission Statement, Jubilee Year Activities, About the Armenian Church, Daily Questions and Readings, What's New, How Can I Participate.

**How to use:** Links are listed on the right side of the home page.

Contact: email: 1700@etchmiadzin.am

The 1700th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity as Armenia's State Religion

**Message from Church Leaders** 

**Mission Statement** 

**Jubilee Year Activities** 

**About the Armenian Church** 

**Daily Questions and Readings** 

What's New?

**How Can I Participate?** 

Links

anniversary **About this Site** 



Declinated to the study, research, and affirmation of the Armenian Genocide

Search

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Related Organizations

International Affirmation

Survey official statements, resolutions, proclamations, and reports affirming the genocide. Excerpts from the 1919 Turkish Military Tribunal and the 1920 Treaty of

Educational Resources

Explore how to teach about genocide. Featured are a resource guide, a reference section, sample curricula, information on video documentaries suggested reading list, and a genocide FAQ

Genocide Research

About ANI

**Armenian National Institute** 

1700 anniversary

Address: http://www.armenian-genocide.org/

Brief Summary: The Armenian National Institute (ANI) is a non-profit organization based in Washington D.C., dedicated to the study, research, and affirmation of the Armenian Genocide. Their web site offers tons of information regarding the genocide, including excerpts from the 1919 Turkish Military Tribunal and the 1920 Treaty of Sèvres. Their "Educational Resources" section, offers information on how to teach someone about the Armenian Genocide in 1915, including a resource guide, a reference section, sample curricula, information on video documentaries and a recommended reading list. Plus, they have a rare photo collection of victims and refugees of the Genocide and a day by day chronology of the unfortunate events that took place. Overall this web site is very informative and does a good job in promoting the truth about the Armenian Genocide.

Categories: International Affirmation, Educational Resources, Genocide Research, About ANI.

How to use: Links are located in the center of the page. A site map and search engine are also provided on the left-hand side.

Contact: (202) 383-9009 email: ani@aaainc.org

### **ASP Book/Video Donations**

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

Ben Amirkhanian & The William Saroyan Society

William Saroyan posters and CD of the 1st Annual

Great Saroyan Reading

Araz Artinian, Ville St Laurent Quebec

Video: Surviving the Richter Scale

Dr. Ina Baghdiantz McCabe, Medford, MA

Baghdiantz McCabe, I. (1999) The Shah's Silk for Europe's Silver (Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania)

Mrs. Emma Bozmagian, Fresno books from the Ataskarian family **Byurat Cultural Foundation**, Burbank

Byurat, Vaghinak (1999). Memoirs From My Life (Yerevan Museum of Literature And Art)

Center for Political and Strategic Studies, Washington, DC

Edited by Road Sagdeev & Susan Eisenhower (2000). Islam and-Central Asia. New York: The Center for Political/Strategic Studies

Committee of the 1700th Anniversary of Christianity, Etchmiadzin Materials of the International Conference (2000).

Armenia: Church & State. Etchmiadzin

Galust Galoyan, Yerevan

Galoyan, Galust (1999). Armenian and the Great Powers: 1917-1923 Armenian National Academy of Sciences

Fr. Antranik Granian, Beirut (1999). Haigazian Armenological Review, Vol. 19 (Beirut, Armenian Dept. of Haigazian University)

John Hadidian, Albany, CA and London Hand written diary of Varsenig Soghigian

Souren Karapetian, Glendale Video: Turkish Soup

Dr. L. G. Khacheryan, Glendale

Khacheryan, L. G. (1999). The History Of Armenian Orthography Vth-XXth centuries (Glendale: Yerevan Publishing)

Ms. Mary Simonian, Fresno books from mother's estate.

Surp Pirgic Ermeni Hastanesi, Kazlicesme, Istanbul

All Savior Hospital Year Book 1900 of the Armenian Hospital.

Araxy Tatoulian, San Diego

Tatoulian, A. (2000). Petevin (The Bedouin). (California: Arax Press)

 The Armenian Students Organization California State University, Fresno

invites you to a special open forum with

Fresno City Mayoral Candidates: Alan Autry - Dan Whitehurst

Speaking and answering questions about issues of concern for the City of Fresno Growth • Education

Agriculture
 Downtown Revitalization

Wednesday, October 25, 2000 7:00 p.m.

Alice Peters Auditorium Rm. 191 **University Business Center, CSU Fresno Campus** 

Free admission and open to the public.

For more information contact Armenian Students Organization Tim Kuckenbaker 250-9683 • Barbara Harutinian 304-4814

### Hovannisian Introduces Students to Study of Armenian Genocide

By Edward Thurber Staff Writer

s a first time student at Fresno State, and with the encouragement of the Armenian Studies Program, I found myself taking Armenian Studies 105, Armenian Genocide in Comparative Context, taught by Dr. Richard Hovannisian.

Dr. Hovannisian, Professor of Armenian and Near East History and Holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History at the University of California, Los Angeles, is this semester's Henry S. Khazandian Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State.

Past comes to life in class lectures. Whether defining the term "genocide" or pondering the history of the society leading up to the event, Dr. Hovannisian's knowledge of the field makes him a stimulating facilitator of discussion.

When I was a child, there were those special occasions when my grandmother would come and pay my family a visit. I remember waking up in the mornings and running to my grandmother's room and jumping on her bed, waiting to hear the stories of her life. She told

stories of the old country and her experience surviving the Genocide of 1915. These stories took fairy-tale form in my imagination, full of childlike impressions of a far away land and a mythic struggle of good against evil.

Dr. Hovannisian's retelling of the same events gives me the chance to approach the matter as an adult.

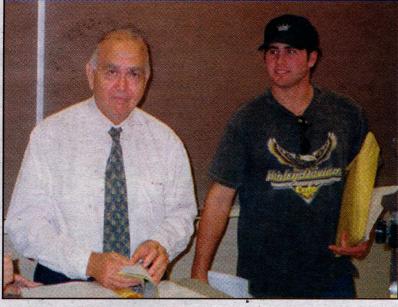
Dr. Hovannisian said it is important "for descendants of survivors to know their past so that they may know themselves."

Together the class discusses issues such as Armenian vulnerability at the time, the mindset of the perpetrators, and various typologies of Genocide.

"Informed discussion can be very helpful and stimulating and this is possible only when the class collectively is prepared to engage in this," Hovannisian said. "I have been impressed with the seriousness of the students and their openness to the new concepts that have been introduced."

The purpose of delving into the Armenian Genocide is not only to satisfy one's curiosity or for selfdiscovery but to understand genocides in modern history as well.

Dr. Hovannisian said, "The Armenian Genocide was in many ways the prototype of modern geno-



Prof. Richard Hovannisian (left) with student Michael Kazarian.

cides, and by studying that case it is possible to engage in the comparative study of genocide, noting the similarities and differences of the individual calamities, learning what the early warning signals for genocide might be, understanding what the international community can do and what are the consequences of its playing the role of uninvolved bystander."

As a student, studying warning signals and efforts the international community can make in the area of prevention has been particularly appealing.

We have been assigned reading in the course, such as Franz Werfel's The Forty Days of Musa Dagh and Remembrance and Denial: The Case of the Armenian Genocide, edited by Dr. Hovannisian, and various other short selections which serve to define the term genocide and give background to the Armenians' and world's experience with it.

The reading is gripping from several angles: that of scholarly and human interest, its content of dramatic events, and one's personal connection with the subject.

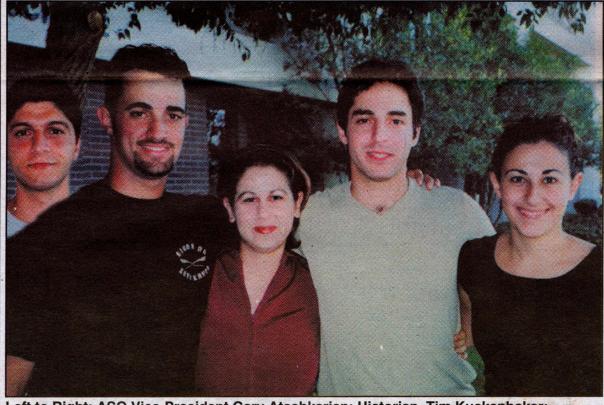
The chance to study the Armenian Genocide in a university setting is a rare opportunity. We are fortunate to have a pioneering scholar to lead it. Not one university in the U.S. had courses in Armenian history when Dr. Hovannisian was a student in the 1950's.

After completing a B.A. and General Secondary Teaching Degree at University of California, Berkeley, Dr. Hovannisian went to Beirut to gain exposure to the field of Armenian history and the Armenian language.

Though he has taught classes that have included the topic of the Armenian Genocide, Hovannisian says, "I have never had the luxury of teaching a full semester on the subject."

Thus, teaching the Genocide course at Fresno State is an experiment, which may have ramifications that go beyond the campus and the San Joaquin Valley community, and I'm glad we are all a part of the experiment.

Dr. Hovannisian's various contributions to the study of the Genocide include The Armenian Genocide in Perspective, The Armenian Genocide: History, Politic, Ethics, and Remembrance and Denial: The Case of the Armenian Genocide.



Left to Right: ASO Vice-President Gary Atashkarian; Historian, Tim Kuckenbaker; Treasurer, Barbara Harutinian; President, Armen Ghanbarian; and Secretary, Talar Atarian.

### The Armenian Studies Program

California State University, Fresno

### **October 2000 Events**

### October 14, Saturday, 8:00 PM • World Premier Concert

Wahlberg Recital Hall, CSU Fresno

World Premier of Alan Brett's piece *The Fruit to Be Tasted Was Torn from the Tree*, based on the songs of Armenian ethno-musicologist and composer, Komitas Vardapet, will open the first concert in the 22nd season of the Orpheus Players, Jack Fortner, conductor.

### October 16, Monday, 7:30 PM • Dr. Israel Charny, Jerusalem

Alice Peters Auditorium-University Business Center, CSU Fresno

Dr. Israel Charny, Executive Director, Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide, Jerusalem, will lecture on "Academics Who Deny the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust."

# October 17, Tuesday, 7:00 PM • "The Armenians of the Central San Joaquin Valley"

Fresno County Public Library

Berge Bulbulian and Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Armenian Studies Program, to speak.

### **The Armenian Studies Program**

California State University, Fresno presents the First Annual

# Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Lectures in Armenian Studies

Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Armenian Educational Foundation Chair of Modern Armenian History at UCLA and first incumbent of the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professorship in Armenian Studies at Fresno State, will address the topic "The Armenian Genocide and Its Denial."

Lecture I- Sunday, October 8, 7:00 PM
"Remembrance and Denial: The Armenian Genocide."
First Congregational Church of Fresno
(2131 N Van Ness)

Lecture II-Monday, October 30, 7:30 PM "The Last Generation of Ottoman Armenians: Bitter-Sweet Memories."

Engineering East, Room 191, CSU Fresno

Lecture III-Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 PM

"Historical Memory and Armenian Foreign Affairs."

Alice Peters Auditorium-University Business Center, CSU Fresno

### All lectures are free and open to the public.

Dr. Hovannisian was born and reared in Tulare, California, and received his B.A. and M.A in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and Ph.D. in history from UCLA. A member of the UCLA faculty since 1962, he has organized both the undergraduate and graduate programs in Armenian history at the university and has guided a number of students to the Ph.D. degree and an active academic career. He served as the Associate Director of UCLA's Center for Near Eastern Studies from 1978 to 1995.

For more information contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669

# Three-Year Grant for CSUF-Yerevan State Business Project

Staff Report

he Faculty Development Program in Business and Economics between CSUF and Yerevan State University will continue with a three-year grant of nearly \$300,000 awarded to Fresno State under the Newly Independent States (NIS) College and Univer-



**Elizabeth Shields** 

sity Partnership Program.

As part of the project, Fresno State faculty will collaborate with Yerevan State University faculty to develop curricula in the area of business and economics, to conduct joint research, and to hold seminars/workshops.

In August of 1999, Fresno State was awarded a similar one-year grant of just over \$100,000. Last year's project provided the YSU School of Business with a ten-computer laboratory for use by graduate students in the program. In

addition, for the first time, students and faculty were able to access the Internet and the World Wide Web from the recently renovated Business Building.

Project director for Fresno State, Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program, authored the grant. Associate Project Director is Elizabeth Shields of the Department of Finance of the Craig School of Business. Project co-director from Yerevan State University (YSU) is Rafael Matevossian, Pro-Rector (Vice President) for International Relations. Dr. Hayg Sargsyan, Dean of the School of Business at YSU will coordinate the academic aspects of the program.

Elizabeth Shields, Don Leet (Economics), Harold Haak (Emeritus President, Fresno State), Sasan Rahmatian (Information Systems)



**Don Leet** 



Sasan Rahmatian

and Bill Rice (Marketing) are among the faculty and administrators from Fresno State who have visited Armenia during the past year on the project. They have reported that enthusiasm for the project is building among those involved. The Fresno State faculty has gained experience and knowledge about the economic situation in Armenia, which can be utilized in classrooms here. Gerald Bryan (Marketing) and Mark Keppler (Graduate Programs) will be in Yerevan in the month of November.

Faculty in Armenia are please and excited to build bridges with colleagues in the United States, and in particular with Fresno State and the Fresno community. They look forward to continue to develop a long-term relationship between the two universities.

In the Spring of 2000, a group

of six faculty and administrators, headed by YSU Rector Dr. Radick Martirossian, visited the Fresno State campus for three weeks.

Plans are being made for faculty and students from the YSU School of Business to visit the Fresno State campus later this semester and also in the Spring semester.

The goal of the project is to contribute to economic and political stability in Armenia by fostering educational reform in the area of business/economics at Yerevan State University.

The program will enhance the expertise of educators and business



**BillRice** 

practitioners in the basic business and economic principles that underlie all modern market economies. The program has been designed to facilitate Armenia's development as a technologically advanced, democratic, and free-enterprise society.

Modern business practices will be applied to real world problems by inviting local businessmen to the Yerevan State University campus for seminars, workshops, and demonstration projects. By first observing and later participating in these seminars for local businesses, the YSU faculty will gain insight into the nature of business consult-

Opportunities will soon be available for the Armenian community to become involved in the project in a number of ways.

The duration of the grant is from August 15, 2000 to August 15, 2003.

The project was assisted financially by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Information Agency under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, as amended.

Visit the Fresno State-YSU Project web page at http://www. csufresno.edu/ ArmenianStudies/ YSU/ysu.htm

# -CD Review

By Arpik Paraghamian Staff Writer

n independent Londonbased youth group called RBO is out to redefine Armenian music with their CD "Hokis Volume Meg."

This compilation of ballads, modern dance tracks, and comical interludes is unlike anything Armenian music has experienced.

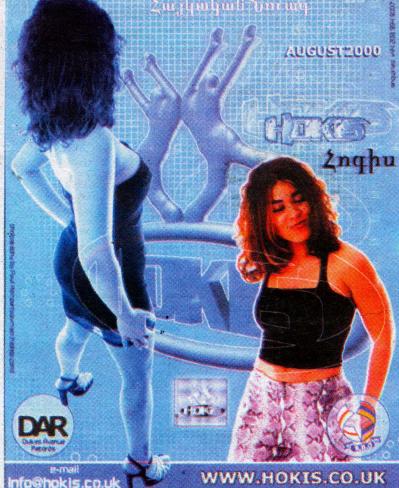
Recorded at Airtank Studios in London, "Hokis" was released in August and features Armenian artists from Boston, Beirut, and London who are successfully replacing old-fashioned Armenian music with trendy rap and pop in-

"Hokis" opens with the familiar Armenian tune "Karune," only these young artists personalize it by firing gun shots, literally, at the classic "Karune," before adding a heavy R&B background and fresh voices, creating the "Hokis" sound.

Needless to say it grabs your attention; you don't know whether to turn it off because your native music has been abused or to keep listening because it's unlike anything you have ever heard before.

Young Armenians are out to express their angst and "Hokis" seems to be the best platform on which to do so. But don't ignore the Parental Advisory sticker on the cover of "Hokis," it is there for a reason.

Some of the rap songs on "Hokis" are lighthearted and funny, others tell stories of betrayal. But, the most powerful is the track apreceilning Armentan music 



propriately titled, "Genocide" in which Armenian rapper, Rugged Expression, raps for more than 7 minutes using explicit lyrics.

"Hokis" also caters to a more mature form of Armenian pop music. Some tracks such as, "Chem Ouzer" and "Inche Butjarad" feature Natalie, whose sophisticated singing style makes her a key element on "Hokis."

What glues "Hokis" together are the hysterical phone calls made by Kev Orkian. Acting as the desperate Gregory, Orkian irritates Armenian business owners and households with his outrageously funny

"Hokis" is out to do more than just entertain; according to its record label, Dukes Avenue Records, it wants to capture the imagination of

"I should like to see any power of the world destroy this race, this small tribe of unimportant people, whose wars have all been fought and lost, whose structures have crumbled, literature is unread. music is unheard, and prayers are no more answered. Go ahead, destroy that race. Destroy Armenia. See if

you can do it. Send them into the desert without bread or water. Burn their homes and churches. Then see if they will not laugh, sing and pray again. For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a New Armenia."

Inhale and Exhale (1936)

Order posters from the William Saroyan Society, P O Box 4606, Fresno CA 93744 (559) 221-1441

Diasporan Armenians worldwide. DAR's Executive Producer, Harout Bozadjian, who also appears on "Hokis," would like the young London Armenians to tour. "We need to take the music to the people, especially the younger generation," Bozadjian said in a news release promoting "Hokis."

The formula RBO uses works well because these artists are talented, focused, and have something to say. More importantly, their efforts on "Hokis" prove to other

young Armenians that their native music is not all about depressing lyrics and annoying doudouks.

"Hokis" is an inspiration for Armenians to express themselves through music in a new and improved way; it has made a mark on Armenian music that cannot be erased, at least until volume two comes out.

"Hokis Volume Meg" can be online purchased www.hokis.co.uk.

# An Interview with City Council President Tom Boyajian

By John Jabagchourian Editor

alking across campus, students young and old shout out his first name with exuberance. It seemed everyone knew him, not because he is a public figure in Fresno but because he has somehow touched each person somewhere in life.

He says hello, asks them how they've been. They talk about the times they met, and he congratulates them on their efforts in school.

After sitting down and talking to Fresno City Council President, Tom Boyajian, I realized he has done just about every type of job and has been involved in so many activities that it was no coincidence that these students knew him and were happy to see him.

Boyajian is a native Fresnan who went to Heaton elementary, graduated from Fresno high and got his degree in political science at Fresno State. Afterwards he went to Golden Gate Law School in San Francisco and returned back to Fresno after he got his law de-

But Boyajian's story begins like all other Armenian stories, back to the Genocide. Both of his parents were from the Ottoman Empire and were able to escape the fate that destroyed 2 million other Armenians. Boyajian showed a family picture of his parents, grandparents and aunts pointing out a six-year old little girl who managed to save his mother from drowning in a river at the hands of the

Family that had been living in Massachusetts checked survivor lists, found the Boyajians' among the survivors and brought them to America. After working a multitude of jobs, the Boyajians' had two sons and moved to Fresno to the lure of agriculture and to be with more family.

Tom Boyajian was born in Fresno. As he grew up in the same district that he represents today in the City Council, Boyajian was aware of the prejudice against the Armenians.

"There was prejudice in Fresno," Boyajian said. "My parents could not buy property due to the restrictive covenants. They had a grocery store on Blackstone and Olive in which they had to buy the land through friends."

But now and at that time, Boyajian said about the Armenians, "We were above all that, and the Armenians were able to achieve a lot of things."

After graduating from Fresno State, Boyajian went to San Francisco to study law in the sixties. However, his plans were stalled when he was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

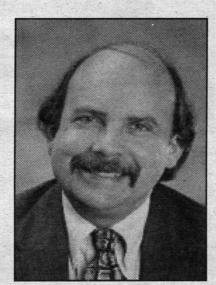
"I didn't believe in war, but I believed in the U.S. government," Boyajian said.

After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned to law school in San Francisco. He commented that he learned so much by being independent in San Francisco. Boyajian worked as a bartender, worked in gift shops, was a private detective and worked a number of other jobs while in school.

"All those jobs give you a perspective on all these people, and I learned about a lot of people," Bovaiian said.

Boyajian's variety of jobs and learned understanding of people demonstrated why different people came up to and were happy to see him during his visit to Fresno State.

He also holds an uncanny respect for students. He was impressed with the activities the students sponsor like the Armenian Genocide commemoration, and he tells all students that they had made the right choice by coming to school for higher learning.



**Tom Boyajian** 

In interviewing Boyajian, he speaks as though he is a young student himself and relates to students' situations.

He particularly gives this bit of advice to students, "Keep your life with a lot of different things going on, that's what makes life interesting. In life, do the things you never do.'

Once he graduated law school, Boyajian was enjoying life in San Francisco, but came back to Fresno to take care of his mother who had terminal cancer. The importance of family and the responsibility of supporting one another is what Boyajian said is apart of being Ar-

Throughout the interview, Boyajian always referred to family members, his parents, brothers and cousins. He really emphasizes the importance of a strong family connection.

Boyajian then opened a law practice in Fresno, which he continues today. Aside from that though, Boyajian practiced what he preached and also taught courses at Fresno City College and opened the Zapp's Park night club in the Tower district. He then gave up the teaching and sold the nightclub to run for City Council.

Boyajian said, "I thought I could do better," as his reason for running. "We needed somebody from the district who liked and wanted to do something for the district."

"I thought I was the best person to represent the district, I went to school and opened a business in the district."

"I felt I could make a difference," Boyajian said.

Boyajian worked hard to spread his message to his community. He rigorously walked the precincts and did all he could to get people to believe in him. And they did. Without any support from local organizations and without any endorsements, Boyajian worked harder and won the general election.

Boyajian enjoys getting things done and helping people on the City Council. However, he finds it disappointing when the bureaucracy makes it harder to get things done.

"I have so many things I want to get done and the bureaucracy just delays things," Boyajian said. "The attitude around city hall is that it is more prevalent to say no than to say yes and get things done."

This year Boyajian became the City Council President in charge of keeping things in order and trying to keep egos in check. He is also looking to bring more jobs to Fresno so that students graduating from Fresno State have the option to find a job here.

Spending time in San Francisco also gave him the background to know that Fresno has too much urban sprawl. He would like to develop the inner city rather than the outskirts.

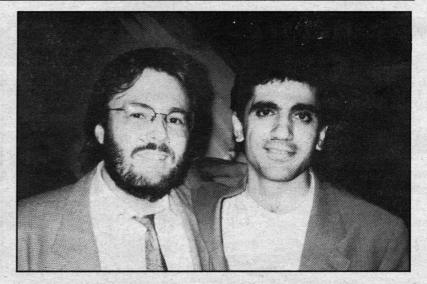
Tom Boyajian has been a positive influence for students and Armenians. He finds that being Armenian has given him the traits to be successful in life.

"It's important to give back to the school I went to and give back to Armenian kids, maybe encourage or spark something in them," Boyajian said.

And by visiting the Fresno State campus, talking to students and speaking at the April 24 commemoration, Boyajian did just that by saying of his Armenianness, "If you cut me, I will bleed pride."

I thank Tom Boyajian for taking the time to do this interview and appreciate the advice he gave me and his openness to speak the truth.

For all that it's worth, it would be an honor for the Hye Sharzhoom to be the first to endorse Tom Boyajian in his future efforts to help the community, not because he is Armenian (although it doesn't hurt) but because of his genuine dedication to helping others throughout his life.



Professor Andreas Werz (left) with Vardan Mamikonian

#### **CONCERT, Cont. from Page 1**

The crowd clutched their programs tightly, many of them smiling and swaying their heads to Mamikonian's vibrant interpretation of the score's trills and sudden shifts in mood. From Allegro to Scherzo to Andante to Vivace, Mamikonian played dramatically, leading his audience out of melancholy states to upbeat tempos.

Even though I was sitting in the serene concert hall with its hardwood floors and walls, I felt as if I were in a movie theatre listening to the soundtrack of a tragedy.



The third piece Mamikonian performed Arno Babadjanyan's Poeme Dodecaphonique, which started out with short, staccato notes that progressed into a smoother legato. Mamikonian played this piece very intensely, almost stopping completely during softer parts and coming back with a fury that captivated his audience. For a work written in the twelfth tone technique pioneered by Schoenberg, it was very

After the intermission, Mamikonian was back to play three pieces by Franz Liszt, the first of which was Funerailles, a tame yet intense piece during which

Mamikonian's fingers dove into the keys as if he was pulling out every last note the piano had. After letting go of the keys for just a second he came back softly, playing as if he was nurturing the keys, apologizing for the previous bout.

In the second Liszt piece, Liebestraum: Notturno III, Mamikonian used the skill of crossing his arms over one another several times, allowing him to play notes otherwise impossible.

Moving on to the Mephisto Waltz No. 1, Mamikonian again picked up his audience, starting at a fast, direct pace, so that he had the entire row of the balcony on the edge of their seats.

Abruptly finishing the piece, Mamikonian received a standing ovation and came back to satisfy his attentive audience with an encore by Aram Khatchatourian.

Mamikonian, who was born in Yerevan, Armenia, was only 6 years old when he started taking piano lessons at the Yerevan School of Music. In 1987 he completed his studies in the capital of Armenia and furthered his education of music in Moscow before settling in

Winner of several first prizes, most recently at the World Music Masters Competition in Monte Carlo in 1992, Mamikonian is ranked among the most vital of young musicians in the world today.

This first concert of the Phillip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concerts, was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State and was the second occasion Mamikonian has played in the key board concert with the support of the Armenian Studies.

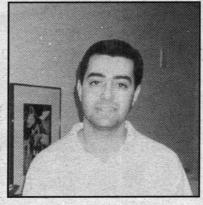
### HYE-LIGHTS -

Hakob Arestakesyan is a senior majoring in Political Science, who will graduate this semester.

Hakob has decided to study at Yerevan State University for one semester as part of the Fresno State-Yerevan State University agreement which provides for exchange students from one university to study at the other for one Hakob Arestakesyan

Hakob will be studying a variety of courses and will be completing a course in Political Science on changes in Armenia over the past ten years.

Fresno State students who are



interested in participating in the study program at Yerevan State University, may contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 and ask for Program advisor Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

Hye Sharzhoom needs writers, photographers, copy editors. If you are interested in applying please contact the **Armenian Studies** Program office.

#### Resolution 596, Cont. from Pg 1

However, things changed as party politics became an issue. The timing of the resolution may have helped it get onto the floor.

The two major parties are once



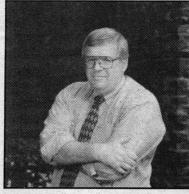
George Radanovich Congressman, (R-CA)

again in a close battle for control of the House in the 2000 election. The Democrats are feeling ambitious and the Republicans are a bit on their heels. In this battle for majority status in the House, H. Res. 596 may play a role in the outcome.

Congressional Quarterly has reported that incumbent candidate James Rogan (R-CA) is in a difficult race against Democrat challenger Adam Schiff. Rogan is the representative of California's 27th district, which includes Glendale and Burbank with the highest concentration of Armenians outside of Yerevan.

Passage of the resolution would help Rogan in his race as well as improve the Republican's chances of maintaining the majority in the House in a few other races.

At a fundraiser for Rogan in late August, Speaker Hastert surprisingly said that he would support the Genocide resolution and bring it to the House floor for vote. It was this sudden reversal of opinion that provided the spark for the



Dennis Hastert (R-IL) Speaker of the House

Armenian Genocide resolution to be brought up in committee.

When the House reconvened after the August break, the House International Relations Committee held a four and a half-hour hearing on September 14. Three panels gave testimony for and against the resolution.

The first panel consisted of members of Congress in support of the resolution, including Democratic Whip David Bonior (D-MI) and Congressman Rogan. They testified that the resolution is a statement by the U.S. House on the American response to the Armenian Genocide and not an attack on

the Turkish Government.

The second panel featured remarks by State Department representative Marc Grossman who indicated that the Administration's opposition to the Genocide resolution is not due to the view that the Genocide never happened but rather the impact it could have on U.S. and Turkish relations.

The third panel consisted of experts in the field of genocide studies: Prof. Robert Smith and Prof. Robert Melson who provided historical facts of the Armenian Genocide. Also in that panel were Turkish denial crusaders, Prof. Justin McCarthy and Gunduz Suphi Aktan, a former Turkish Foreign Ministry official.

The week after the hearing, the House International Relations Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights adopted the measure by voice vote on September 21, sending it to full committee.

Speaking in support of the resolution prior to the vote was Subcommittee Chairman Chris Smith (R-NJ) who stressed that U.S. foreign policy must not be "complicit



James Rogan Congressman, (R-CA)

to a conspiracy of silence about genocide."

Representative Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) criticized the "disinformation, misinformation or outright lies," by those lobbyists denying the Armenian Genocide.

The high priced Turkish lobby led by former Representative and one time Speaker Robert Livingston, though in full force, were unable to stop this measure from being passed.

After the approval by the Subcommittee, Turkey issued threats to the U.S. Government. Demonstrators in Adana burned the Armenian flag and American-made goods in front of the U.S. consulate in the city.

Demonstrators called upon Turkish people to boycott U.S. products if the House approves the draft bill.

Turkey warned the U.S. that adoption of the bill would seriously harm the friendly ties between the two countries as well as damage Ankara's already tense relations with Yerevan.

These threats however failed as those working for the Genocide resolution's passage used the Speaker's support as leverage to get it on to the House floor.

Prior to the mark-up hearing on September 28, the original resolution, H. Res. 398, was renamed and reintroduced as H. Res. 596. The new bill replaced the clause

### H. Res. 596

#### RESOLUTION

The Armenian Genocide Resolution affirms the United States record on the Armenian Genocide and:

1) Calls upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide, and the consequences of the failure to enforce the judgments of the Turkish courts against the responsible officials; and

2) Calls upon the President in the President's annual message commemorating the Armenian Genocide issued on or about April 24th to characterize the systematic and deliberate annihilation of 1,500,000 Armenians as genocide and to recall the proud

requiring training of U.S. Diplomats on the Armenian Genocide in order to avoid an attempt to kill the bill by lead opponent Dan Burton (R-IN) who claimed additional jurisdiction on behalf of the Government Reform Committee that he chairs.

After another long debate, and proposed stall tactics by Representatives Burton and Tom Lantos (D-CA) to water down the wording of the resolution, the vote in full Committee was postponed to October 3.

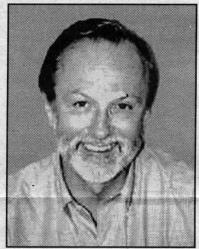
It was reconsidered and approved in the full committee and sent to the House floor to be voted on.

Now H. Res. 596 is one step away from becoming official record of the U.S. House of Representatives. This is where it will become interesting to see if the resolution will get the same support that it enjoyed earlier by the Republican leadership, or if they will abandon it hoping to have done enough to get Rogan reelected.

H. Res. 596 is a true testament to the power of the people's vote. This resolution could determine who would have control of the 107th U.S. Congress. It is however unfortunate that this resolution is not passed on its own strength, the truth and support of human rights. Yet it is clear that the alliance the U.S. has made with Turkey has long since prevented the U.S. from doing the right thing.

It is time for the American voters to call upon its government to do the right thing rather than the strategic thing.

H. Res. 596 affirms the United States record on the Armenian Genocide and 1) Calls upon the

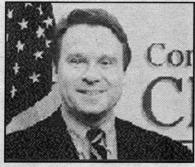


David Bonior Congressman, (D-MI)

President to ensure that foreign policy of the U.S. reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the U.S. record relating to the Armenian Genocide and 2) Calls upon the President to properly characterize the Armenian Genocide as genocide in the Presidents annual April 24th address.

Representative George Radanovich and Minority Whip David Bonior introduced the Armenian Genocide resolution into the International Relations Committee this year and have been the ones pulling the strings and fighting to get this resolution onto the floor and passed.

It was during the April 24<sup>th</sup> commemoration on the Fresno State campus when Congressman Radanovich's district director, Steve Samuelian, reported to the students that the Congressman coauthored this bill. But until now relatively little has been heard about the resolution.



Chris Smith Congressman, (R-NJ)

Even Armenian President Robert Kocharian's visit to Washington this summer did little to spark movement in the resolution.

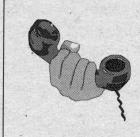
Throughout the year, the Armenian Assembly of America Inc. and the Armenian National Committee have worked together to lobby for congressional support for the resolution and managed to get over 140 representatives to sign on and cosponsor the resolution.

Much of the work was done by staff and interns who called Armenian constituents to get them actively involved and urge their Representatives to cosponsor the bill.

H. Res. 596 will need continued support from constituents to have a good chance of passing on the House floor. Each call to a Congressman makes a difference in the way they vote.



Cynthia McKinney Congresswoman, (D-GA)

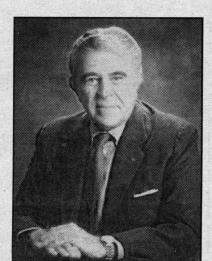


Call your Representatives! Ask them to vote in favor of H. Res. 596.

Call your Member of Congress or send a FAX.

To determine who represents you in Congress or to send a webfax to your representative, visit:

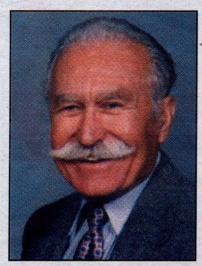
www.aaainc.org or www.anca.org



Benjamin Gilman Congressman, (R-NY)

#### Bulbulian, Cont. from P. 1

Prof. Ephraim Smith of the History Department at Fresno State assisted Bulbulian's search by giving him access to a large data base of newspaper articles on life in Fresno in the early part of the century, the originals of which



Berge Bulbulian

Bulbulian found at the Henry Madden Library at Fresno State.

Further information was found at the Fresno County Library with the help of Linda Sitterding, who at the time was director of the Californian Room. She located many sources that Bulbulian believes he wouldn't have found on his own.

The search for information continued with interviews of descendants of the Seropians, the first permanent Armenian settlers in Fresno in 1881.

George Richard Seropian provided Bulbulian with first-hand information from discussions that he had with his father George Seropian Sr., one of the five Seropian brothers who settled in Fresno.

Zabel Melkonian of Visalia provided information about her mother and grandmother.

The information gathering process lasted two years, with endless nights searching microfilms in the Madden and County libraries as well as the many interviews. Writing the book took another two and a half years.

Some of the interesting facts Bulbulian learned during the research for his book were that the Genocide of 1915 was not the only event that led Armenians to immigrate to Fresno.

Bulbulian learned that the earliest Armenians came to Fresno in 1881 because of the massacres and economic depression occurring in the Ottoman Empire at that time.

most Armenians came to Fresno from the East Coast, where they were tradesmen, merchants, and factory-workers before they immigrated to Fresno, rather than the belief that these Armenians had always been farmers and merely continued farming in Fresno.

Bulbulian said he was fascinated when researching the Seropian family. He was amazed at its extensive size and how they were able to fit in and develop their business so quickly.

The book demonstrates the fortitude of the Fresno Armenians through stories of how they were able to get into business so quickly once they immigrated to the area. They were very prosperous early on, which may have led to the later discrimination against Armenians, that through hard work, they managed to overcome.

Bulbulian is a retired grape farmer from the Fresno area, where he has lived for most of his life. Bulbulian has a degree in Philosophy from the University of California, Los Angeles.

He has always been interested in history and his travels to Europe have helped preserve this fascination. While on vacation in Europe, Bulbulian visited many archeological sites and museums. He found that the more he traveled the more he became involved in history, particularly art history.

Bulbulian's profound interest in education has led him to have a long-term connection with Armenian Studies Program and the Henry Madden Library.

Bulbulian was 70 years old when he began writing the book. It was one of his goals to do something significant after the age of 65.

Bulbulian has written many articles, yet this was the first book he published. Public reaction to The Fresno Armenians has been very positive, and people seem to be able to relate to the stories in the book. Bulbulian says that non-Armenians have learned a tremendous amount about the Armenian community in

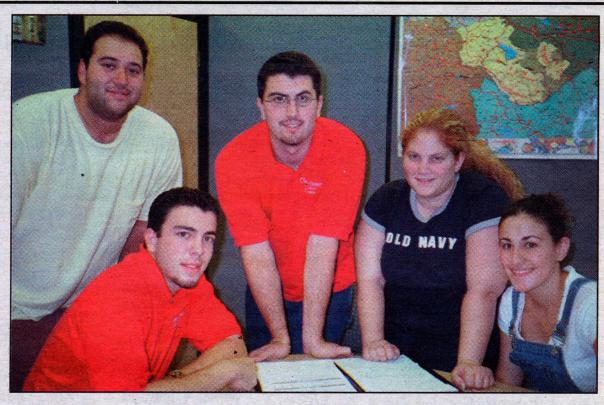
Bulbulian has thoughts of writing a follow up to The Fresno Armenians. He thinks his second book would be more like a novel, or a memoir which relates to the Armenian community.

The Fresno Armenians was published by The Press at CSU, Fresno, and made possible by a grant provided by Mr. Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan, in memory of Bulbulian also learned that his late wife, M. Victoria Kazan.

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Left to right: Senator for Special Projects, Eric Mouradian; Senator for Business, Ara Mekhitarian; Associated Students President Arakel Arisian; AS Secretary, Rita Aramian; and Senator for Sciences and Mathematics, Talar Atarian. Arisian was elected to a second term as AS President in campus elections held in May 2000.

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Students applying for Armenian studies scholarships and grants must complete and return a supplemental form which is available only through the Armenian Studies Program office, Peters Business Building, Room 384, or call 278-2669.

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