

HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՍՄ

23rd
Year

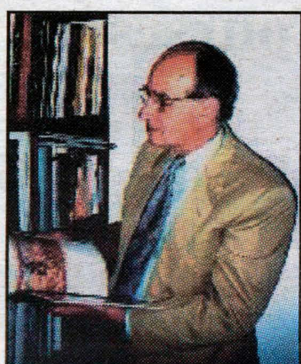
March 2002

Vol. 23, No. 3 (77)

Supplement to The Collegian

Professor Kouymjian's Sabbatical Leave Activities

STAFF REPORT



University lectures, international conferences, art exhibits and book writing have dominated the first months of the sabbatical leave of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig & Isabel Berberian Endowed Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program.

In April and May Prof. Kouymjian was invited on two different occasions to Belgium. In April he served on the jury of Belgium's prestigious Francqui Fund award, given annually to the country's single outstanding

SEE **KOUMJIAN** PAGE 7

Tom Bozigian Brings Armenian Dance to Students



Armenian dance instructor, Tom Bozigian (center), with students at the March 1-2 Armenian dance class.

NYRIE KARKAZIAN
STAFF WRITER

Imagine Armenian dancing for 15 hours in two days. Fifty-six students at CSU, Fresno learned nine new dances during a weekend class offered by Tom Bozigian, of Los Angeles. The students were

part of the very first Armenian Dance Class offered at a university, as a regular course for 1 unit of college credit, through the Armenian Studies Program.

Bozigian, a world-renowned Armenian Dance instructor, conducted a fast paced weekend class that students will cherish for many

years. Although students were sore from head to toe the next day, the dances they learned are classics. The students in the class learned such dances as Tamzara, Kocharee (Halle), Ambee Dagits, JoJon, Beejo, and Khum Khuma.

The class was comprised of students from mixed dancing back-

grounds, ranging from those who have been dancing since they were two, to those with two left feet! Armenian and non-Armenian students alike worked on perfecting the intricate steps of the dances. Bozigian taught dances which ranged in degree of difficulty. Along with learning the jumping, kicking, skipping and clapping parts of the dances, the students also were responsible for knowing where the dances originated from in historic Armenia.

Bozigian's orchestra provided the class with the classic Armenian melodies. The CD Bozigian used, as well as a videotape of the class, was for sale during the class. Playing the CD and watching the video will help students carry on these dance traditions into future generations. Plus, these 56 students will be up to speed at Armenian weddings, dances and best of all, picnics!

As part of the cultural presentation, Bozigian showed a video of his dance research in Armenia. He displayed a wide array of dances from various regions of Armenia—Van, Erzerum, and Gumri.

Bozigian has traveled throughout the world teaching Armenian

SEE **DANCE** PAGE 7

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
cordially invites you to its

16th Annual Banquet

with special guest
Mr. Vartkes Yeghiayan
Attorney at Law

Speaking on
**"Armenian Insurance Claims
from the Genocide Era"**

and
recognizing recipients of
Armenian Studies Program scholarships

Sunday, April 14, 2002

Reception-12:30 PM • Banquet-1:30 PM

Residence Dining Facility • California State University, Fresno

\$40 per person • \$400 table of ten • \$15 Fresno State students

Please respond by April 5, 2002

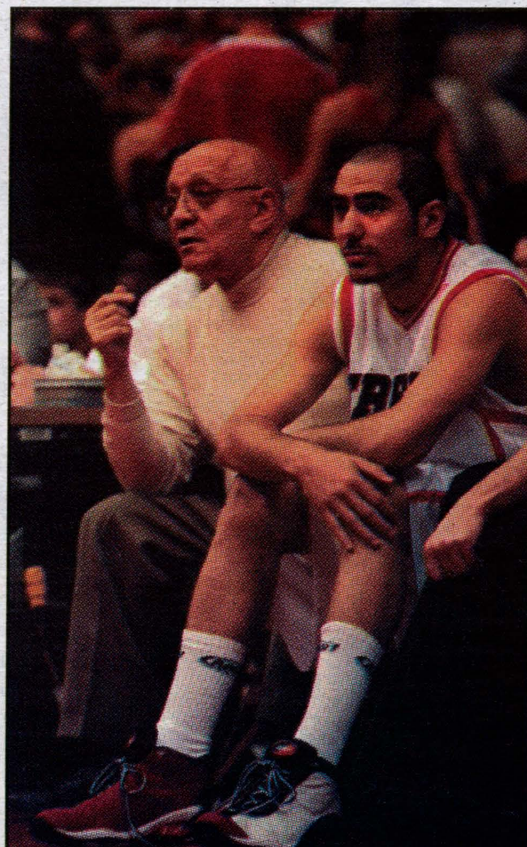
Australian-Armenian Makes FSUT team

ARAM EKHTARIAN
STAFF WRITER

An interview with
Fresno State Armenian
basketball player,
Rouben Vesmadian.

When Jerry Tarkanian returned to Fresno State as head basketball coach in 1995, the large Armenian Community of Fresno fell in love with basketball. Since Tarkanian's arrival, the Fresno State program has become recognized as one of the best in the nation and Armenians stand proud whenever the Coach's name is mentioned. For the past several years, Tarkanian always talked about wanting to add an Armenian player to his ball club. In the 2001-2002 season it finally happened. Rouben Vesmadian joined the team in the Fall of 2001.

Vesmadian, 19, an Armenian from Sydney, Australia is a freshman

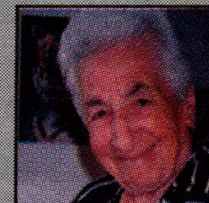


Coach Tarkanian (L) with Rouben Vesmadian.

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Armenian Studies Program Faculty:

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Frances C. Ziegler, *Program Administrative Assistant*

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

Letters

Dear Editor:
 Nice Job!

Vahe & Rita Messerlian
 Northridge CA

Dear Editors:
 Great publication, very worthy.

Dick A. Berberian
 Inglewood, CA

Dear Barlow Der Mugrdechian
 I enjoy reading Hye Sharzhoom when I am visiting my mother in Fresno. I find it very educational and topical in keeping current

with the Armenian community and your program activities. The recent article about the author of "Three Apples Fell from Heaven" was outstanding and so well written. Also the story about the students pilgrimage to Armenia was quite inspiring to me as motivation to visit my grandparents homeland someday. Perhaps I will be able to attend one of the Programs' functions on a future visit to Fresno.

Regards,
Don Garabedian
 Hayward, CA

HYE SHARZHOOM NEEDS WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

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AT (559) 278-2669

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HYE SHARZHOOM

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California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2002 Schedule of Courses

<u>Course</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
General Education				
Social Sciences Area D3, for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
Division 9-Other Cultures, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	1000-1050	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Area C2 for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
Division 7-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm 1A Elementary Armenian	4	1100-1150	MTWF	B Der Mugrdechian
• Arm 2A Intermediate Armenian	4	0930-1045	TTh	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Area C1, for students using 1999/2000 Catalog and after				
• Arm S 20 Arts of Armenia	3	0930-1045	TTh	D Kouymjian
• Arm S 20 Arts of Armenia	3	Two sections of Honors		D Kouymjian
Arts & Humanities, Integration IC, for students using 1999/2000 Catalog and after				
Division 6-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm 148 Mastpcs Arm Lit	3	1300-1350	MWF	Staff
Upper Division Courses				
• Arm S 108A Arm History I	3	0900-1000	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
• Arm S 120T	3	1900-2150	W	Kazan Visiting Professor
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2Mayrer/Children's Songs in Armenian



ARPIK PARAGHAMIAN
STAFF WRITER

In August of 1999 two Armenian women with two daughters each were having a play-date at a park when one asked the other if she sang songs to her children in Armenian. When the reply was 'yes' an exchange of rhymes took place and 2Mayrer (two mothers) was formed.

Nvair Beylerian and Diane Haroutunian are the two moms of the New Jersey duo, 2Mayrer. As second-generation Diaspora Armenians, these women have lived double lives as Armenians and Americans that have led them towards the development of their own musical style.

"Music is what fills the soul," Beylerian said, who along with Haroutunian has been singing since she was a young girl.

The two women have recently released the CD, "Children's Songs in Armenian." The CD is a collection of loosely translated European songs and also songs Beylerian and Haroutunian learned as children at Nareg Saturday School.

These songs, sung in Armenian, have adapted an American style about them and are blended with international rhythms. "They [the songs] have been designed for the Armenian-American ear," Beylerian said.

"Children's Songs in Arme-

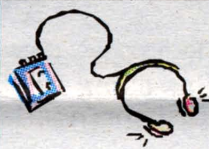
nian" is primarily for children of pre-school age. The music on this CD is cheerful, the lyrics are light-hearted and the soft voices of Beylerian and Haroutunian make the listening delightful.

It is a great learning tool in that it offers songs about the Armenian alphabet ("Ayp, Pen, Keem"), days of the week ("Yot Orer") and body parts ("Eencher Ooneem?"). Besides these traditional tracks, you can find some originals on this CD. Like Sosy Krikorian Kadian's "Paree Loos," "Shokegark Yegav," and "Paree Keesher."

Since the release of the CD last October, Beylerian and Haroutunian were nominated for an Armenian Music Award for Best Children's Album. The two women are also scheduled to perform at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) in Watertown, MA for their annual "Armenian Family Day" on March 17.

The added bonus of "Children's Songs in Armenian" is that Armenian children in America will have more of an exposure to the traditional songs their parents and grandparents grew up with. "This music links us to our past and it is important for us to link ourselves to our past," Beylerian said.

The CD can be purchased online at www.2mayrer.com where the lyrics and their English translations are available as well.



Listen to Fresno State's
Armenian Radio Show

Hye Oozh

Every Saturday morning from 9:00AM-12:00 noon

FM 90.7

D. J.s Sevag Tateosian • Armen Postoyan • Tatev Ekejian

Armenians and the Internet

ARAM EKHTARIAN
STAFF WRITER

ARMNETWORK

Address: <http://www.armnetwork.com/>

Contact: email: mail@armnetwork.com

Main Categories: ArmMail, ArmNews, ArmChat, ArmDate, ArmKids, ArmMusic, ArmGuide, ArmJobs, ArmTravel, ArmLinks, ArmTeleCom.

Brief Summary: ArmNetwork is comprised of various Armenian websites and homepages all connected within one huge network. The network offers a variety of popular services including: headline news, free email accounts, love and dating services, search engine, huge links database, live radio stations and much more. The network even offers a corner for kids (games, trivia, etc.) and travel services (hotels, airlines). Each service has its own specific site and they are all easily accessible from the network's homepage. Furthermore, this diverse website is nicely designed, fast loading and simple to navigate.

ARMENIANS CONNECT

Address: <http://www.armeniansconnect.com/>

Contact: email: ArmeniansConnect@yahoo.com

Main Categories: Your Home Page, Pictures, Search, Chat.

Brief Summary: Armenians Connect is a meeting point for Armenians worldwide. This web site offers Armenians the chance to meet new friends through their chat and message board systems. Signing up and becoming a member is free, simply and quick. Once you've become a member you have the option of adding your picture and any information about yourself you would like people to know. Their search system allows you to search for other members using specific criteria such as: gender, age-range, state or country. Each member has their personal message board, which is used for other members to post messages and greetings. A live chat room is also open 24 hours a day. Overall Armenian Connect is a fun service and a great way to meet Armenians around the world.

California State University, Fresno

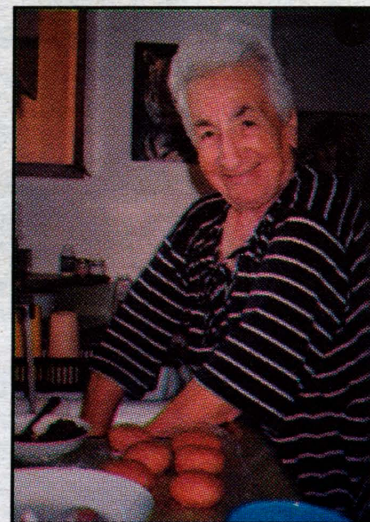
Armenian Students Organization

3rd Annual Armenian Film Festival

FEATURING:

"I Will Not Be Sad in This World"

A film produced and directed by
Karina Epperlein



Zaroohe Najarian

"I Will Not Be Sad In This World" is a lyrical portrait of 94 year-old Zaroohe Najarian. The film explores the major turning points of this fiercely independent Armenian woman's life: surviving the genocide of her people, growing up in a Beirut orphanage, immigration to America, 50 years as a seamstress, and defying convention by divorcing the husband of an arranged marriage in order to create a second family with her "true love."

ALSO FEATURING:

"The Genocide Factor: The Human Tragedy"

Episode 1: The beginning to the Armenian Genocide

Produced and Directed by Robert J. Emery
Written by Manoug Manougian, Ph.D. and Jack Sandler, Ph.D.

The Genocide Factor has been in production for over three years. Eighty-five interviews were conducted with historians, scholars, government officials, witnesses, and survivors. Over 1200 photographs and 225 hours of film and video documentation were gathered in an effort to document man's inhumanity to man since the dawn of time to the present.

Watch for "The Genocide Factor" on public television stations nationwide in April and May (check local listings). For more information go to www.genocidefactor.com

3rd Annual Armenian Film Festival

April 2002

The date and time for the
Annual Film Festival
will be announced soon.

Alice Peters Auditorium
University Business Center • Fresno State

Funded by the Diversity Awareness Program
of the University Student Union

Three Views of Armenian Economy

CHRIS T OZLIAN
STAFF WRITER

Most Armenians feel some sort of tie to Armenia. They look at it as their place of birth, even if they have never set foot on its soil or gazed at Mount Ararat standing just beyond the border of Armenia. They see it as the setting of their history and they feel a sense of gratitude to this geographic area that once provided for their ancestors. They take pride

in this place that once housed mighty rulers like Dickran II (the Great) and Christian martyrs such as Vartan Mamigonian. Because of this sense of pride, many Armenians ponder the current welfare of this nation that they owe so much to, which has only had an independent government since 1991.

On Thursday, Feb. 28, Armenians in the Fresno area were able to hear first-hand about the status of their homeland, as professors Armen Yeghiazaryan, Narek Martirosyan, and Alexander Chilingaryan spoke at CSU Fresno to a large audience about the current economic conditions in Armenia.

These three professors all teach at Yerevan State University (YSU) but visited Fresno recently as part of a project that brings together CSU Fresno and YSU; the goal of this project is to implement new curriculum and teaching techniques at YSU. The expected result is better-trained and better-prepared business students who will be ready for the "real world" when they are placed in the business sector of Armenia.

The speakers each focused on a different aspect of Armenia's

economy: foreign investment within Armenia; the financial deficit of the Armenian government; and personnel management (human resource management) within Armenian businesses.

The first to speak was Professor Armen Yeghiazaryan, who spoke about foreign investment taking place within Armenia. He began by pointing out that foreign investment within Armenia is currently \$45 per capita, while most

other former Soviet Union nations sit somewhere around \$20 per capita; conversely, this \$45 mark compares rather poorly to oil-rich Arab nations that have foreign investment at approximately \$75 per capita. Still, foreign investment within Armenia is growing and is greater than the foreign investment entering Armenia's surrounding nations.

Yeghiazaryan went on to concisely explain both the problems and the benefits that were related to foreign investment in Armenia. First, he explained the problems that investors faced, such as Armenia's small market, comprised largely of poverty-stricken people. Government corruption and meddlesome government agencies also work as deterrents to foreign investment; frustrated relations between Armenia and some of its neighboring countries have also caused potential investors to question Armenia as the

site for their investments. However, Professor Yeghiazaryan also explained that Armenia had a certain attraction to potential investors, such as the population's high level of education and desire to work. He also mentioned the relatively low rate of inflation and the stable exchange rate as being incentives for foreign investors.

Next, Professor Martirosyan spoke concerning Armenia's financial debt, which has risen each year.

While this does not seem to be an indicator of governmental stability, further examination of the statistics is necessary. From 1992 to 1993, there was more than an 80% increase in the government deficit, while from 1999

to 2000, there was less than a four percent deficit increase. Because the GDP has been rising so rapidly in the past few fiscal years, Professor Martirosyan predicts greater financial growth in Armenia. He added that the continued deficits in past years have been a result of the Karabagh wars and difficulties in the government collecting all their taxes. However, as industry continues to grow and peace is sought out, the annual deficit should continue to shrink smaller and smaller until it is no more.

Finally, Professor Chilingaryan spoke, explaining that personnel management is given little attention in Armenia, which is quite contrary to the American style

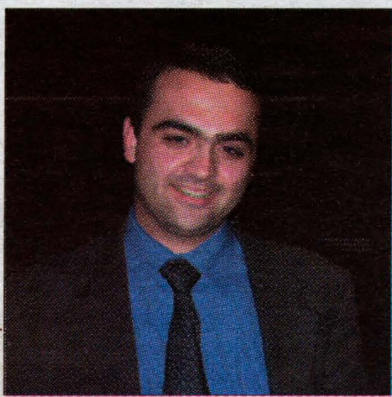
of business. Managers in Armenia still do not fully understand and embrace the importance of personnel management, partially because of past Soviet influence on business. Also, during this transition period from government-run businesses to privately-run businesses, no formal theory has smoothly guided the change. The uncertain and ever-changing economic environment, that is the Armenian economy, has made the institution

of personnel management relatively difficult. Armenian universities are only now making the transition to properly train and mold the managers of tomorrow's economy. For these reasons,

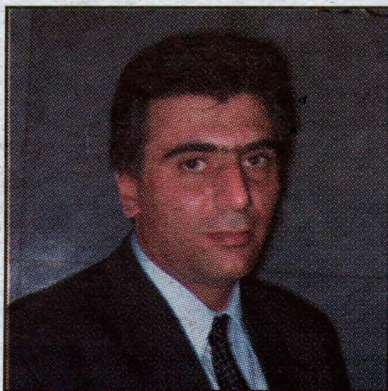
personnel management is struggling in Armenia; however, the first step toward solving this problem is acknowledging the problem. This acknowledgment came years ago, and faculty at YSU are looking for ways to correct inefficient business practices in Armenia.

Though it may seem a bit disheartening to think of the trials facing the Armenian economy, each professor pointed out that the Armenian economy is growing and has the ability to become strong and stable. As foreign investment grows and the GDP continues to rise, this will push down the deficit that many are concerned with. This will necessitate more competent managers to lead groups of workers efficiently. Ultimately, the lecture proved to be a message of hope to all who attended; though things may look bleak now, the Armenian economy is on the rise.

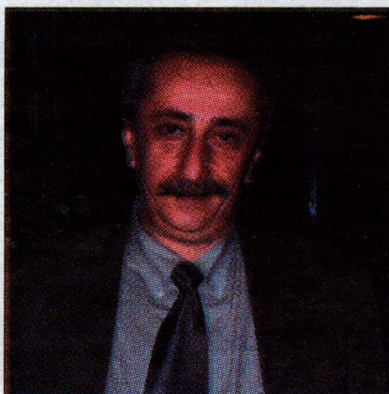
The lecture was sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization.



Alexander Chilingaryan



Armen Yeghiazaryan



Narek Martirosyan

PHOTOS: DICKRAN KOUYMJIAN

Armenian Studies Program Book/Video/CD/ Donations

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

Edward Alexander, Bethesda, MD, for the copy of his book, *A Crime of Vengeance, an Armenian Struggle for Justice*. Nebraska: Universe.com, Inc, 1991.

Artissage, Arts Magazine, Leiden-Utrecht, 2001, a full color museum magazine entirely devoted to three Armenian exhibits being held in Holland for the 1700th anniversary of Armenian Christianity: 1) "Armenian: Hidden Wealth from the Mountains," at the National Museum of Antiquities, 2) "Armenia: Medieval Miniatures from the Christian East," at the Museum Catharijneconvent, Utrecht, 3) "Armenia: The Encounter/Four Contemporary Artists from the Diaspora," at the Municipal Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden. Bilingual text in English and Dutch. Available at info@rmo.nl, and www.vernissageverlag.de.

S. Peter Cowe, *Catalogue of the Armenian Manuscripts in the Cambridge University Library*, Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium, Subsidia, vol. 86, Louvain: Peeters, 1994, xiii, 232 pages; a detailed description of 25 manuscripts.

Armen Dadour, Granada Hills, CA, for the copy of *The Vartouhy Rose Dadour Commemorative Book*. Granada Hills, 2001.

Charles Dowsett, for his book *Sayat-Nova, An 18th-century Troubadour, A Biographical and Literary Study*, Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium, Subsidia, vol. 91, Louvain: Peeters, 1997, xviii, 508 pages, no doubt the definitive study of Sayat Nova by the late Oxford scholar.

H.G. Gabrielyan, *Haykakan lernashkharh* (Mountainous Armenian), Erevan, Yerevan State University, 2000.

Nina Garsoïan, for the book *L'Église arménienne et le grand schisme d'Orient*, Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium, Subsidia, vol. 100, Louvain: Peeters, 1999, lxx, 630 pages, a massive record of the early centuries of Armenian Christianity and inter-church relations.

Inheritance: Art and Images beyond a Silenced Genocide, Chicago: Beacon

Street Gallery, 2001, catalogue of an exhibit featuring eight Armenian artists to be held from March 8 to April 26, 2002, courtesy of Modern Icon: Contemporary Artists and the Legacy of the Armenian Illuminated Manuscript, with a preface by Dickran Kouymjian, Glendale: Brand Library and Art Center, 2001. Catalogue of an exhibit held at the Brand Library from September 15 to October 20, 2001 curated by Caroline Lais-Tufenkian, available through the Brand Library, (818) 548-2050.

Mr. Charles Nigolian Modesto, CA, for the French language articles, periodicals and Armenian books.

Dr. & Rev. Fr. Abel Oghlugean, *Matenagrakan hetazotut'iwnner Movses vrd. Erzinkats'u grakan areghcuaci shurj* (Bibliographic Research on the Literary Enigma of Movses vardapet Erzenkats'i), Ejmiacin, 2001, hardcover with dust jacket, 304 pages.

Avedis K. Sanjian, *Medieval Armenian Manuscripts at the University of California, Los Angeles*, with contributions by Alice Taylor and Sylvie L. Merian and with the assistance of S. Peter Cowe, Berkeley-L.A-London: University of California Press, 1999.

Martin M. Tourigian, Drexel Hill, PA, for his paintings.

J. J. S. Weitenberg, Theo van Lint, H.L.M. Defoer, W.C.M. Wüstefeld, *Armenië middeleeuwse miniaturen uit het christelijke Oosten*, (Armenia: Medieval Miniatures from the Christian East) Utrecht-Zwolle: Museum Catharijneconvent, 2001. A large, beautifully illustrated catalogue of an exhibit of Armenian miniature paintings and relics from the Matendaran, Etchmiadzin and the State Historical Museum of Armenia, Utrecht, Holland from November 3, 2001 to March 3, 2002 in honor of the 1700th anniversary of Armenian Christianity. Available through cathconv@wxs.nl.

William Saroyan, *Diary of Paris-Fresno 1967-68*, Turkish translation by Berfil Eyüboğlu, of Saroyan's Days of Life and Death and a Trip to the Moon, Aras Publishing House, Istanbul, gift of Aziz Gökdemir, available through arasyayincilik@superonline.com.

CDs

Armenian Folk Music Shoghakan Ensemble, Traditional Crossroads Company, NY, available through tradcross@aol.com.

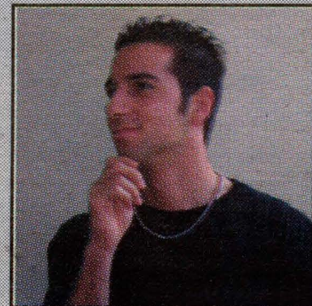
Vache Sharafyan, Armenian Chamber Music, Traditional Crossroads Company, Harold Hagopian (Fresno State alumnus), POB 20320 Greeley Sq., NY, NY 10001, (212) 579-3761 or tradcross@aol.com.

Eench Go,
Chi Go?

CARINA KARAKASHIAN
STAFF WRITER

Fresno State Armenian Students on the Spot!

"IF YOU COULD USE ONE ARMENIAN WORD TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF WHAT WOULD IT BE?"



Rami Gabriel
Eer-a-gan
"Real"



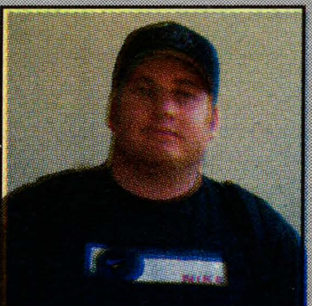
Nyrie Karkazian
Jar-beeg
"Clever as a fox"



Armen Postoyan
Ash-kha-da-ser
"Hard-worker"



Talar Atarian
Eesh-khan-oo-hee
"Princess"



Kevin Kandarian
Khel-a-tsee
"Smart"

PHOTOS: CARINA KARAKASHIAN

YSU-CSUF Business Program Brings Profs for Visit

STAFF REPORT

Dr. Alexander Chilingaryan, Dr. Narek Martirosyan, and Dr. Armen Yeghiazaryan, all faculty of the School of Business at Yerevan State University (YSU) visited Fresno, February 17 through March 9, as part of the NIS (Newly Independent States) College and University Partnership Faculty and Development Program in Business and Economics between Yerevan State University and California State University, Fresno.

The three-year, \$300,000 program provides opportunities for faculty from Yerevan to visit Fresno, with return visits by Fresno State faculty to Armenia. Technical assistance in the form of computers and internet access have also been an important part of the project. The project began with a previous one year, \$100,000 grant, 1999-2000, and the current grant will run through August 2003. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States funds the Partnership Program.

Yerevan State University and Fresno State have had close ties for many years and the current cooperative agreement provides further opportunities for faculty and students to become familiar with each others institutions.

Project director Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program and assistant project director Professor Elizabeth Shields of the Department of Finance at Fresno State organized meetings and activities for the visiting group. Attending courses,

giving papers at colloquia, and sharing information with fellow professors, were all part of the itinerary.

The professors gave a public lecture on "Armenia: The Current Economy" on Thursday, February 28.

Armenia's economy has, prior to Armenia's independence in 1991, for more than 70 years been inextricably intertwined and interdependent with the economy of the Soviet Union, of which it was one of 15 constituent Republics. Independence, as an economic phenomenon, meant that Armenia had to face the challenge of transformation to a market economy, almost overnight, and without the luxury of having all of the requisite economic institutions and infrastructure.

The devastating December 7, 1988 earthquake has also left a lasting impact on the northern regions of Armenia and the effect on the overall economy has been great.

Compounding these internal challenges, are several external challenges: the economic blockade of Armenia by neighbors Azerbaijan and Turkey, still continuing today; issues regarding a sufficient supply of energy for industry and residents; the conflict between Karabagh and Azerbaijan; and the general economic problems of the region, especially those of the former Soviet Union republics, especially the Russian Federation, which is facing its own economic challenges.

The visit of the faculty from Yerevan State University provided a means for faculty from Fresno



L to R: Narek Martirosyan, Armen Yeghiazaryan, CSUF President Dr. John Welty, Alexander Chilingaryan

State to explore the economic future of Armenia. Since Armenia's economy is in transition, it provides an excellent model to study.

The emphasis of the trip was curriculum development and implementation of new courses in the newly revamped curriculum at the YSU School of Business. Of particular interest to the visitors were the operations of the University Business Center on campus as well as entrepreneurial courses which help develop individual initiative.

The three faculty from YSU all speak excellent English and have backgrounds which are varied.

Dr. Alexander Chilingaryan teaches management at Yerevan State University and has been trained in accountancy. His doctoral dissertation was on the topic

"Improvement of personnel management in small and medium enterprises of Armenia." He is a graduate of Yerevan State University, and has been assistant professor at YSU in the field of personnel management since 1998.

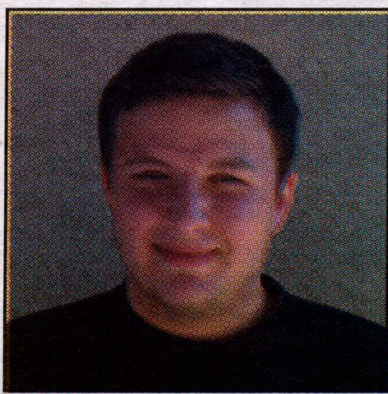
Dr. Narek Martirosyan is associate professor of economics at Yerevan State University. He has been chief advisor to the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Armenia and has been involved in the drafting of the main economic policy concept of the Republic for the period 2000-2003. He has also participated in drafting of the Armenian Customs and Tax legislation.

Dr. Armen Yeghiazaryan has extensive experience in private and government positions. He is former

Minister of Economy (1993-1995) of the Republic of Armenia and since 1999 has been Chairman of the Union of Banks of the Republic of Armenia. He is the author of 25 scientific publications in the fields of mathematical modeling of economic systems, economic forecasting and social-economic development. He has also been a member of the National Assembly of Armenia, from 1995 to 1999, serving on the commission on Financial, budgetary, and economic issues.

It is expected that several Fresno State faculty will join project director Barlow Der Mugrdchian in visiting YSU this summer. Next fall a new group of faculty will travel to Fresno State as project activities continue.

Armenian Student Exchange Program



David Nersesyan

ERICA ANANIAN
STAFF WRITER

On January 20, 2002, David Nersesyan, age 19, and David Sirunyan, age 18, arrived in Fresno, CA to begin a one semester stay at Fresno State. Dr. John Shields, chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics, organized their visit in collaboration with the USDA Marketing Assistance Project, which helped to sponsor their trip. The College of Agricultural Sciences and Armenian Studies Program also contributed to supporting their stay in Fresno.

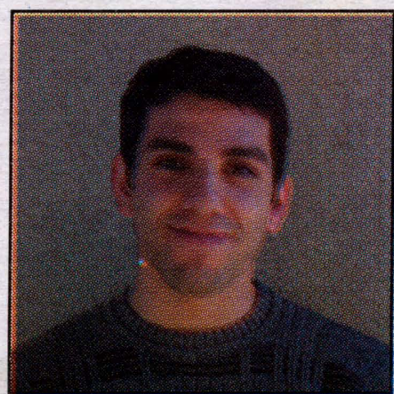
Both Nersesyan and Sirunyan, who are from the Armenian Agricultural Academy in Yerevan, Armenia, have decided to point their careers towards becoming finan-

cial specialists. Both students feel honored and privileged to be taking part a program, which will enable them to work harder for the future of Armenia.

They are currently enrolled at Fresno State, taking Marketing, Statistics, and Microeconomics courses in order to fulfill their dreams. They are also taking an Introduction to Armenian Studies course, taught by Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian, where they are learning about the Armenians of the Diaspora. They are both really excited to be in Fresno studying and meeting interesting new Armenians. "The Armenians in America are quite different from the Armenians in Armenia," claims Sirunyan. "Life is very different here in America," replied Nersesyan. They feel Armenians in America are very optimistic towards their future and goals for their life.

When asked about what their most shocking experience in America was, they said, "The cars stop when you cross the street." They explained that in Armenia, if you cross the street you better run because the cars will not stop for you even if you are five feet away from the vehicle.

When Sirunyan and Nersesyan



David Sirunyan

were asked what their favorite place was in Armenia and what significance it holds for them. Sirunyan said, "Etchmiadzin is my favorite place because I feel connected to the history of my ancestors and for what my people stood for: God and Christianity." Nersesyan then commented, "My favorite place is Aghvanatsor because it makes me feel a sense of pride and love for the land that Armenian has worked so hard to keep."

Armenia holds keys to the past, which lie within the people of Armenia. This is why scholarship programs such as these can help us grow with knowledge of our land and our people. Fresno State welcomes both students with open arms, to learn and apply their knowledge to our homeland: Armenia.

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

cordially invites you to an illustrated lecture on

"Modern Armenian Art"

with special guest

Shahen Khachatryan

Director of the National Gallery of Art
and the Martiros Saryan Museum
Yerevan, Armenia

**Friday, April 5, 2002
7:30 PM**

Alice Peters Auditorium
University Business Center
California State University, Fresno

Admission is free and open to the public.

Armenian Dance Lessons

given by Arax Dancers

**Mondays: April 29,
May 6, 13, and 20**

Call 298-5023 for more information.



Dr. Levon Chookaszian Sheds New Light on Images in Armenian Art

CHRIS T OZLIAN
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, February 4th, Professor Levon Chookaszian lectured at CSU Fresno on "The Image of Secular Power in Armenian Art," as part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series. Dr. Chookaszian presented a compelling survey of both Armenian and pre-Armenian art that spanned four millennia, beginning at approximately 2000 BC and moving well into the second millennium AD.

Those who attended the lecture inevitably left satisfied, as Prof. Chookaszian displayed his vast understanding of Armenian art and his insight gained due to years of study. Those who have not studied Armenian art may have understood Chookaszian's lecture to be a simple overview of Armenian art, beginning with the pre-Armenian art that was the foundation for later fine metalwork, stone sculpture, and famous gospel manuscript illuminations. However, Chookaszian's intention in surveying such a large amount of art was to lay the groundwork for his discussion of the "secular" side of Armenian art.

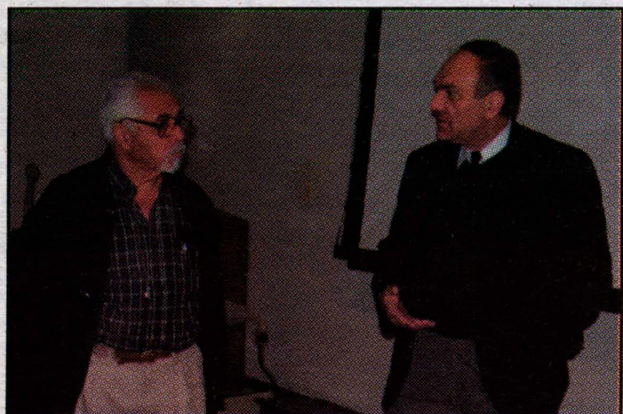
Anyone familiar with Armenian art clearly understands the profound effect that the fourth century conversion of Christianity had on it. What Prof. Chookaszian set out to accomplish in his lecture was to point out secular images in pre-Christian Armenian art, and then show the "drought" of secular imagery seen in the rest of the first millennium AD. However, the second millennium AD saw changes dealing with Armenian art's secular side. Chookaszian's many examples all pointed to the focal point of his discussion... the importance of secular imagery within Armenian art.

Dr. Chookaszian began by explaining the importance of secular imagery, pointing out the historical benefit derived from the surviving pre-Christian Armenian art. He explained that these surviving pieces of Armenian art can be compared with Iranian and Assyrian

art. When doing so, historians find great stylistic similarities, which point to close relations between Armenia and its neighbors. Also, we see similarities in the dress and the actions of those portrayed on Armenian and non-Armenian pieces of art; historians look to these pieces of art when claiming similarities between cultures.

With the "Golden Age" of Armenian literature (5th century AD) came the beginnings of Armenia's famed Gospel illuminations. Originally, there were only a small number of paintings in a Gospel, usually depicting the birth, the baptism, the crucifixion, and the resurrection of Jesus. However, as time passed, more pictures were inserted into manuscripts, most depicting Jesus, but some portraying the Four Evangelists, and others portraying Old Testament stories such as the Sacrifice of Isaac (often seen as a prefiguration to the coming of the Christ) and Jonah and the Whale.

As the centuries passed, the kings who sponsored the scribal production of Gospel manuscripts wanted their pictures to be inserted in the Gospels, as a memorial for the "good deed" of having a Gospel produced. The inclusion of portraits within Gospel illuminations has recently been given greater attention by historians, as they have realized that more information about Armenian royalty can be derived from these pictures. Yet this "royal" surge into the Gospel manuscripts all but ended in the latter part of the fourteenth century when Cilician Armenia fell to the Mamlukes; with this, there was no longer an Armenian king to patronize the scriptoriums that created the Armenian manuscripts. As a result, the noblemen and the well-to-do Armenian merchants kept this



Richard Hagopian (left) with Dr. Chookaszian

"tradition" alive. It was on this type of secularism that Professor Chookaszian focused the rest of his lecture.

Dr. Chookaszian went on to explain the significance of these pictures for both historians and Armenians alike; they open up an avenue to the past that was previously unexplored. Because of these secular manuscript illuminations that begin in the tenth century and continue until the eighteenth century domination of the printing press, we now have a greater glimpse of what life was like during the time of our ancestors. These pictures give us many hints into the life of those who came before us, including their style of dress, their culture, and obviously, the importance that was placed on the Bible.

And so there we have it... the secular side of Armenian art. Perhaps most shocking is that, within Armenian art, there is the lack of a certain type of secular influence after Armenia's fourth century conversion to Christianity. As a whole, the nation seemed to repel the idea of meshing the "Godly" with the "ungodly," in art.

But the secular imagery seen cannot be discarded as trivial, for they do reveal to us a piece of history; this was the message that Prof. Chookaszian delivered. Though Armenia's "secular" side is quite tame in relation to other nations' art, Armenia's secular art helps guide our understanding by giving us greater insight into the dress, culture, and spirituality of the Armenians of the past.



L to R: Mrs. Mary-Ellen Hewsen, Dr. Levon Chookaszian, Dr. Robert Hewsen, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Ashot Hagopian

ARMENIAN CORNER

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SEVAG TATEOSIAN
STAFF WRITER

Hello and *Parev* to all. Welcome to this easy class on how to speak Western Armenian!

It is very easy to learn Armenian. In the following section, I will be teaching you basic phrases that you would hear in Western Armenian. If you are excited about what you read, and would like to learn more of this beautiful language, feel free to register for the Armenian 1A language course that is offered at Fresno State in the fall semester. The instructor for this course is Barlow Der Mugrdechian. Professor Der Mugrdechian has been teaching Armenian Language for about twenty years. Along with this course he teaches many other courses in the Armenian Studies Program. You don't have to know a word of Armenian to enroll in this course. The course will slowly teach you the basics of the Armenian language as well as teach you how to read and write using the Armenian alphabet, which was developed over sixteen hundred years ago. OK! Let's begin.

To say hello in Armenian, you simply say *Parev* (Բարեւ)

To ask how the individual is doing? You say *Inch Bes Es?* (ինչպէս էս)

A common response to *inch bes es* would be *Lav em* (Լաւ եմ) Which means I am good. If you aren't good that day you would say *Lav chem* (Լաւ չեմ) I am not good. If you are sick, you would say *hevant em* (հիւանդ եմ) *Hevant* means sick and *em* means I am.

If you see a friend of yours out walking, you could ask *Oor gertas* (որտեղ ե'րթաւ) Which means, Where are you going? *Oor* means where and *gertas* means are you going.

If your friend is going home, he/she would say *Doon gertam* (տուն ե'րթամ) *Doon* means home and *gertam* means I am going.

If your friend is going shopping for clothes he/she would say *Hackousty khanout gertam* (հագուստի խանութ ե'րթամ) *Hackousty* means of clothing, *khanout* means store and we know that *gertam* means I am going, so I am going to a store of clothing.

Well I thank you for taking the time to learn these simple phrases. Until next time *Ge des na veenk* (կը տեսնուինք) we will see each other.

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

cordially invites you to an lecture on

"A Journey Through Modern Karabagh"

with special guest

Dr. Robert Hewsen

Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

7:30 PM

Alice Peters Auditorium
University Business Center
California State University, Fresno

Admission is free and open to the public.

Kouymjian Sabbatical Activities

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 —

scholar. The meetings took place in Brussels with a jury of non-Belgian scholars including two American other than Dr. Kouymjian, three from England, two each from France and Germany, and single scholars from the Netherlands, Sweden and Taiwan. The award is for one million Belgian francs and is the only Belgian prize given annual by the king himself. This year's winner was Prof. Philippe Van Parijs, a specialist in political philosophy at the University of Louvain-la-Neuve.

In May and June Prof. Kouymjian was invited by Professor Bernard Coulie, Director of the Oriental Institute of the Catholic University of Louvain at Louvain-la-Neuve, to present a series of six seminars to doctorate students of the Institute on the general subject, "Topics in Armenian History & Art: The Search for an Identity." Beginning with two sessions on the Armenian genocide of 1915, he explored the question of cultural identity in the diaspora. The other topics were on architecture, codicology, manuscript illumination, and the minor arts. The three-hour seminars were also regularly attended by Louvain faculty.

For several years Prof. Kouymjian has been helping the Catholicosate of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon organize a major one week international symposium on Armenian Spirituality on the occasion of the 1700th anniversary of the Proclamation of Christianity in Armenia. His Holiness Catholicos Aram I, asked Dr. Kouymjian to coordinate the event with Rev. Fr. Nareg Alemezian. The meeting held from June 25 to a July 1, 2001 brought together a who's who of scholars, theologians and high church digni-

ties in Bossey, Switzerland, just outside of Geneva where the World Council of Churches has its Ecumenical Institute.

The conference was preside over by His Holiness Aram, who not only attended every session and lecture, but had comments and questions on every paper presented during the six days of sessions in the isolated retreat over looking Geneva's famous Lake. Also attending and presiding at one of the session was His Beatitude Patriarch Mesrop Mutaflan of Istanbul. Other senior clergy included Bishop Yeznik of the Armenian Diocese of Russia, Bishop Khajak of Canada, Bishop Kegham of Greece, Fr. Prof. Levon Zekyan of Venice, and representatives of the Armenian Catholic, Armenian Protestant, Russian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Coptic and several European Protestant churches. Scholars from the Middle East, Europe and the United States were present, among the latter group were Robert Thomson formerly of Harvard now at Oxford, Abraham Terian of the St. Nersess Theological Seminary, Peter Cowe of UCLA, and Michael Connolly of Boston University.

His Holiness Aram asked Prof. Kouymjian to give the keynote address "Sources and Specificity of Armenian Spirituality" at the opening of the conference. The talk presented both an historical perspective for the six-day conference and more importantly a number of important problems facing Armenian Christianity today through a series of questions directed to the church heads gathered at Bossey. Throughout the gathering there were continual references to the questions he posed in his paper.

On the fourth day of the confer-

ence, Dr Kouymjian presented a second paper in the section devoted to artistic creation in the church entitled "Armenian Spirituality and the Arts: Architecture, Painting and Liturgical Metalwork." He presented some of his recent research on St. Gregory and especially on Armenian liturgical vessels.

In August, Dr. Kouymjian went to Geneva for a meeting at the Musée d'art et histoire on the organization of an exhibit on Armenian altar curtains from the collection of Holy Etchmiadzin. The exhibit, originally scheduled as part of the celebration of the 1700th anniversary at the Textile Museum in Lyon, France, but delayed for technical reasons, will open in 2004 at Geneva's famous Rath Museum.

In early October the professor traveled to Los Angeles for two exhibits, one a major artistic event devoted to the famous fourteenth century Gospels of Glajor (now the property of UCLA) sponsored and held at the J. Paul Getty Museum, and the other an exhibit entitled "Modern Icon: Contemporary Artists and the Legacy of the Armenian Illuminated Manuscript," held at the Brand Library and Art Center in Glendale from September 15 to October 20, 2001, for which he wrote a preface to the exhibit catalogue.

In the meantime, Prof. Kouymjian continues his work on the catalogue of the liturgical treasures of the Armenian Museum at the Catholicosate in Antelias, Lebanon, research on Armenian book bindings, and a major study on the iconography of the Alexander the Great Romance in Armenian manuscript painting.

More of Dr. Kouymjian's activities will be included in the May issue of Hye Sharzhoom.

Armenian Dance

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 —



Instructor Tom Bozgian (center) demonstrates Tarnzaradance.

dances in countries such as Germany and Japan. He told his students that the people really want to learn Armenian dances because they are very interested in them. The students were excited that people from many different countries, not only Armenians, were interested in learning about these dances.

Bozgian's enthusiastic and vivacious attitude made the class a wonderful experience for all of his students.

Student's comments about the class included, "Amazing

class. So glad I took it. I learned a lot!" "It was great fun and the dances were very creative," and "The course was fun. I would take it again." Comments about Tom Bozgian included, "He is very skilled, organized, and enthusiastic," and "The instructor was great and had a lot of energy."

I'm sure that everyone in the class would agree that Bozgian's motivation and dedication to Armenian dance would always be welcome within the Armenian community of Fresno and elsewhere.

INTERVIEW

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 —

on the Fresno State Basketball team. As a young kid in high school it was his dream to play college basketball. When he heard Coach Tarkanian wanted him to play in Fresno, Rouben was ecstatic. Since his arrival at Fresno State Rouben has developed a great relationship with Tarkanian and with his teammates. He has been accepted well within the club and within the community. Since he is originally from Australia, his teammates have given him the nickname, "The Thunder From Down Under." Rouben plans to obtain his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy as well as a Minor in Armenian Studies.

Hye Sharzhoom interviewed Vesmadian during an exciting time in his life, while playing basketball for Fresno State.

Hye Sharzhoom: Welcome to Fresno Rouben. You are so far away from home-how does it feel for an Armenian to be playing college basketball for an Armenian Coach in largely Armenian populated area?

Vesmadian: It's really an honor because I am very happy to be representing the Armenian community and very fortunate to be playing for Coach Tarkanian who is just the best at what he does.

Hye Sharzhoom: What made

you want to come to Fresno State? How did you end up here?

Vesmadian: It was my dream to play college basketball ever since I was a freshman in high school. As I got older and learned more about my ancestry and heritage I felt it was something I should never forget no matter what my endeavors. So when the opportunity arose for me to be able to establish my college career at such a big basketball school and with such a great Coach I thought my prayers had been answered. Coincidentally, Coach happens to be Armenian as well, which played a large part in my decision to come to Fresno. The large Armenian community, which has always backed me, was also a reason come to Fresno.

How I ended up here all the way from Sydney, Australia is a good question. First, I'd like to establish that it is very difficult for any basketball player from Australia to get exposure in the United States so I was very fortunate that things went my way. In 1999 I had played at a basketball exposure camp in New Jersey where I was selected into the All-Star squad. I was 16 at the time and only a junior in high school. Through this camp I was only being recruited by small schools on the east coast as nobody else knew about me. When I returned to Australia and graduated

from high school I had to make a choice of which school I wanted to attend and play for. Fortunately, assistant coach, Danny Tarkanian, had seen video footage of me and I was able to get accepted at Fresno State. From there on my journey began.

Hye Sharzhoom: How has the Armenian community responded since your arrival?

Vesmadian: The Armenian community is great. They are very supportive and very proud. I enjoy being a part of the Armenian community. I get approached by a lot of Armenians asking me all sorts of questions and just wanting to get to know me.

Hye Sharzhoom: What are your future goals with Fresno State and upon graduation?

Vesmadian: My future goals are to keep working hard everyday in school and in practice. I plan on being a good role model for young Armenians around the world. I am in a great environment and I am certain I will succeed if I just keep working hard. Upon graduating I plan to obtain a degree in Philosophy and just as importantly in Armenian Studies. I take my Armenian courses at Fresno State very seriously as it is important to my family and me. In regards to my basketball career, who knows where it will take me after graduation.

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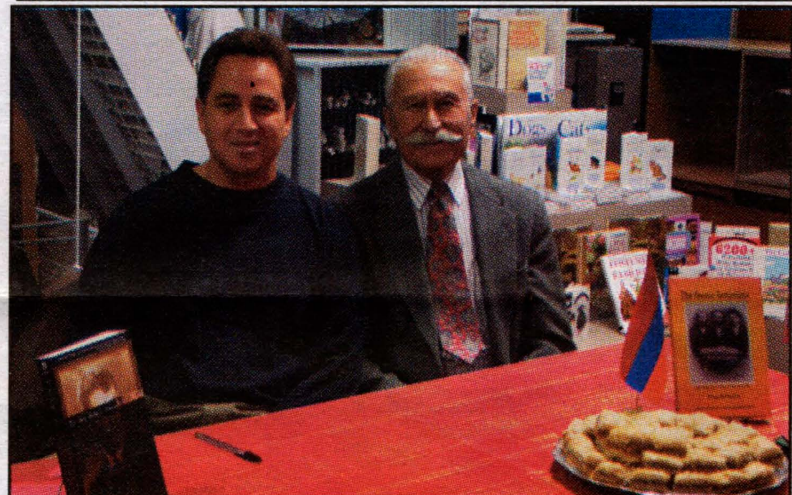
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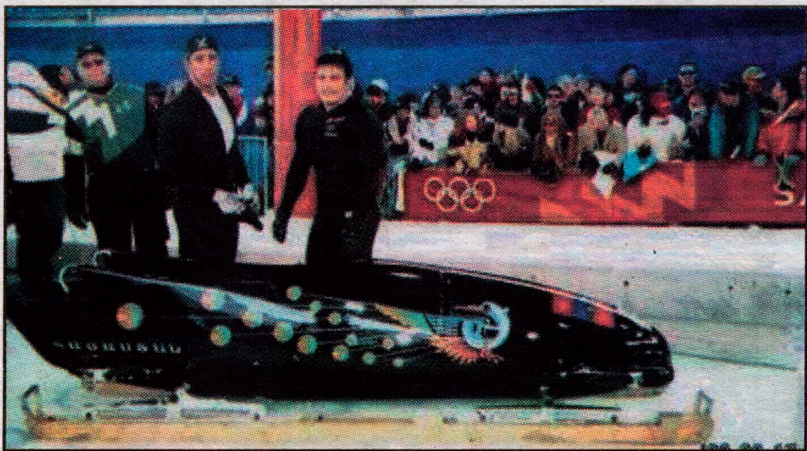
California State University, Fresno



Authors Mark Arax (left) and Berge Bulbulian at Armenian book section opening.

PHOTO: BARLOW DER MUGDECHIAN

Armenian Bobsled Team- Winter Olympic Sensation



Dan Janjigian (left) and team-mate Jorgo Alexandrou.

TAMARA KARAKASHIAN
EDITOR

Crossing the finish line of a bobsled track is like stepping off a high-speed roller coaster. For Dan Janjigian, an American-Armenian who competed for Team Armenia in the 2002 Olympic Games, this was the ultimate adrenalin rush. More than that, Janjigian pursued a dream. He experienced first hand how making his grandmother proud truly really felt.

Janjigian, along with fellow bobsledder and long time best friend, Yorgo Alexandrou, did not finish first in the bobsledding competition, however the feelings of achievement are definitely in their hearts. The hundreds of red, blue and orange flags waving in the stands welcomed them as they cheered and jumped for joy, as if they had won the gold.

The American public has learned about Armenians through political battles to win recognition of the Armenian Genocide. This

time the bobsled team has succeeded in exposing Armenians in a different sense. Armenian people are kind, cultured, and generous. The bobsled team exemplified these traits. With humbleness they darted through the finish line, finishing 33rd.

Both Janjigian and Alexandrou have been practicing bobsledding in their hometown of San Jose, CA. Their practices were comprised of pushing their bobsled on their hometown street, while being sure the neighbors were wide awake and ready to go for the day. Their bobsled has been fitted with in-line skates so that they could practice on the streets of San Jose—where the leaves in the road are their only obstacles. The determination and dedication to the sport has led them to the place they are today.

Although Janjigian and Alexandrou are not citizens of Armenia, prior to the Olympic games they were both granted residency so that they would be allowed to compete. Janjigian commented, "There

is not a drop of blood in me that is not Armenian." Being of Armenian ancestry has proven to be as meaningful for Armenians as living in the sacred homeland of Armenia.

The support and continuous prayers of the Armenian-American community has been wonderful and continues to encourage the two in their endeavors. The lack of financial sponsors, however, has proven to be a hindrance more than anything else. With only one company, Knowledge Anywhere, a web-based e-learning company, backing them, they find themselves still in a hole. "Bobsledding is an expensive sport," commented Janjigian, "If only we could have the same degree of financial support as we do spiritual support it would be much easier."

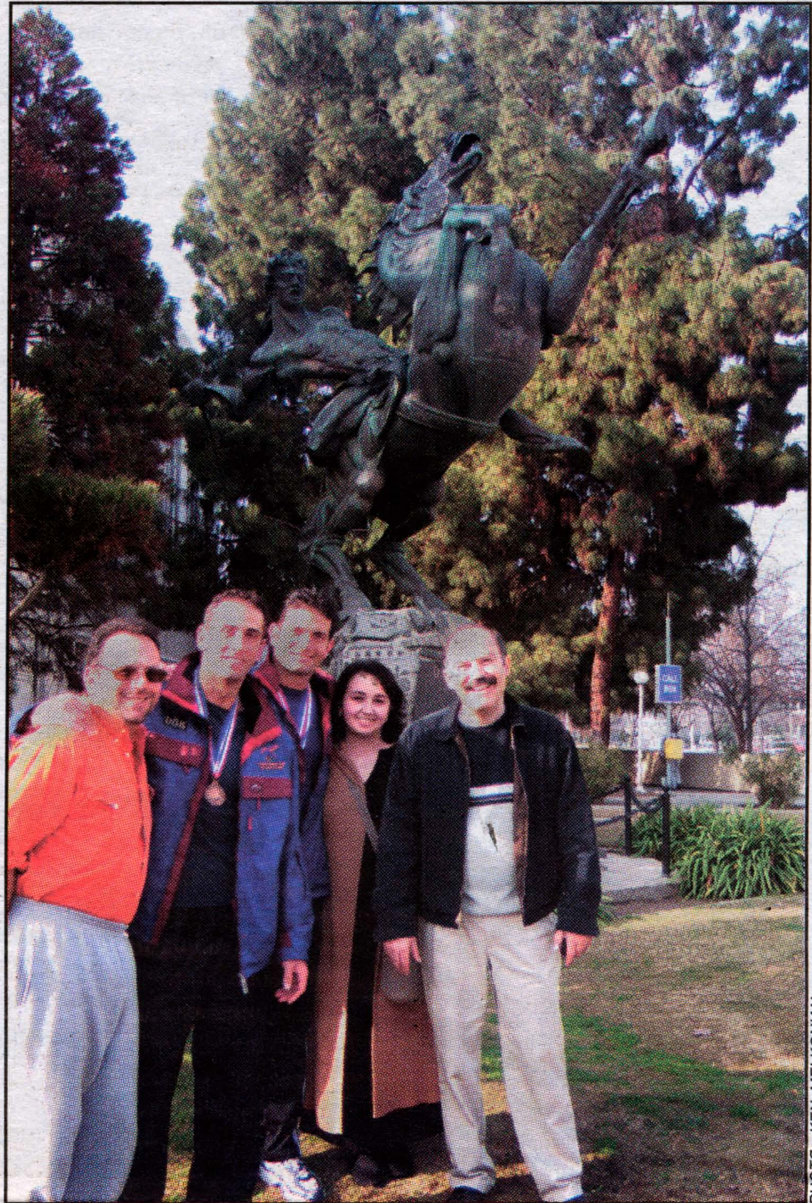
Janjigian and Alexandrou were in Fresno before the Olympics where they made the announcement that their bobsled would be painted by the beautiful Armenian artistry of Siroun Yeretsian. The bobsled is currently for sale on ebay.com.

In the future, Janjigian plans to keep the bobsledding program functioning by getting kids more involved with the sport. They would like to expand the program with the continued help of the Armenian-American community: by prayers and dollars.

Janjigian feels that the sport of bobsledding will never allow him to break even with the amount of money he has invested into the program. He does however feel

the benefits when he is able to meet with fans and encourage them to live out their dreams. He enjoys being able to share his experiences with Armenian children at schools and various different events, and

continues to encourage them to pursue their dreams. Janjigian cherishes the joy his grandmother expressed as the team crossed the finish line. To Janjigian and Alexandrou, this is the gold.



L to R: Dan Abramson, Dan Janjigian, Jorgo Alexandrou, Tamara Karakashian and Barlow Der Mugrdchian at the David of Sassoun statue

1915 Armenian Students Organization 2002

Annual Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

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**Free Speech Area
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