

# ***HYE SHARZHOOM*** ***Armenian Action*** ***ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ***

**24<sup>th</sup>**  
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Supplement to The Collegian

## Ambassador Kirakossian Guest Speaker at ASP 17th Annual Banquet



**ZHANNA BAGDASAROV  
AND ALEX BUNCH**  
STAFF WRITERS

On the evening of Sunday, February 9, 2003, Armenian Studies Program faculty, as well as student scholarship recipients and supporters of the program came together at the Residence Dining Facility to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

Among the distinguished guests were: Arman Kirakossian, the Ambassador of Armenia to the United States, Valery Mkrtoumian, Counsel General of the Republic of Armenia to the United States (Los Angeles), Dr. John Welty, President of Fresno State, Dr. Luis Costa, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, and California State Senator Chuck Poochigian; all were



**2002-03 Armenian Studies Program scholarship recipients pictured with distinguished guests CSUF President Dr. John Welty, Ambassador Arman Kirakossian, and Counsel General Valery Mkrtoumian.**

present to honor the success of the Armenian Studies Program.

The banquet began with a reception, which included appetizers and refreshments and provided an opportunity for people to socialize

with one another. Following the reception was dinner, during which Dr. Dickran Kouymjian introduced the guests of the evening. To honor the presence of the ambassador, Kouymjian presented a photograph

of John Kirakossian, a former Foreign Minister of Armenia and father of the Dr. Kirakossian, who was invited to speak at Fresno State

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## Two YSU Professors Visit Fresno



**L to R: YSU professor Karine Asryan, Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program, and professor Arman Gabrielyan.**

**CHRIS TOZLIAN**  
STAFF WRITER

During the last two weeks of January and the first week of February 2003, Arman Gabrielyan and Karine Asryan were not within their regular confines on the campus of Yerevan State University (YSU), where they both are associate professors in the university's Faculty of Economics (Business School). Instead, they were attending classes daily at CSU Fresno.

For the last three years, Fresno State and YSU have been participating in an international exchange program called the Newly Independent States College & University Partnership Program (NISCUPP). This exchange program provides funding for universities to send their faculty members to another university for a short period of time. The grants are

given for a three-year period, and Fresno State is currently in its third year of this program; Fresno State has received a \$300,000 grant to make this exchange program possible. Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program authored the grant and is the project director. This exchange program is funded by the United States State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Professors Gabrielyan and Asryan spent most of their time within the classrooms of Fresno State, as they observed different teaching styles. Most of the classes they attended were business-oriented, but the two professors did manage to fit into their schedules a visit to the Armenian language class being taught on campus; they also had the opportunity to address the

SEE **YSU VISIT** PAGE 5

## M. Victoria Kazan Endowment Funded with \$358,000 Gift

**CHRIS TOZLIAN**  
STAFF WRITER

With the current talk of budget cuts throughout the whole of the California State University system, it is quite reassuring for the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno to have gracious benefactors. These budget cuts weigh on the minds of professors and administration alike, but from within the Armenian Studies program, things are "looking up."

In 1998, it was announced that Mr. Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan and his wife Victoria would be making their second sizable donation to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. This endowment came in a different form than most: a house in East Quogue, Long Island, New York, which was given to the Armenian Studies Program with the understanding the Kazans would be able to continue to live in it until their deaths.

However, Mr. Kazan, who lives alone in June Beach, Florida and Long Island, decided to buy the house back from the university and give it to members of his family. In September, the house was purchased by Mr. Kazan in an all cash deal at the current selling price. The proceeds, \$358,245 net after

fees and commissions as well as five years of maintenance paid by the university, has been deposited in the M. Victoria Karagozian Kazan Endowment for Armenian Studies.

This represents by far the largest single gift ever to the Armenian Studies Program, even larger than Mr. Kazan's \$320,000 funding of the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan endowed Visiting Professorship in Armenian Studies. The new endowment is to be used, according to the agreement of 1998, in three ways: to provide scholarship funds, to finance the M. Victoria Karagozian Monograph and Lecture Series, and to help underwrite the administrative and operating expenses of the Armenian Studies Program.

The endowment is named in the memory of Henry Kazan's wife, Victoria, who passed away in Oc-

tober 1997. Mr. and Mrs. Kazan, who have been long-time supporters of the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno, have made the two largest contributions to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. Though life-long residents of New York and Florida, the Kazans chose Fresno State over east coast universities because of its dynamic Armenian Studies Program.

Mr. Kazan's endowments to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State stem from his desire to encourage the scholarship of college students. Mr. Kazan, after coming to America, received his bachelor's degree in History from New York University, and he then received his law degree from St. John's University. He has said that, if he had the choice, Mr. Kazan

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Armenian Studies Program  
Book/Video/CD/ Donations

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

Armenian International Women’s Association and Dr. Barbara Merguerian, Watertown, MA, for the copies of the books: *Armenian Women in a Changing World*, edited by Barbara J. Merguerian and Doris D. Jafferian, Boston, 1995; *Voices of Armenian Women*, edited by Barbara J. Merguerian and Joy Renjilan-Burgy, Boston, 2000; and *Queens of the Armenians: 150 Biographies Based on History and Legend*, by Hayk Khachatrian, translated by Nouné Sekhopossian.

Archbishop Dr. Goriun Babian, Armenian Prelacy, Salmiyeh, Kuwait, for the copy of his book, *The Relations between the Armenian and Georgian Churches according to the Armenian Sources 300-610*.

John Chookasian, Fresno, CA, for the copies of his CDs: *Armenian Music, Echoes from the Past* and *Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble Avantagan*, available at chook3@qnis.net.

Dr. Luis Costa, CSU Fresno Press, Fresno, CA, William Saroyan, *Where the Bones Go*, edited by Robert Setrakian, Fresno: The Press at California State University, Fresno, 2002, 140 pages. A portion of William Saroyan’s vast personal memoir.

Daughters of Vartan, Fresno, CA, for the copy of *Vardanants: Yerger Yev Sharakanner* (Songs and Sharakans of Vardanants), 1500th Anniversary of Vardanants. Etchmiadzin: 2001.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Armenian Church of Canada, for the copies of books and pamphlets on the Armenian Church.

Marcos Grigorian, New York artist, for his book, *The Gate of Auschwitz*, about a massive art work of the 1960s.

The Islamic Education Center, Saudi, Arabia, for the books *A Brief Illustrated Guide to Understanding Islam* and *Woman In the Shade of Islam*

Dominique Janvier, Jérôme Prieur, *Tous les objets sont des sphinx*, Paris: La Pionnière, 2002, limited edition. An illustrated essay on miscellaneous objects left in the tombs of the pharaohs by the workers who made them.

Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, St. Gregory Church, White Plains, NY, for the copy of the book by Onnik Xnkikyan *Syunik during the Bronze and Iron Ages*, 2002.

Leo & Marlys Keoshian, Palo Alto, CA, for the two books, *Armenian Atrocities: The Murder of a Nation* by Lord Bryce and *Armenia Her Culture and Aspirations* by Arshag Mahdesian.

Aram J. Kevorkian, *Confessions of a Francophile and other Essays from The Kevorkian Newsletter. 1980-2000*, Paris: Taderon Press, 2002, 391 pages, large format. A selection of the best essays that this literate lawyer from Philadelphia, who has spent his adult life in Paris and was Saroyan’s lawyer, written on a monthly basis for his newsletter, including five on Armenia and an obituary on Saroyan. Available through books@garod.co.uk.

Arman Kirakossian, *Britanakan divanagitut’ yune ev arevmtahayut’ yan khndire (XIXrd dari 30-akan t’ t’.–1914 t’)*, (British Diplomacy and the Western Armenian Question, from the 1830s to 1914), Erevan: Armenian Academy of Sciences, 1999, 510 pages of a highly document study. Offered by Ambassador Kirakossian.

Arman John Kirakossian, *Veliko Britaniya i armyanskii vopros (90e gody XIX veka)*, (Great Britain and the Armenian Questions, the 1890s), Erevan: Hayastan, 1990, 240 pages, with an English résumé, bibliography of 397 sources, and index. Donated by Ambassador Kirakossian.

Gérard Macé, Paris, France, for the copy of his book, Emile Boucheron, *Leçon de choses*, Paris: La Pionnière, 2002, limited edition. Discussion and illustrations of drawings done by an 11-year old student (Emile Boucheron) in a rural school in France at the beginning of the last century.

Mr. Carl Mahakian, Rancho Mirage, CA, for several Saroyan and other books and archival material.

Ed Megerdichian, Fresno, CA for the book *Marutashunch* by Vardges Tonapetian, Lowell, MA, 2000, donated in memory of his brother, Zohran Mergerdichian.

Zareh Meguerditchian, Glendale, CA, for the copy of his video *Marry the Priest*.

Anthony P. Mezoian, South Portland, ME for the copy of his book, *The Armenian People of Portland, Maine*.

Razmik Panossian, Bloomsbury, London, Helen Fein, *Denying Genocide: From Armenia to Bosnia*, Occasional Papers in Comparative and International Politics, no. 1, Dept. of Government, London School of Economics and Political Sciences, London, no date [2002], 32 pages.

Avetis Papazyan, Los Angeles, CA, for the copy of his book, *Turkish Documentary Materials about Non-Muslim People of the Ottoman Empire (1839-1915)*.

Sarkis (Zabounyan), Paris, France, Nadine Coleno, *Sur l’eau, Sarkis esquisse*, Paris: Editions du Regard, 2002, 30 pages, large format, lavishly illustrated. Sarkis [Zabounyan] is one of France’s and Europe’s best known artists, who has established installations and schools for children all over Europe. The volume is part of an exhibit which encouraged children to work with art materials.

Sarkis (Zabounyan), Paris, France, 21.01.2000-09.04.2000, Bordeaux: Musée de Bordeaux, 2000, 178 unnumbered pages. Lavish catalogue of Sarkis [Zabounyan’s] installation in Bordeaux in 2000 and a presentation of 25 very short films produced and directed by Sarkis.

Vahe Shahinian, *Blinks of Eternity*, Damascus, 2001, text in Armenian and English. Shahinian is a photographer and *Blinks* is a rich album of color photos of Armenian architectural monuments and the landscape they are found in. Available at shahinian.co@mail.sy. Donated by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian.

Astrig Tchamkerten, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal, for several books including three copies of *Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian*

Payline Tomasyan, William Saroyan, *Insanlik Komedisi, The Human Comedy*, trans. into Turkish by Beril Eyüboğlu, Istanbul: Aras Yayincilik, 2002, 212 pages. Available at info@arasyayincilik.com.

Aras Yayincilik, Istiklal Cad, Istanbul, Turkey, for two copies of the book by William Saroyan *Insanlik Komedisi* (The Human Comedy) and the book by Kevork Pamukciyan, *Istanbul Yazilari* (Istanbul Stories).

HYE SHARZHOOM  
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California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2003 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
<b>General Education</b>				
<b>Social Sciences, Area D3, for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after Division 9-Other Cultures, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before</b>				
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	10:00-10:50A	MWF	B Der Mugerdechian
<b>Division 7-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before</b>				
• Arm 1A Elementary Armenian	4	11:00-11:50A	MTWF	B Der Mugerdechian
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Arts, Area C1 for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after</b>				
• Arm S 20 Arts of Armenia	3	9:30-10:45A	TTh	D Kouymjian
• Arm S 20 Arts of Armenia	3	2:00-3:15P	TTh	D Kouymjian
<b>Smittcamp Honors College Course</b>				
• Arm S 20 Arts of Armenia	3	11:00A-12:15P	TTh	D Kouymjian
<b>Upper Division Courses</b>				
• Arm S 108A Arm History I	3	9:00-9:50A	MWF	B Der Mugerdechian
• Arm S 120T Armenians in Fresno	1	5:00-10:00 P	Fri	B Der Mugerdechian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Armenians in Fresno will meet Friday, September 19 and Saturday, September 20, 2003</i>				
• Arm S 120T Armenian Church	1	5:00-10:00 P	Fri	B Der Mugerdechian
		9:00A-5:00 P	Sat	
<i>Armenian Church will meet Friday, October 10, and Saturday, October 11, 2003</i>				
• Arm S 120T	3	3:30-4:45 P	TTh	Kazan Visiting Professor

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

Mailing updates

Do you receive duplicate mailings of Hye Sharzhoom?

Contact the Armenian Studies Program office at 559-278-2669 to make any address corrections or updates.

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# Student from Armenia Pursues MBA at Craig School of Business

**HAKOP TATARYAN**  
STAFF WRITER

For the past several years, the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno has been establishing close ties with Yerevan State University and the Armenian Agricultural Academy. During this time, outstanding students from Armenia have been able to study at Fresno State. The Armenian Studies Program has generated different scholarships for these outstanding students. Students from Fresno have also had the opportunity to study in Armenia while receiving credit at Fresno State.

The Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno would like to introduce Vahan Papyan. At the age of twenty-one, Vahan recently earned his Bachelor of Arts in Finance from the Armenian Agricultural Academy. Last semester, Vahan was admitted to the renowned Craig School of Business

graduate program at Fresno State where he plans to earn an MBA degree. His impressive GMAT and high TOEFL scores guaranteed that he would be one of the top candidates for the MBA program.

“We are delighted to have Vahan in our program. He not only has exceptional quantitative skills, he also adds yet another dimension to a hallmark of our program—our global perspective” said Mark Keppler, the director of the business graduate program at Fresno State.

Vahan’s enrollment to the MBA program is unprecedented. Unlike his predecessors, who took a variety of classes at Fresno State, Vahan is the first student from Armenia to be enrolled in the graduate program at the Craig School of Business.

Armenian Studies professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian met Vahan on his first trip to America. A few semesters ago, Vahan was a

visiting student taking a variety of classes at Fresno State. Der Mugrdechian was very impressed with Vahan’s capabilities and advocated his admittance to Fresno State.

“I felt that Vahan encompassed abundant amounts of talent, and was an exceptional student as well,” Der Mugrdechian commented. The Armenian Studies Program assisted Vahan in various ways, including a scholarship.

“I thank the Armenian Studies Program profusely, for without their help I would not have had the opportunity to study in the Craig School of Business graduate program,” Vahan stated.

Prolific author Michael J. Arlen would describe Vahan as “prosperous, vigorous, and robust.” Vahan has worked extremely hard to grow to be the person he is now. He has studied and taught in the Armenian Agriculture Center, worked at the HSBC Bank in Ar-

menia, and speaks fluent Russian as well as English to go a long with his native language of Armenia. Now he is working harder then ever at the Craig School graduate program, and plans to earn his MBA degree in the field of finance. Vahan said he plans to graduate in the next couple of years. After graduating he wants to return to Armenia and give something back to his country’s economy. Vahan’s dedication is certainly admirable, for with a MBA degree in Finance he could easily have a lu-

crative career in the United States. However, his mind and heart are set on returning to Armenia after he finishes his studies.

Vahan’s family is currently in Armenia. He misses them dearly and they are always in his heart and in his prayers. His determination is what drives him from day to day. We are all proud of you Vahan.



Photo: Hakop Tataryan

Vahan Papyan is studying for his MBA at Fresno State.

## Dr. Chookaszian on “Art of Armenia”



Photo: Aroush Elxparian

Dr. Levon Chookaszian

**MANDY ESTRADA**  
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Levon Chookaszian is the author of a monograph, more than 200 reviews and articles for several scholarly journals, as well as numerous entries for international encyclopedias and reference texts. Numerous members of the community gathered at St Paul Armenian Church at 7:30 PM, on February 10, to attend a brilliant lecture given by Dr. Chookaszian on “Art in Medieval Armenian and the Balkans.” The lecture was part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring 2003 Lecture Series and was co-sponsored by St. Paul Armenian Church.

CSU Fresno’s Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program, introduced Chookaszian and discussed his contributions to Armenian art research and briefly listed some of his achievements.

This introduction was followed by a brief background given by Dr. Chookaszian about past, present, and future projects he is leading or involved in. Chookaszian has been a SOROS Research Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the

Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Arts in Washington, D.C. and is currently in the process of concluding his monograph on the medieval artist Toros Roslin.

Dr. Chookaszian is presently the Director of the UNESCO Chair of Armenian Art History at Yerevan State University in the Republic of Armenia.

Chookaszian has also been a regular participant in the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) lecture series and has examined a vast range of issues in ancient and medieval Armenian art.

He has spent years researching and writing about numerous topics in Armenian art of the medieval era. Chookaszian’s field of expertise is in manuscripts and manuscript illuminations and he has published about Armenian art works such as manuscripts, portraits, *khatchkars* (stone-crosses), miniatures, and modern Armenian artists.

The lecture was exceptionally interesting. Chookaszian, utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, showed several images from the Adrianople Gospel (1007AD), now in Venice at the Mekhitarist Congregation, discussing when they had been painted, where they had been executed, and the Gospels’ relationship to Armenia. Some examples of the scenes shown included the “Portrait of St. Mark and St. Matthew,” “St. Gregory the Illuminator,” also found in Venice, followed by many other exquisite works. Dr. Chookaszian also brought along with him quite a few manuscript reproductions, painted by hand in Armenia, for sale. At the conclusion of his lecture, Dr. Chookaszian answered questions from the public.

When asked what he expected from the people that attended these

lectures, he stated that, “I would like people to become more aware and educated about all that Armenian art and related art has to offer to the world.” He also commented that these works were very significant to understanding the evolution of Christian art.

All this came to its finale with coffee, tea, pastries, and a lot of discussion. I found Chookaszian to be a very eloquent gentleman who gets to the point and makes his lectures as well as the topic interesting enough to inspire you to go out and do your own research.

## Armenia Elections

STAFF REPORT

Armenia’s Central Election Commission published the final official results of the February 19 presidential election which show President Robert Kocharian failing to win an outright victory.

According to the official figures, Kocharian garnered 49.5 percent of some 1.4 million votes. This is 0.3 percent less than the preliminary figure cited by the CEC on February 20. The threshold for a first-round win is 50 percent plus one vote.

Kocharian’s main challengers, Stepan Demirchian and Artashes Geghamian, remained in second and third places with 28.2 percent and 17.6 percent of the vote respectively. Another opposition candidate, Aram Karapetian, came in a distant fourth with about 3 percent. Veteran opposition politician Vazgen Manukian, who nearly became Armenia’s president in 1996, received less than one percent.

An election runoff between President Kocharian and second place finisher Demirchian will take place on Wednesday, March 5.

## Armenians On the Internet

**ARMEN POSTOYAN**  
STAFF WRITER

### Armenian Sites on the Internet

**Address:**  
<http://www2.primushost.com/~narbey/armen/armen.html>

**Brief Summary:**  
Armenian Sites on the Internet is dedicated to all legitimate Armenian websites available. This site is intended to educate the Armenian people on many different aspects of Armenian culture, history, about the Genocide, Armenian literature, art, and even has sites dedicated to different Armenian owned businesses. This site is linked to almost 200 different sites ranging from sports to various Armenian newspapers around the world.

**Main Categories:**  
Showcase, Culture, Recipes, Religion, Business, Organizations and Institutions, and News

**Contact:** [narbey@shore.net](mailto:narbey@shore.net)

**ArmeniaNow**

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

**Brief Summary:**  
ArmeniaNow.com is an independent newspaper on the Internet based in Armenia. This site gives you up-to-the-minute news on current events in Armenia. If you would like to know more about current events that are taking place in Armenia, this website is the place to be.

**Main Categories:**  
News, Features, Arts, Sports, Outside Eye, Archive, and Staff

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



# ASO Winter Dance is a Success

SEVAG TATEOSIAN  
EDITOR

On Saturday, February 22, the Armenian Students Organization held its first Winter Dinner Dance which took place at the Smittcamp Alumni House. The dance was open only to ASO alumni and current ASO members; also present were Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and Barlow Der Mugrdechian. The atmosphere at the dance was like something out of a beautiful fairy-tale. There was a delicious Italian buffet, catered by the University Food Services and immediately following the meal, the music kicked on and everyone began to dance. All of them joined in a traditional Armenian “Shourch-Bar” (Line Dance) that took up most of the dance floor.

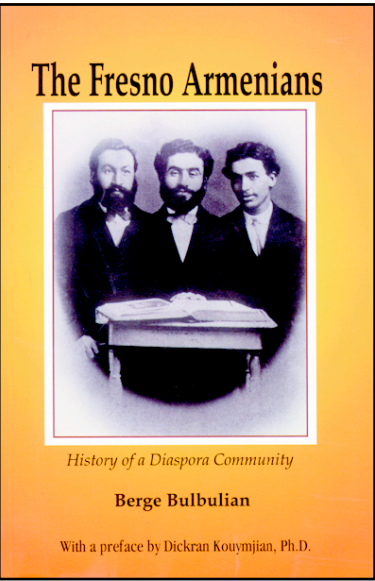
The ASO executive did a wonderful job decorating, as candles and beautiful shining rocks were placed as centerpieces to give each table a cozy look. ASO members and alumni were waiting so impatiently for this event that they made reservations well in advance to guarantee themselves a seat. Overall everyone who attended the dance had a wonderful time. This was apparent as shining smiles were being seen in all corners of the room.



1) Advisor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Treasurer Carina Karkashian, President Sevag Tateosian, Vice President Tatevik Ekizian, Secretary Erica Ananian, Historian Nyrie Karkazian 2) Michael Arakelian, Carina Karakashian, and Mike Hollis 3) Erica Ananian and Glen Eastes 4) Dikran Chekian, Walid Chami, Ani Estephanian, Marine Ekejian, Zhanna Baghdasarov 5) Stephanie Rivas & guest, Zaruhi Oganessian, Aida Varedjian, Rose Oganessian, Mandy Estrada 6) Mike Hollis, Karnig Kazarian, Sevag Tateosian, Michael Arakelian 7) Talin Karkazian, Christina Karakashian, and Karnig Kazarian 8) Erica Ananian, Glen Eastes, Tatevik Ekejian, Hovsep Kocaoghlu, Tamer Anabtawi, Gevork Aristakesyan 9) Alex Bunch and Dr. Dickran Kouymjian.

## The Fresno Armenians

Berge Bulbulian’s *The Fresno Armenians* has been reprinted and is now available for purchase. The new edition has a forward by Professor Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at Fresno State.



The second edition has been updated with added information.

**Order Form**

Please send me \_\_\_ copy(ies) at \$19.00 each of *The Fresno Armenians*.  
(Add \$2.00 for the first copy and \$.50 for each additional copy for postage and handling.)

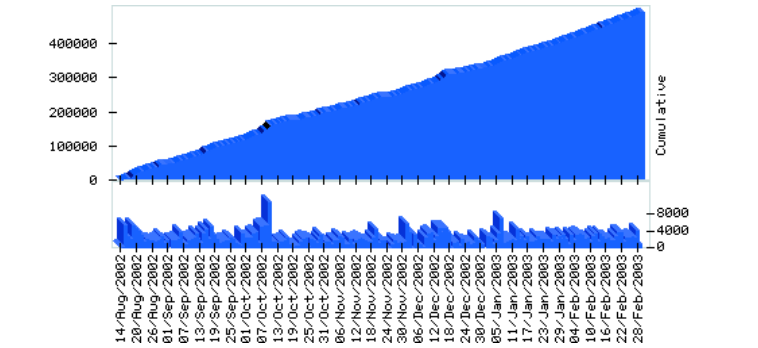
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5245 N. Backer Ave., M/S PB4  
Fresno, CA 93740-8001

Check or money order, made payable to the  
Armenian Studies Program, must accompany orders.

## The Armenian Studies Program Website is a Hit!



Armenian Studies Program Website Statistics  
DIKRAN CHEKIAN

ASP WEB-ADMINISTRATOR - SPECIAL TO HYE SHARZHOOM

## www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies

Total hits:	455,928
Starting day:	August 14, 2002
Ending day:	February 19, 2003
Total days covered:	190
Average hits per day:	2,399

Since its overhaul in August of 2002 the Armenian Studies Program website has generated more than 450,000 hits! The website serves as a research tool for students as well as a center for the Program’s general information. Students also use the website to keep up-to-date with Program scholarships, lectures, and A.S.O. events. In addition it contains course descriptions, faculty bios, faculty publications, and even a section of books for sale. Eight volumes of Hye Sharzhoom, beginning as early as October 1995, are archived on the site.

Dr. Kouymjian’s *Arts of Armenia* (accompanied by 300 color slides), along with a large database of Armenian architectural and miniature art is used as a supplement to class text, and has served as research tools for outside researchers for more than five years. The *Index of Armenian Art: Architecture* contains over 60 Armenian churches and has accompanying datasheets, plans, drawings, and photographs. Some entries have videos. The *Index of Armenian Art: Miniatures* holds more than 300 miniatures from 25 manuscripts, ranging between the 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries—this section is awaiting further growth.

The website has seen a steady increase in visits every month; currently averaging more than 76,000 hits a month and more than 126,000 in the past two months. The Armenian Studies Program website has received recognition by university administrators and even received special acknowledgement by a resolution drafted by Senator Chuck Poochigian stating that “the Program sponsors an important Web site devoted to Armenian art and its various activities...”.

The content of the website is so valued that you can find passages, specifically the *Arts of Armenia*, included within other sites. The Armenian Studies Program is dedicated to providing a website that embraces Armenian culture. And with the website drawing near half-million visits, it is sure to do just that. The construction and upkeep of the site has been funded in part by a grant from the Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation of Fresno. It looks like during the 2002-2003 academic year it will receive 1,000,000 hits.

California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program  
and Armenian Students Organization

cordially invite you to a special presentation by

# NK ARTS

Wednesday, March 5, 2003  
7:30 PM

## Alice Peters Auditorium

University Business Center  
California State University, Fresno

The NK Arts and Music Festival Project (NK ARTS) is designed to help Nagorno Karabagh evolve into a thriving, international cultural center - for Armenians and non-Armenians alike. Much can be done to build international cultural linkages and partnerships which can nurture positive relations, and ultimately, alternative means toward economic self-sufficiency for the emerging republic.

NK ARTS is also conceived as a way to renew/revive Armenian culture, both in the Armenian homeland and in the Diaspora.

Examples of art from Karabagh will be on display and for sale at the talk.



# Tom Bozigian Brings Traditional Armenian Dance to Classroom

MARINE EKEZIAN  
AND ZHANNA  
BAGDASAROV  
STAFF WRITERS

Put your best foot forward, that is your right foot! Tom Bozigian, internationally recognized dance instructor, has the ability to make that saying come alive. On the evening of January 31, 2003 and all day February 1, 2003, people interested in Armenian traditional dance gathered at the South Gymnasium of Fresno State to familiarize themselves with their favorite dance techniques.

More than sixty eager dance students took the weekend course, *Armenian Studies 120T-Armenian Dance*, organized by Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program and taught by Tom Bozigian.

As a young boy around the age of eight, Tom Bozigian belonged to an Armenian folkdance program, which was introduced to him by his cousins. In addition to the encouragement of his cousins, he was also influenced by his grandparents who danced around the house which he observed with curiosity. He continued exploring his interest, which eventually led him to a school in



Tom Bozigian (left in yellow) pictured with students from his weekend Armenian Dance class.

Los Angeles in 1968. He also took part in the Armenian State Choreographic School where he trained with a classical ballet.

Today, Bozigian spends his time teaching eager and curious students at the Marie Manoogian dance studio in Los Angeles. Another activity he takes part in is traveling around the world to display the Armenian legacy and promote the culture.

One of the most memorable places he has been to is Japan. There, he especially took notice of the rapid learning abilities of the students, as well as their enthusiasm and retention of the dances taught. Another motivating experience

occurred in Germany, where the students were not only interested in acquiring the dance skills, but they were also quite concerned with the historical facts of the culture. This coming May, Bozigian will visit Armenia, as he does frequently, in order to learn new dances from small villages.

As part of his travels, Bozigian, a graduate of Fresno State, annually visits Fresno to teach a one-unit, one weekend long Armenian dance class.

He began the class by teaching simple Armenian dances. One of these dances, *Yerek Meg* (Three and One) was especially favored among the students, because it was

considered the easiest to learn. This particular dance was created during the later 1950's by the California Armenian Church Youth Organization members to introduce at a state convention along with *Sayat Nova*, *Tsatkeh* and *Heeng oo Meg*. In addition to teaching dances, Mr. Bozigian also creates dances, one of which is *Siroon Aghcheek* (Sweet Girl), which he introduced for the first time in the 1950's at the ACYO Convention.

So, what exactly is Bozigian's motivation to return to Fresno and teach these dances? Well, his goal is to pass on, as well as preserve, traditional dances of Armenia. Also, he portrays through the dances his pride in the culture and desire to promote the history of the Armenian people. Besides having more students show up this year, there was an increase in enthusiasm, excitement, and the ability to grasp the dances, which was demonstrated through the students practicing during their breaks. Bozigian commented, "There are better dancers this year and they are obviously more serious about learning."

As mentioned before, there were several non-Armenians participating in the class and Bozigian

loves to have them there, "We need to have them [non-Armenians] in here. They'll spread the word and hopefully more people will take interest in the Armenian Studies Program."

Anthony Creek, whose grandfather is Armenian, pointed out, "This class not only helped me learn new dance techniques, but it also made me a better dancer."



Tom Bozigian instructing students on proper hand movements during dance.

Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Learning the dance steps is easier said than done, because it takes a lot of hard work, yet it was extremely satisfying. "This was a great opportunity to meet other Armenian students and have fun dancing," remarked Narine Goukasian.

As for Bozigian's expectations for next year, he hopes people would return and in the meantime use the dances taught in their social lives. "It's great to see Mr. Bozigian carrying on our traditions and keeping our culture alive," stated Dikran Chekian.

## YSU VISIT FROM PAGE 1



L to R: Arman Gabrielyan, Karine Asryan, Craig School of Business Dean Dr. Fred Evans, and Prof. Elizabeth Shields.

students of Barlow Der Mugrdechian's "Introduction to Armenian Studies" class.

During an interview, the two YSU professors spoke about their stay in Fresno, saying that they thoroughly enjoyed their time here, mentioning the friendliness of the faculty and the students alike at Fresno State. They also spoke of the great diversity on the Fresno State campus, as compared to an ethnically homogenous population as at Yerevan State University.

Professors Gabrielyan and Asryan spoke about the differences in teaching styles within the two universities, the greatest one being the "practical application" that students at Fresno State receive, whereas students at YSU are taught in a more theoretical manner. They explained that the learning experience of the students differed between the two universities; at Fresno

State students can spend their full days on campus, but at YSU, most students attend class and then leave the YSU campus, unable to utilize the university's resources and to spend time building relationships with schoolmates.

In the past three years, twelve faculty members from YSU have come to Fresno State via the NISCUPP, and ten faculty members from Fresno State have journeyed to Armenia to attend classes at YSU.

Among the Fresno State faculty who have been involved in the project are Elizabeth Shields (Finance), Sasan Rahmatian (Information Systems and Decision Sciences), Tom Burns (Management), Diane Decker (Management), Don Leet (Economics), Bill Rice (Marketing), Mark Keppler (Graduate Business Program), Tom Wielicki (Information Systems and Decision

Sciences), and Harold Haak (President emeritus of Fresno State).

Barlow Der Mugrdechian explained in an earlier interview that the exchange program is quite beneficial for both universities involved. He said that the YSU faculty members gain experience in viewing new curriculum, are able to observe new teaching methodologies, and can expose themselves to the newest technological innovations in the teaching field, all of which

will positively influence their teaching methods once they return home. Conversely, the professors from Fresno State also gain exposure to different teaching methodologies and teaching pedagogies.

Dr. Berta Gonzalez director of the International Programs office discussed plans for continuing the joint efforts between the two universities.

While in Fresno Asryan and Gabrielyan had the opportunity to visit many of the Armenian landmarks, such as the David of Sasoon statue, the monument for Soghomon Tehlirian, the grave of William Saroyan, and local churches.

This grant is a great opportunity for both Fresno State and Yerevan State University faculty members, and its renewal will be actively pursued later this year by Professor Der Mugrdechian and those working with him on the project.

## 4th Annual Armenian Film Festival



March 14, 2003  
7-10:00 PM

Alice Peters Auditorium  
University Business Center  
Fresno State

### Among the films to be screened:

"Post Soviet Media in Armenia"  
Director-Paul Chaderjian

"For Which it Stands"  
Director-Kevin Shahinian

"Armenia: the Country, the Culture"  
Director-Vatche Arabian

"Jagadakeer"  
Director-Tina Bastajian

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Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian



# Barnes & Noble Hosts Armenian Book Heritage Celebration

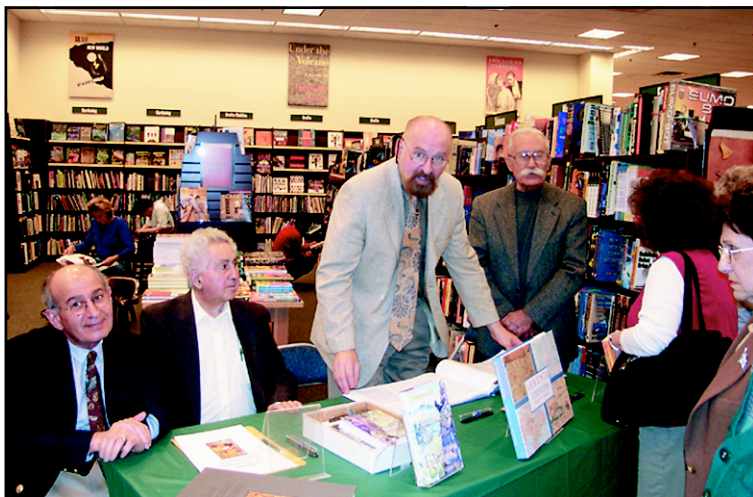
**MITCHELL PETERS**  
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, February 23, 2003, Barnes & Noble Booksellers presented four well-respected Armenian authors to sign and discuss their books on Fresno Armenians, Armenian culture, historical geography, and paleography in an "Armenian Heritage Celebration."

About forty people from the Fresno community came to the Barnes & Noble "Celebration," that offered refreshments (including traditional Armenian pastries), a brief presentation of each book, and an opportunity to meet with each author.

The four authors were Berge Bulbulian, *The Fresno Armenians*; Dr. Arra Avakian, *The Eaglet*; Dr. Robert Hewsen, *Armenia: A Historical Atlas*; and Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, *Album of Armenian Paleography*. Each author gave a brief description of the content of his book, and reflected on the hard work and effort that went into the writing and development of it.

The presentation began with Berge Bulbulian discussing his first book, *The Fresno Armenians*, which focuses on the Armenian community ranging from Bakersfield to Modesto. It touches on the early arrival of the first Armenians in Fresno and the many tribulations they underwent. The book also provides information on the rapid development of the community and the history behind it. In its third printing, *The Fresno Armenians*,



**L to R: Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Dr. Arra Avakian, Dr. Robert Hewsen, and Berge Bulbulian.**

has already sold 2,700 copies.

The second author to present, Dr. Arra Avakian, introduced his historical-romantic novel, *The Eaglet*. The novel takes place in mid-fifth century Armenia, which is by that time a feudal state within the tyrannical monarchy of ancient Persia. The story revolves around the Christian Armenians who were ordered by the Persians to renounce their faith. Having written mostly academically related material in the past, this is Dr. Avakian's first novel.

The third author to speak, Dr. Robert Hewsen, presented his book, *Armenia: A Historical Atlas*, which is an accumulation of 341 pages, 278 color maps, five chronological sections and an extensive 20-page bibliography. There are about 40 full-page maps that show the whole of Armenia at different periods in its history, along with other spe-

cific sections showing ancient, medieval and modern periods within the country. With the extensive research and traveling involved, *Armenia: A Historical Atlas*, would be an excellent addition to a library for those interested in the history and geography of ancient and modern Armenia.

The director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian spoke about his new book, *Album of Armenian Paleography*. Having been released in 2002, the book is an illustrated history of the development of the Armenian script. Recommended for libraries and specialists, the book's purpose is to present to the academic world a series of dated examples of Armenian manuscripts, from the oldest surviving ones which are dated sometime between 852 and 861 AD to more modern

examples. Along with Dr. Kouymjian, the co-authors of this reference work, Dr. Michael Stone and Dr. Henning Lehmann; they spent twelve years producing the book of 545 folio pages and 220 colored plates.

At the close of the event, spectators were encouraged to further meet the authors and purchase their books to be personally signed.

While the crowd mingled, traditional Armenian music was played throughout the store. Each author's contribution to the literary world of Armenian studies is duly noted and greatly appreciated.

For more information, you can call Barnes & Noble Booksellers at (559) 437-0484 or visit them on the web at [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com).



Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

**Fresno Armenians, The Eaglet, Armenia: A Historical Atlas, and Album of Armenian Paleography, available at BN.com**

**KAZAN FROM PAGE 1**

would have become a history professor. Mr. Kazan has three nieces and nephews within the academic field of social science and humanities, all with PhDs and all dedicated to teaching and research. Mrs. Kazan was also a great proponent of scholarship, and this second endowment has made it possible to further encourage both research and publications in Armenian studies here at Fresno State.

The Armenian Studies Pro-

gram is grateful to the Kazans for this latest endowment because its establishment will serve to encourage greater scholarship among students and faculty alike, while remembering one of the Armenian Studies Program's long-time supporters. Henry Kazan has promised Fresno State President Dr. John Welty that he will come to Fresno for the opening of the new Save Mart Center in October of this year to celebrate his 97th birthday.

## Armenian Tree Project Reports on Activities



**L to R: Alice Bulbulian, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Sevag Tateosian, Barlow Der Mugrdchian, Jeff Masarjian, Zaroohi Der Mugrdchian, Berge Bulbulian, and Laurie Rothstein of ATP.**

**HAKOP TATARYAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Trees are a necessity of life, however they are far more important than most people realize. On Tuesday, February 25, 2003, students and community members gathered at the Alice Peters Auditorium of the University Business Center, to listen to a speech by Jeff Masarjian, who is the executive director of the Watertown, MA based Armenia Tree Project.

Mr. Masarjian was appointed

as executive director of ATP in 2001. Since his arrival, ATP has reached new heights in helping Armenia regain its forest heritage. Mr. Masarjian spoke about his organization and a coalition to reinvigorate Armenia's forests. After his speech, the audience had a chance to watch a short film put together by the ATP and following the film they had an opportunity to ask questions to Mr. Masarjian.

The Armenia Tree Project is a self-financed program that was founded in 1993 to advance Armenia's economic and social

development through reforestation. "Our goal is to assist the Armenian people in using trees to improve their standard of living and protect the global environment," stated Mr. Masarjian. Currently ATP employs forty-eight people in Armenia; their jobs vary from giving lectures about tree care to actually planting trees. The ATP recently earned the Arabia Day Project Award for its contributions not only to Armenia's ecological health, but to the world's environment as well.

Trees clean the very air we breathe, provide fruits, nuts, and

are a must in building homes. Only a century ago, twenty-five percent of Armenia was covered with trees. In the last couple of decades that number has plummeted to eight percent. In 1991, the war with Azerbaijan resulted in a blockade of Armenia by the Azeris, who suspended Armenia's fuel and energy sources. The results of the war led many Armenians to initiate massive tree cutting campaigns for fuel and energy. This year's arctic winter did not help much either. Temperatures reached twenty-five degrees below zero, which led to the deaths of thousands of trees. Armenia is gradually becoming more and more deprived of all the things that trees provide. Since its birth, ATP has planted trees to curtail the ongoing erosion of Armenia's trees and its soil.

Planting trees is a wonderful activity, which is not only good for the environment, but also provides a chance for people of all ages in the community to come together and work for a common goal. This won-

derful program has already established two tree nurseries in the cities of Kareen and Khachpar. Each nursery produces approximately forty thousand trees annually. The trees are incubated in the nurseries until they are ready to plant. From the nurseries the trees are disseminated to schools, retirement homes, orphanages, hospitals, parks, and anywhere they can prosper. Nut, fruit, and oak trees are just a few of many species of trees planted in Armenia by the ATP.

The ATP, has played a vital role in the betterment of Armenia's flora and fauna. Furthermore it has built community involvement and also has provided much needed employment for Armenians in Armenia. The Armenian Tree Project is a self-financed program of the Armenian Assembly of America, and if you would like to contribute to its aspirations, contact it at: Armenian Tree Project 65 Main Street, Watertown MA 02472, or visit their website at [www.armeniatree.org](http://www.armeniatree.org).

**20th Annual Sonoma State University  
Holocaust Lectures (2003)**

**Witnessing, Resisting, and Preventing Genocide**

**Tuesday, March 11  
"When Does Genocide End? The Armenian Case"**

**by  
Dr. Dickran Kouymjian  
Armenian Studies Program**



# ASP Annual Fund

(additions of Feb. 17, 2003, see first list in vol. 24, no. 2)

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# Course Explores Armenian Architecture



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

L to R: Tatevik Ekizian, Arpik Paraghamian, Tim Kuckenbaker, Marjorie Visser, Christina Ajamian, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Olivia Martinez, Gabriel Halls, Nely Llanos, Mandy Estrada.

**ARPIK PARAGHAMIAN**  
STAFF WRITER

A group of nine students have spent three weekends, Feb. 7, 8; 14, 15; and 21, 22, looking at slides of ancient structures in a far away place as they studied something little is known about, Armenian Architecture. The class is part of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State and is being taught by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, who developed the course at the American University of Beirut in the early 1970s.

Dr. Kouymjian started teaching Armenian architecture when there were no other courses being taught on the subject in any American or European university on a regular basis. Today, the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State is among one of two universities in the country to offer *regular* classes devoted to Armenian art. “Medieval architecture and miniature painting have been among the corner-stones of the Armenian

Studies Program and its minor,” Professor Kouymjian said.

This particular Armenian Architecture class looks into the construction of Church buildings in the fourth century and after, which was a major event in the history of the Armenians. Dr. Kouymjian hopes his students will “take away the notion that in Armenia there was an extraordinary activity of church architecture, innovative in all its aspects, in the early Christian centuries and again in the middle-ages,” he said.

The class at Fresno State uses Professor Kouymjian’s book entitled, *Arts of Armenia* as the backdrop to the colorful slides that explore churches such as Holy Etchmiadzin, Aghtamar, and St. Hripsime. Even students who have not been to Armenia to see these historical sites can understand something about what the structure looks like from the inside and out.

Gabriel Halls, 22, is a history major who is taking the course because of his appreciation for an-

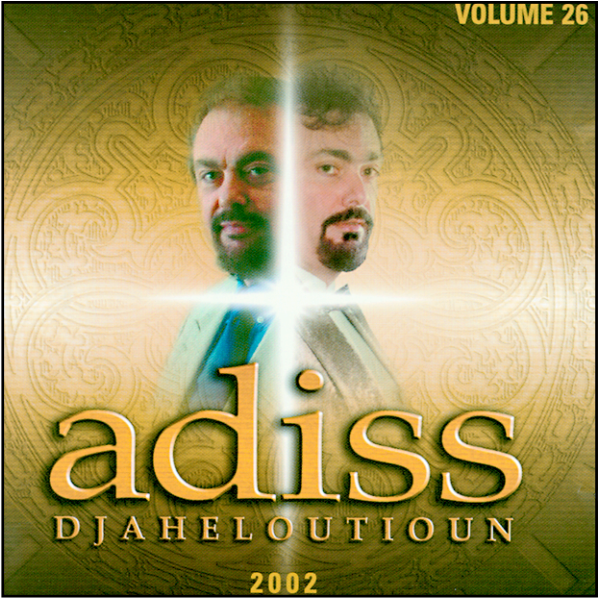
cient history. He said the slides make the class come alive.

Dr. Kouymjian’s book, the *Arts of Armenia*, Lisbon, 1992, can also be found on the Armenian Studies Program website ([www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies](http://www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies)) along with images of Armenian churches (and other arts), some in fair condition, others in ruins.

Ground plans for individual churches are also something the class studies. Dr. Kouymjian hopes his students will learn to read the different types of ground plans and be able to tell that buildings have different forms for different reasons.

Dr. Kouymjian, who says the course changes each time he teaches it, is having his students update the information that is currently available on the ASP website as a class project. Each student has chosen a specific style of an Armenian church to study more closely.

# CD REVIEW



**ARMEN POSTOYAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Adiss Harmandian’s *Djahelootioun* (Youth) album has been one of the latest to hit the Armenian music market. For those of you who don’t know or have

never heard the music of Adiss Harmandian, you are missing out tremendously, because he has one of the strongest and nicest voices in all of the Armenian music scene. Adiss has been singing since the 1970s and has come out with many albums, such as *Kaghdni Ser* (Secret Love) and *Taline Anoushig* (Sweet Taline). His music shows to him and to his followers that his genre of music is still alive and will never die even after he is long gone. You also see this with his latest works.

The album *Djahelootioun* (2002), won numerous awards during the Armenian Music Awards, including the “Best Album” Award. In my opinion it has lived up to all the expectations people had when he released this album. Among my favorite songs are *Los Angeles-Paris* which has a French-style beat that many of the Armenians will appreciate and *Srdis Panalin* (The Key to My Heart) another one of his hit songs, and once you hear this song, you will want to hear it over and over again. At the same time he has many great love songs such as *Siro Gamourche* (The Bridge of Love), *Miasin Amen Degh* (Together Everywhere) that will just put you in the mood.

This album to me is one of his greatest of all time and at the same time it shows to the older generation that Adiss is still one of those great voices that they heard in the 1970s growing up to many of his

# 17th Annual Banquet Donors

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BANQUET FROM PAGE 1



State Senator Chuck Poochigian making his presentation.

twenty-five years ago. The photo was taken by Prof. Kouymjian in 1982 when he returned half of William Saroyan’s ashes to Armenia.

Ambassador Kirakossian began his keynote address by explaining how he became interested in foreign affairs and was offered a position as an ambassador by the first president of Armenia, Levon Ter Petrossian. In addition, his father being a diplomat contributed to the ambassador’s interest in political affairs. Dr. Kirakossian also held a position as the first deputy minister to Greece in 1994.

When asked about the relationship between the United States and Armenia and the general outlook of Americans towards Armenians, he responded by saying that the United States has a responsibility to support independent republics such as Armenia. “Armenia is important to the United States as the homeland of the Armenian community in Fresno,” pointed out the ambassador. In addition to holding a position as an ambassador, Dr. Kirakossian is also an author and a historian, which are two accomplishments he takes great pride in.

President Dr. John Welty gave a short welcome saying that the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program was “the best Armenian Studies Program in the United States.”

One of the main purposes of the evening was to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian

Studies Program. The Program began in 1977 with the arrival of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian from Paris; he had been a professor of history and Armenian studies at the American University of Beirut until the Lebanese civil war broke out in 1975. Upon his arrival during the spring semester of the 1976-77 academic year, no Armenian courses were

being offered. After working as a professor within the Department of History,

the Ethnic Studies Program, and later the Department of Foreign Languages, he eventually established an independent Armenian Studies Program in the College of Arts and Humanities and launched a minor in Armenian Studies. Soon, the Armenian Students Organization was reactivated and the newspaper Hye Sharzhoom was founded. The program has been going strong since

then with the support and the contributions of many people.

There was a rousing series of guitar selections by Benjamin Hakopyan, a virtuoso from Yerevan, now settled in Fresno.

The banquet concluded with another significant reason for the night, which was to recognize over 60 hard working Armenian Studies Program students, who have received scholarships for showing interest in the classes having to do with different aspects of Armenia. The scholarships and grants range from \$500 to \$1500 and more than \$40,000 was awarded for the 2002-2003 academic year.

Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian announced the names of the students present and provided brief background information about the goals and achievement of these students. The recipients were acknowledged with a round of applause and afterwards photographs were taken.

The banquet was definitely a successful event. People were extremely satisfied with all the features of the evening. “This was a very nice event, the ambassador appeared happy to be where his father has been” and “It was an inspirational evening,” were among the comments Dr. Kouymjian received just after the event.

Resolution (excerpts)

By the Honorable S. Poochigian,  
14<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District;  
Relative to Commending the

California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program

WHEREAS, The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on February 9, 2003, and it is appropriate upon this occasion to draw the special attention of the public to the program for the significant opportunities it has provided to the students and faculty throughout the years; and

... WHEREAS, The current Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno was established in 1977 when Dr. Dickran Kouymjian was invited from Paris to become Professor of Armenian Studies and Coordinator of the Program pioneered by Dr. Louise Nalbandian and Dr. Arra Avakian; and

... WHEREAS, The program has gained national and international recognition as the largest such undergraduate program anywhere, and for the past 24 years it has sponsored and published the only regularly published University Armenian student newspaper Hye Sharzhoom;

... RESOLVED BY SENATOR CHARLES S. POOCHIGIAN, That he draws the special recognition of the public to the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program on the celebration of its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, points with immense pride to the valuable educational opportunities and inspiration it provides to students and faculty, and extends sincere best wishes for the program’s continued success in the future.

Member Resolution No. 313 Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2003

Thursday, April 24, 2003

88th Annual Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide  
12:00 noon

Free Speech Area Fresno State

Sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization • Fresno State



Dr. Kouymjian presenting a photograph of Dr. John Kirakossian to Ambassador Arman Kirakossian.

Photos: Randy Vaughn-Dotta

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