

HYE SHARZHOOM ***Armenian Action*** ***ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՈՄ***

25th Year

May 2004

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Supplement to The Collegian

Der Mugrdechian Keynote Speaker in English at Bay Area Genocide Commemoration



Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian was the keynote speaker in English, on Saturday, April 24, 2004, on the occasion of the 89th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The event was held at the Saroyan Hall of the Krouzian-Zakarian Armenian School in San Francisco and sponsored by the Bay Area Armenian community. Following is an excerpt from his speech.

Reverend clergy, members of the organizing committee of the Bay Area genocide commemoration, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Eighty-nine years ago, the Armenian people were victims of the first genocide of the twentieth century. The details of that catastrophe are only too painfully well known to all Armenians. The Armenian people were exiled from the land which they had inhabited for more than three thousand years. We here in California, as in diaspora communities throughout the world, are

the physical reminders of the genocide and its effect on the Armenian people. As Armenians, we can with certainty say, that were it not for the genocide, that we would be living today in Armenia—whether in Van, or in Kharpert, in Sepastia or Erzeroum, in Bitlis or Dickranakert, or in Cilicia, in Yerevan, or Gyumri, or Karabagh, or in the smallest village of our historic Armenia.

This is the legacy that we have inherited and have lived with, for eighty-nine years and that legacy is both a responsibility and an opportunity.

One feels responsibility because the Genocide as a political issue still remains unresolved. Efforts to convince nations of the world to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide have consumed our recent efforts, with many notable success in the past few years. And just in the past week, the Canadian Par-

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Hye Sharzhoom at 25

CHRIS TOZLIAN
STAFF WRITER

One of the twentieth century's greatest post-modern slogans simply states, "The only constant is change." Irrespective of the truth (or the lack thereof) of this statement, the simple thought of an ever-changing society is a source of uncertainty for many, myself included. In the March 2004 edition of *Hye Sharzhoom*, I wrote concerning the stability offered to me by this student organization-led newspaper. In fact, I had the opportunity to interview two former editors, John Jabagchourian and Matthew Maroot.

Recently, I interviewed two more former editors, Bill Erysian and Arakel Arisian. Erysian was one of the founding editors of *Hye Sharzhoom*, beginning in 1979, and worked with the newspaper for three years. Arisian began writing for the newspaper in the fall of 1997, later becoming editor. He continued working with *Hye Sharzhoom* through the fall of 1999.

The interviews began with a question asking which section of the newspaper was their favorite. Erysian said, "Without a doubt, the opinion pieces in *Hye Sharzhoom* have always been my favorite part

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April 24th Commemoration Takes Place on Campus to Honor the 1915 Armenian Genocide

HAKOP TATARYAN
STAFF WRITER

It has been 89 years since the Armenian Genocide took place, and to this day Armenians all over the world gather on April 24 to commemorate those who innocently lost their lives. The Armenian Students Organization (ASO) and Armenian Studies Program organized an event in honor of the genocide on Friday, April 23. Students and community members gathered at the Free Speech Area at Fresno State and took part in the activity. Attendees wore red arm-bands, which symbolized the blood shed by 1.5 million Armenians during the 1915 Genocide.

The event opened with ASO president Dickran Chekian introducing keynote speaker Californian State Senator Chuck Poochigian. In 2000, Senator Poochigian authored Senate Bill 1915 which enabled victims and heirs of victims of the Armenian Genocide to access the California court system to compel insurance companies to pay insurance claims owed to victims of the Genocide. That bill re-

ceived the unanimous approval of the Legislature and provided the opportunity to pursue contractual claims pertaining to the recent settlement.

Senator Poochigian spoke about the genocide and its importance to Armenians around the world and in the United States. As he spoke his voice cracked several times, recalling all of the innocent people that died in the genocide.

"It was a year's long experience for a people who were victims of



State Senator Chuck Poochigian

complete, vile, and despicable acts of atrocity. One and a half million

SEE [APRIL 24](#) PAGE 8

Shoghaken Armenian Folk Ensemble Concert is a Hit



The Shoghaken Armenian Folk Ensemble

ZHANNA BAGDASAROV
STAFF WRITER

On Monday evening, April 12, more than 450 members of the Fresno Armenian community gathered at the Satellite Student Union, in the heart of the Fresno State campus, to experience the extraordinary sounds of Armenian folk music performed by the Shoghaken

Armenian Folk Ensemble of Armenia. Each one of the eight-member ensemble contributed something completely different and unique to the group by utilizing their incredible talents on traditional Armenian instruments such as the *kanon*, *kamancha*, *duduk*, *dhol* and *shvi*.

The program began at 7:30 PM
SEE [SHOGHAKEN](#) PAGE 7

Dr. Hervé Georgelin Appointed as Kazan Visiting Professor

STAFF REPORT

Dr. Hervé Georgelin, of Paris, France, has been appointed as the 5th Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies for the Fall 2004 semester.

Dr. Georgelin will be teaching a three unit course, Armenian Studies 120T—"Armenians' Odyssey: Out of Empires Towards Diaspora," on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:30-4:45 PM.

As part of his visiting professorship, Dr. Georgelin will give three public lectures in the fall, under the general topic of "Western Armenian Journalists in the Political Arena: Watchful People in Critical Times."

He received his PhD from the Department of History and Civilizations, EEHS, Paris. His dissertation is on the plural urban society of Smyrna/Izmir at the end of the Ottoman Empire, until its destruction in September 1922.

For more information on how to register for the course contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.

Armenian Studies Program Book/Video/CD/Archival Gifts

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 either offered personally or to the Program.

Lucille Apcar, Mariposa, for the copy of the book *From the Book of One Thousand Tales, Stories of Armenia and its People, 1892-1922*, written by Diana Agabeg Apcar.

Glatzor, *Yearbook of the Armenian Seminary of the Catholicosate of Cilicia*, vol. XI (2003), 256 pages. Gift of **His Holiness Aram I**, Antelias, Lebanon.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Avedian, Fresno for the books, periodicals, Bibles and journals from the estate of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arnie Avedian.

Vahan Baibourtian, New Delhi, India, *International Trade and the Armenian Merchants in the Seventeenth Century*, New Delhi: Sterling Publishers, 2004, ix, 261 pages, with color plates, maps and an index. An important study on Armenian merchants and their activities in western Europe, the Near East, Iran and India. The author holds the chair of International Relations at Yerevan State University and is head of the Iranian Department of the Armenian Academy of Sciences. Gift of Armen Baybourtian, Armenia's Ambassador to India and former Armenian Counsel General in Los Angeles.

Arman J. Kirakossian, *British Diplomacy and the Armenian Question, from the 1830s to 1914*, Princeton & London: Gomidas Institute, 2003, 365 pages, index. A major study based on British and other archival documents, first published in Armenian in 1999. Dr. Kirakossian is currently Armenia's ambassador to Washington. Gift of the author.

Carl Mahakian, Rancho Mirage, for the book *Look at Us Let's See Here we Are...* by William Saroyan.

Virginia Meltickian, Fresno, for the additional pages for the *Memory Album of the Armenians in China from the beginning of the last century to the 1950's* she has established for us and the copy of the book *Kavkaz, A Biography of Yervand Markarian*.

Mikaël Nicheanian and Vivien Prigent, Paris, France, "Les Stratèges de Sicile. De la naissance du theme au règne de Léon V," *Revue des Études Byzantines*, vol. 61 (2003), pp. 97-141. A minute survey of the Byzantine governors of Sicily in the eighth and the first decades of the ninth century based in part on official seals used on official documents. Gift of **Mikaël Nicheanian**.

Prof. Kenji Noguchi, Kurume, Japan, for the copies of the books by William Saroyan, *My Name is Aram* and *The Human Comedy* both translated into Japanese. The books will be kept in the Special Collections department of the Madden Library.

Armenian Studies Chairs, Programs, and Related Graduate Studies, 1969-2003, compiled by **Dennis R. Papazian and Gerald Ottenbreit, Jr.**, UM-Dearborn Armenian Studies Series No. 1, Dearborn, MI: Armenian Research Center, 2003, 1v, 80 pages with an index of proper names. A very handy guide to Armenian Studies in the diaspora including elaborate listings of M.A. and PhD theses completed at each institution. Gift of the authors.

Alexandre Del Valle, *La Turquie dans l'Europe. Un cheval de Troie islamiste? (Turkey in Europe. An Islamist Trojan Horse?)*, preface by Jean-Pierre Péroncel-Hugoz, Paris: Editions des Syrtes, 2004, 460 pages. An extremely well documented study of why Turkey is not qualified to be invited to enter Europe, with insistence among other things that Turkey must recognized the genocide Armenian as a precondition to enter the EU. Available through amazon.com or through the web site www.alexandredelvalle.com. Gift of **J.-P. Péroncel-Hugoz**.

Dr. Ara Sanjian, Beirut, *Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies*, Fall 2003, for several books and pamphlets.

Robert W. Thomson, "Constantine and Trdat in Armenian Tradition," *Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hung.*, 50/1-3 (1997), pp. 277-289. Gift of the author.

Dr. Bert Vaux, University of Wisconsin, for the journal, *Annual of Armenian Linguistics Volumes 22-2*.

Eva de Vries-Van der Velden, Amsterdam, Holland, *Théodore Métochite, Une reevaluation*, Amsterdam: J. C. Gieben, 1987, ix, 276 pages. An extremely interesting, iconoclastic and detailed figures of one of most famous figures of Byzantine Constantinople in the fourteenth century. Gift of the author.

Eva de Vries-Van der Velden, Amsterdam, Holland, *L'Elite Byzantine devant l'avance turque à l'époque de la guerre civile de 1341 à 1354*, Amsterdam: J. C. Gieben, 1989, 296 pages. A fascinating evaluation of the mid-fourteenth century agitation in the Byzantine Empire structure around the lives of the major personalities of the time, with a very valuable historical reinterpretation of Byzantine-Turkish relations up to 1341. Gift of the author.

California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2004 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
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				
• ArmS 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	10:00-10:50A	MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian (#71548)
• Arm 1A Elementary Armenian	4	11:00-11:50A	MTWF	B. Der Mugrdechian (#71544)
Arts & Humanities, Arts, Area C1 for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia	3	9:30-10:45 A	TTh	B. Der Mugrdechian (#71549)
Upper Division Courses				
• ArmS 108A Arm History I	3	9:00-9:50A	MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian (#71550)
• ArmS 120T-Armenians' Odyssey	3	3:30-4:45 P	TTh	H. Georgelin (#83419)

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

Dr. Arra Avakian Donates Slide Collection to Fresno State

STAFF REPORT

Professor Arra Avakian of Fresno, retired professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State, has donated his entire library of color slides to the Armenian Studies Program. The collection constitutes more than 12,000 slides taken over forty years of travel by Dr. Avakian.

The slides cover a wide number of places visited by Dr. Avakian, especially slides of important monuments and sites, such as Etchmiadzin, Mt. Ararat, Khor Virap, and Sardarabad, in the Republic of Armenia.

Dr. Avakian has also visited historic Armenia several times, and his slides of Van, Arapgir, Adana, and many other locations in historic Armenia, are of great historic value and interest.



Monastery of Khor Virap with Mt. Ararat in the background. Photo by Dr. Arra Avakian.

HYE SHARZHOOM ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

Editor

Sevag Tateosian

Layout

Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Photographer

Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Advisor

Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Copy Editor

Hakop Tataryan

Chris Tozlian

Staff Writers

Jack Arikian

Zhanna Bagdasarov

Alex Bunch

Marine Ekezyan

Mitchell Peters

Hakop Tataryan

Chris Tozlian

Read Hye Sharzhoom!

Hye Sharzhoom is also available on the Armenian Studies Program website

www.armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/hye_sharzhoom/index.htm

Armenian Studies Program Faculty and Staff:

Dickran Kouymjian, *Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, Coordinator*

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, *Lecturer, ASO Advisor, Hye Sharzhoom Advisor*

Frances C. Ziegler, *Program Administrative Assnt.*

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

Artist Dzerigian Looks for Success in the World of Painting

MITCHELL PETERS
STAFF WRITER

When he speaks, you listen, when he paints, you respond, and when he smiles, you have no choice but to smile back. This is the mystery behind Ronald Dzerigian and his art.

In the heart of Fresno’s Tower District sits a small coffee shop where Dzerigian relaxes drinking hot mint tea. He’s trying to recover from a sore-throat and exhausting car drives back and forth from Los Angeles. He’s dressed in a red hat with a Smokey the Bear logo, a brown corduroy jacket and a blue T-shirt that says, “Brooklyn needs more penguins.”

He’s tired, but his eyes still show vibrancy and childlike innocence.

As one of Fresno’s most well-known and respected painters, Dzerigian reminisces on the past week of preparing for his first formal gallery show in a big city.

“I’m sort of in limbo right now,” Dzerigian said.

In the last month he has painted morning and night in a downtown Fresno studio, sang with former Fresno band American Sloth, and charmed the many friends who worship the ground he walks on.

He’s excited, fatigued and anxious to get back to New York (his place of residence) so he can begin painting again.

It’s only a few days after the opening reception for his latest art exhibit, which features eight large paintings with the themes of backwards-written fortune cookie mes-



Ronald Dzerigian

sages and organic shapes taken from his own subconscious and random children’s books.

“I want you to feel as if you’re standing behind it, or inside of it in a way,” Dzerigian said. “I want people to feel like they’re tiny inside of this big thing. Like a box of windows.”

In his fascination with fortune cookies, Dzerigian decided to combine his love of Chinese food with his artistic expression.

“Ever since I was a little kid I’d save my fortune cookie messages,” he said.

Having almost 200 messages saved in storage and carrying more than 15 in his wallet, Dzerigian decided which messages he would use by remembering the situations in which he obtained the messages.

“It’s an age-old idea I’ve had,” he said.

Like his words, Dzerigian’s art

is very profound but with a simple message. His latest work, however, streams off from his normal creations. In the past Dzerigian’s work focused more on recycled materials, pieces of wood, and objects people have thrown away.

“The paintings in this series are more like tapestries, whereas my paintings in the past were more like pieces of wall because they’re on wood,” Dzerigian said.

In the artist’s statement found on his website, Dzerigian says, “My approach is an intuitive one. The content of each painting or installation develops during the time that I am working and often references my childhood, our inherent sexuality, and/or everyday instances.”

The 27 year-old Brooklyn-based artist left Fresno to pursue his dream of painting full-time almost a year ago. In that time, he has hung out with rock stars, worked several odd

jobs and drank many cups of coffee.

Dzerigian graduated from Fresno State in 2002 with a B.A. in art, with plans to someday teach in the field of art. Later, he realized painting was the one thing that made him happy. He has had gallery exhibitions in New York, at Fresno State and the Fresno Art Museum, where he also formerly worked.

He says that being half Armenian and living in an Armenian community like Fresno, has played a large role in the development of his interests. While attending Fresno State, Dzerigian participated in Armenian Studies courses while writing poetry and painting.

He has received much of his inspiration and drive by working in the Fresno Armenian community. Not only has it provided him with opportunities to display his art, but also his music and poetry.

“Armenians are very driven people,” Dzerigian said. “I learned that from my family and working with the Armenian poets.”

With a simplistic approach toward writing poetry, his work has been published in the first Armenian-American poetry anthology of the new millennium, *Armenian Town*, which was published by The William Saroyan Society and features current and former Fresno-based poets.

Along with that, Dzerigian has participated in art shows throughout the Fresno community. In 2002, he exhibited paintings in “Four Generations: Armenian-American Artists in Fresno,” at the Fresno Art

Museum, along with exhibits in the Fresno Metropolitan Museum, as well as several student art exhibitions at Fresno State.

As a man of many artistic facets, Dzerigian has also played bass guitar in several rock bands around Fresno including The Beauties, The Sleepover Disaster and The Panty Lions. Although music is a strong passion of his, Dzerigian decided to focus his artistic vision in painting.

“Painting combines music and poetry into one visual,” Dzerigian said. “It combines all my enjoyment and pleasure into imagery.”

Dzerigian’s art is also influenced by the music he listens while painting. For his latest series, he listened to the music of his friends in the band Earlimart, Granddaddy and the late Elliot Smith. He is able to see various shapes within music, which are then incorporated into his painted images.

While taking a rest and staying with friends for the next month in Los Angeles, Dzerigian is anxious to start working again when he arrives back to New York. Although he hasn’t started thinking about his next project, his brain is always conjuring up ideas.

His latest series was displayed at the Artcore Brewery Annex in Los Angeles through April 29th. To find out more about Dzerigian’s work, visit his website at www.ronaldszerigian.com.

Support Hye Sharzhoom!

Armenians on the Internet

Staff

Web Address: www.zoryan.org

Contact: zoryan@idirect.ca

Categories: Genocide and Human Rights University Program, About Us, What’s New, Publications, Books for Sale, Genocide, Turkish-Armenian Dialogue, Diaspora, Armenia, How You Can Help

Brief Summary: The Zoryan Institute is an international center devoted to the research and documentation of contemporary issues related to the history, politics, society, and culture of Armenia and Armenians around the world. Research is conducted both to document past and current events, and to analyze their impact on individuals and institutions in Armenia and the Diaspora. The Institute strives to develop a framework within which people can understand and participate in conceptualizing the critical and fundamental issues dealing with current and future challenges within a global context.

Web Address: www.birtherightarmenia.org

Contact: info@birtherightarmenia.org

Categories: Birthright Armenia Applications, Program Offerings in Armenia, Acknowledgments

Brief Summary: The mission of Birthright Armenia is “To strengthen the tie between homeland and Diaspora by affording them an opportunity to be a part of Armenia’s daily life and to contribute to Armenia’s development through work, study, and volunteer experience, while developing life-long personal ties and a renewed sense of Armenian identity.” This web site provides information for individuals to participate in a variety of programs in Armenia.

The William Saroyan Society

William Saroyan and His World

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

6:30 PM

Admission is Free

Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church

3673 N 1st Street • Fresno

The William Saroyan Society will host guest speakers discussing *William Saroyan and His World*. The presentations will cover reminiscences, historical facts and perspectives on Saroyan’s writing and life.

Ben Amirkhanian (Chairman Emeritus of the William Saroyan Society)

The William Saroyan Society’s History



Berge Bulbulian (Fresno author/historian)

Fresno in the Time of Saroyan

Barlow Der Mugrdechian

(Armenian Studies Program)

Saroyan the Writer

Ed Hagopian (Writer and friend of Saroyan)

Reminiscences and Recollections

William Seacrest, Jr. (Fresno County California Collection Librarian and Book Collector)

Collecting Saroyan

The discussion is funded in part by the Community Enrichment Program of the Fresno Arts Council and is supported by the Fresno County Free Library.

Congratulations Graduating 2004 Armenian Studies Minors!



ZHANNA BAGDASAROV AND MARINE EKEZYAN
STAFF WRITERS

SEVAG TATEOSIAN
MAJOR: CRIMINOLOGY-LAW ENFORCEMENT
MINOR: ARMENIAN STUDIES



How has getting an Armenian Studies minor and taking Armenian Studies courses influenced you as an individual?
The Armenian Studies Program, through its Armenian courses, has positively influenced me tremendously. The classes I took made me realize that Armenia and Armenians have always been the underdogs, yet they have survived and prevailed. Despite being conquered by bigger and stronger empires and kingdoms, Armenians always seemed to come through and become independent, somehow and somehow, they are fighters. Today, that is my take on life. No matter what life throws my way, I am still going to smile and continue my efforts to succeed. Had I not taken Armenian courses, and learned about the Arab invasions, the Persian wars and the Armenian Genocide at the hands of the Turks, I would not think about life this way.

How was your college experience affected through your involvement with the Armenian Studies program?
Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian really played a huge part in bringing out a side of me that I did not think I had. Professor Der Mugrdechian and Dr. Kouymjian had faith in me and always wanted me to push myself and to do the best I can. After listening to their remarks, I did push myself and I found that not only did my G.P.A. skyrocket, but, I became involved in various community activities around the City of Fresno. I still remember my first experience with the Armenian Studies Program, when Dr. Kouymjian said to me after a test, “Mr. Tateosian, you are very intelligent and you can get far in life if you simply apply yourself and work hard at what you do.” Well, Dr. Kouymjian, I am applying myself now and I know that nothing is out of reach; I just have to want it and work hard at getting it.

What is the most memorable experience of your college career?
All of it! I loved and will remember every minute of it. Whether it was meeting new people or studying late at night I will not forget any of it. I think college is a place that everyone who can, should attend. It is an unbelievable experience. You see it all. People and their actions will always shock you, as you never know how they will act next.



TATEVIK EKEZIAN
MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY
MINOR: ARMENIAN STUDIES

How has getting an Armenian Studies minor and taking Armenian Studies courses influenced you as an individual?
I have gained a significant amount of knowledge about Armenian history, art, dance and politics. I feel that my overall knowledge has been enhanced and that I have also been greatly influenced through this learning process.

How was your college experience affected through your involvement with the Armenian Studies program?

Through the Armenian Studies Program, I became involved with ASO not only as a member but as the Vice President. I also became involved with the HyeOozh Radio Show based out of Fresno State. It has provided new experiences and has helped me grow as an individual.

How has taking Armenian Studies classes helped your understanding of the Armenian culture?
Learning more about the history and art of the culture and increased involvement with the Armenian community has helped provide me with a deeper understanding of my culture and its people.

What is the most memorable experience of your college career?
Every moment spent with my friends has been a memorable one. One that seems to stand out is Winter Formal 2003, put together by the Armenian Students Organization. All the meetings we’ve had at Dominion Pizza Parlor and the fun time we had washing cars to raise money for our organization.



CHRISTOPHER TOZLIAN
MAJORS: HISTORY AND
BUSINESS ACCOUNTING OPTION
MINORS: ARMENIAN STUDIES AND
CLASSICAL STUDIES

How has getting an Armenian Studies minor and taking Armenian Studies courses influenced you as an individual?
The numerous Armenian Studies classes that I have taken have structured my understanding of what it means to be Armenian. Though I grew up an Armenian in Fresno, there were various aspects of Armenian culture that I have only been exposed to because of the Armenian Studies classes that I have taken (e.g. Armenian arts, ancient Armenian history, etc.)

How was your college experience affected through your involvement with the Armenian Studies program?
The ASP provided a “constant” of sorts throughout my college career. Taking an Armenian Studies class each semester of my college career really reminded me of my heritage on a daily basis. Furthermore, it provided an outlet for making new friends on a large college campus.

How has taking Armenian Studies classes helped your understanding of the Armenian culture?
These classes have broadened my overall understanding of the Armenian culture. My knowledge base regarding Armenian Studies has increased twenty-fold since I began my undergraduate work at Fresno State, and it has also given me a greater appreciation for my heritage.

What is the most memorable experience of your college career?
There are too many memorable experiences to recount; but may I say that there’s nothing like getting up bright and early on a Saturday morning and spending nine hours of your Saturday in a weekend course with Dr. Dickran Kouymjian.

DIKRAN CHEKIAN
MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION-
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
MINOR: ARMENIAN STUDIES



How has getting an Armenian Studies minor and taking Armenian Studies courses influenced you as an individual?
Taking courses in Armenian Studies has drawn me closer to my heritage. I have learned and have grown over these past years; it has allowed me to embrace our culture and share it with others.

How was your college experience affected through your involvement with the Armenian Studies program?
At times it definitely made it more demanding! Being the webmaster, and also photographing and laying out *Hye Sharzhoom*, required more attention and involvement - none of which, at any point, have I regretted. The experiences I have had are life-long.

How has taking Armenian Studies classes helped your understanding of the Armenian culture?
Understanding the Armenian culture is far beyond taking history and language courses. The great thing about Armenian Studies courses and the ASP is that it takes you beyond these and exposes students to the richness of our culture, by introducing dance and music, folk tale and art. The courses helped me recognize how and why we are different; how and why Armenians are who we are!

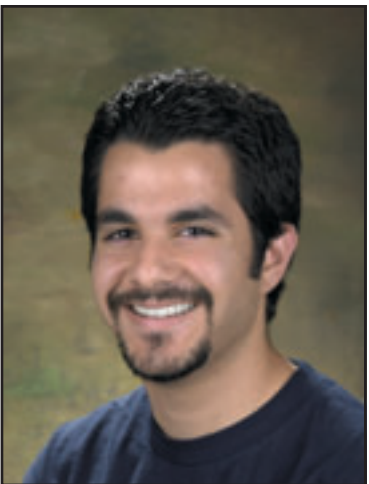
What is the most memorable experience of your college career?
Becoming ASO President gave me the opportunity to work with the students and put together events that left lasting impressions on people. I remember when I was 12 years old, I attended ASO’s 80th April 24th Genocide Commemoration and I remember the feeling I had seeing the community and the students rallying together. And today, I was a part of that; I hope I have left the same positive impressions on others that were left on me.

Graduates



2004

MITCHELL PETERS
MAJOR: MASS COMMUNICATION AND JOURNALISM



How was your college experience affected through your involvement with the Armenian Studies Program?
Throughout my five years at Fresno State, I was only able to take one Armenian Studies course. Through that class, however, I learned very much about my Armenian heritage. The Armenian Studies Program has also enabled me to meet many new people within the Armenian community and at Fresno State. For this I am very grateful. The *Hye Sharzhoom* has also been an excellent tool in displaying my writing. It was the first publication that published my writing, and provided me with inspiration to pursue an academic career in journalism. We are very lucky to have such an excellent Armenian Studies program here at Fresno State.

What is the most memorable experience of your college career?
I’ve had a few memorable experiences here at Fresno State; it’s difficult to name just one. If I had to pick only one, however, it was the moment I realized that going to college wasn’t a complete waste of my time.

I always knew that I had to go to college for one reason or another, but it wasn't until this last year that I found my place and interests within journalism and writing. So yes, that's my most memorable experience. Not very funny or exciting, but meaningful nonetheless.



JAYSON EMERIAN
MAJOR: MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

How has taking Armenian Studies courses influenced you as an individual?
Experiencing college is challenging and hard work. Being able to take several Armenian Studies classes was fun and exciting. It was the breath of fresh air that I needed from my engineering courses.

How was your college experience affected through your involvement with the Armenian Studies program?

The history of the Armenians is so rich in stories and events. Learning about all of those different historical events and how the Armenians have overcome so many adversaries was very enriching in my life.

What is the most memorable experience of your college career?
Getting married two weeks before finals started and having to concentrate in Armenian Language class. I am glad that is over with.

What are your future plans?
I am currently working toward becoming a General Contractor and also taking classes towards a Masters in Engineering. I eventually plan on teaching at the college level, being a great Christian role model to my children, and enjoying my time on earth before I go to my true home.



HOVIG TORIGIAN
MAJOR: KINESIOLOGY-PHYSICAL EDUCATION

How was your college experience affected through your involvement with the Armenian Studies program?
The Armenian Studies Program paved the path for my college career. As a freshman I began to take many courses, which allowed me to meet many new people, and experience new things coming out of high school.

How has taking Armenian Studies classes helped your understanding of the Armenian culture?
There are many things you think you know about the Armenian culture just because you are Armenian. You then realize what you knew was not a lot, and recognize all the sacrifices that were made in the past for there to be a today.
What is the most memorable experience of your college career?
Every semester brought many memorable experiences, but I am sure graduation day will be the most memorable, because of the joy it will bring to my family. I also would like to say thank you to everyone who invested time in me throughout my college career. Had it not been for you, this day would not be possible

What are your future plans?
I will begin to pursue my ambition as a college basketball coach, and hope to one day return to my alma mater.

PAUL DAVID BEDROSIAN
MAJOR: AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS

How has taking Armenian Studies courses influenced you?
The Armenian Studies Program for me was a great way to meet other Armenians attending Fresno State. Before I started college, I was totally unaware of how large the Armenian Studies Program was. It has made a great impact on me and other students as well.

How was your college experience affected through your involvement with the Armenian Studies program?
The Program offers many different Armenian culture classes. If I mentioned everything that I learned about my culture in these classes, my response would be a page long. I really enjoyed learning the basics of the Armenian language, something that I was never taught when I was younger.

What is the most memorable experience of your college career?
I don't think I had just one memorable experience that stood out; instead I just really enjoyed all the time that was spent with friends. One memorable experience, which was an everyday occurrence: trying to find parking. I am glad I'll never have to deal with that again.

What are your future plans?
After graduating, I'll begin working on the family farms in Fowler. Eventually I will handle most of grower relations at National Raisin Company.



5th Armenian Film Festival a Success



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

From L to R: Barseg Abanyan, Srбуhi Fereshetyan, Kristina Pogosyan, Suzy Pogosyan, Marine Ekezyan, Zhanna Bagdasarov, Hakop Tataryan, and Dr. Dickran Kouymjian.

HAKOP TATARYAN
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, March 19, 2004 the Armenian Students Organization, along with the Armenian Studies Program and the University Student Union Diversity Awareness Program, put together the 5th Annual Armenian Film Festival, which attracted a large audience. Films screened represented a new and old generation of writers, producers, and directors.

The festival's organizing committee, who chose the films for the evening, were: Barseg Abanyan, Gevork Aristakesyan, Zhanna

Bagdasarov, Marine Ekezyan, Kristina Pogosyan, Alyssa Sahakian, and Hakop Tataryan. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian provided much needed insight in choosing the films. Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian was also an advisor
Dr. Kouymjian brought a very rare fifteen-minute segment of the very first film made in America about the Armenian Genocide. "Ravished Armenia," directed by Oscar Apfel and produced by W. N. Selig, is a black and white silent film made in 1919, and tells the story of a young Armenian girl who survived the Genocide of 1915. The film was first shown to New

York's elite in such places as Rockefeller Center. The fifteen minute fragment is the only known portion of the film to survive.

The four other films shown were: "Veradznount" written and directed by former Fresno State student Arthur Stepanian, "Hamburger and Dolma" directed by Caroline Babayan, "Prison Art" directed and produced by Garegin Zakoyan, and "Embers of the Sun" directed and produced by Zareh Tjeknavorian. After each film was screened, Dr. Kouymjian discussed the films with the audience and provided some historical background.

From the buzz after the festival, it seemed that "Prison Art" was the most popular film of the evening. Narrated by the director's incarcerated son, this documentary discussed the different forms of art produced in one Armenian prison. The inmates produced a variety of art, from architectural pieces to miniature clay structures. Perhaps the most astonishing aspect of the art was the intricacy and attention to detail.

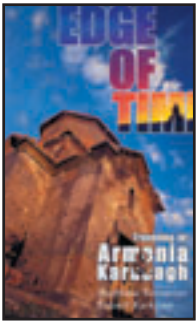
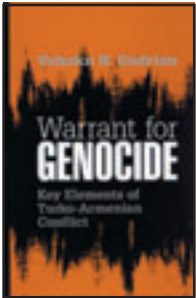
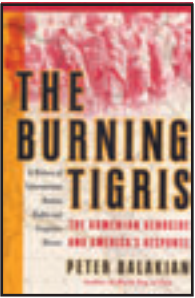
In all, it was another great festival for those who enjoy films about Armenians. The evening concluded as people critiqued the films with one another, while enjoying pastries and coffee served by ASO members.

5TH ANNUAL ARMENIAN FILM FESTIVAL- FILMS RECEIVED

AUDIT (2001), Director: Spencer Beglarian (U.S.) • THE AURA (2002), Director: Armen Ohannesian (U.S.) • EMBERS OF THE SUN (2001) Director: Zareh Jeknavorian (U.S.) • ETERNAL TRAVELER, Director: Zhirayr Agavelyan (Armenia) • HAMBURGER AND DOLMA (1999), Director: Caroline Babayan (U.S./Norway) • JEWS IN ARMENIA (2002), Director: Vartan Akchyan (U.S.) • JUST DON'T DO IT (2003), Director: Spencer Beglarian (U.S.) • HIDDEN TREASURE (2003), Director: Artin Nazarian (U.S.) • THE LAND OF HOLY RITES (2002), Director: Edgar Baghdasaryan (Armenia) • LIFE IS SWEET, Director: Diana Hakobian (Armenia) • PRISON ART (2001), Director: Garegin Zadoyan (Armenia) • RAVISHED ARMENIA (1919), Director: Oscar Apfel (U.S.) • ROAD FULL OF APRICOTS (2001), Director: Nigol Bezjian (Lebanon) • SENTENCED TO DEATH (2000), Director: Sonia Balassanian (Armenia) • VERADZNOUNT (Rebirth) (2001), Director: Arthur Stepanian (U.S.)

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Weekend Armenian Painting Course



L to R: Joseph Dobbins, Cindy Holliday, Ms. Garcia, Tatevik Ekejian, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Azniv Orinakyan, Tiffany Balakian, Angela Quintana, Alex Bunch, Sevag Tateosian, Nyrie Karkazian, Ara Nalbandian, and Zhanna Bagdasarov.

ALEX BUNCH
STAFF WRITER

For three intense weekends, twenty students spent their Friday afternoons and Saturdays in a class, Armenian Studies 121-“Armenian Miniature Painting.” Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State and Director of the Armenian Studies Program, taught the course.

The class had many interesting discussions about Armenian painting. Students learned that the

themes of Armenian miniature painting were based on the Bible, especially on the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Students had the opportunity to see many of the scenes portrayed in the four gospels, including The Resurrection of Jesus, The Annunciation of Jesus, The Adoration of the Magi, and a personal favorite, The Nativity. One of the best parts of the course was when students were able to compare the same scenes in various manuscripts. Although the scenes were iconographically simi-

lar, they were at times portrayed differently.

Students also enjoyed the class in part because they had the opportunity to discuss class topics in an on-line chat room. Dr. Kouymjian said that he used this year’s course in Armenian painting, as well as an Armenian Studies 20 course, as experiments towards presenting at least one course completely on-line starting next academic year. To help in this process, the Armenian Studies Program web site will be partially redesigned and the architecture and miniature painting sections will be enhanced.

When asked what was his favorite part of the class, Dr. Kouymjian said, “As always, the pleasure I get from seeing students learn how to identify miniatures of the Life of Christ and how to describe the important elements in each based on the gospel text.”

Though I have taken many Armenian studies courses and am myself an Armenian-Christian, I am continually fascinated at the depth to which the Armenian arts, namely, painting, manuscript illumination, and architecture, were so influenced by Christianity.

It seems that overall, everyone enjoyed the class and learned a lot about Armenian painting. “I enjoyed Dr. Kouymjian’s class, and I would definitely take another class with him,” said Nyrie Karkazian.

YSU Professors Visit Fresno State

CHRIS TOZLIAN
STAFF WRITER

Earlier this March, Dr. Arman Martirosyan and Dr. Karen Yeghoyan, business professors from Yerevan State University (YSU), visited the Fresno State campus. The two professors spent seventeen days in the United States, almost all of these in Fresno. This first trip to the United States for both of the Armenian professors is part of an ongoing cooperative business project between Fresno State and YSU.



Arman Martirosyan

Over the last six years, Fresno State faculty have participated in a faculty exchange program with YSU as part of the NIS College and University Partnership Program; both universities have hosted faculty members from the other university for multi-week trips. The basic purpose of this project between the two universities is to facilitate the transformation of the

YSU Faculty of Economics into a modern institution, capable of competing on an international level in the fields of business and economics.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State is the project coordinator and works with key faculty in the Fresno State Craig School of Business to implement the project goals. The more than ten Fresno State faculty who have visited Armenia have returned with great admiration for their colleagues and for the quality of their work.

One of the greatest needs Yerevan State University is the mass implementation of technology. For example, electronic presentations were impossible at YSU, due to a lack of equipment. The project has provided the Faculty of Economics with three computer labs, two video projection units, VCRs, and a television, in order to partially fill the gap.

Another need of both the students and the faculty is textbooks and newly published research works. Neither is widely available, and the texts that students use are usually older Russian textbooks, which are three or four years out of print, and therefore often provide either antiquated or irrelevant information. Fresno State faculty have assisted in this area by donating modern textbooks, which can be utilized by the faculty in Armenia.

Both professors explained that the purpose of their visit was to observe the teaching pedagogies used by Fresno State professors and to observe how technology is used in the classroom. However, one of the greatest benefits derived

from their trip was the chance to spend time in the Henry Madden Library on the Fresno State campus. Though YSU does have a large, well-rounded library, it carries little literature concerning micro- and macro-economics, the mathematical model of economics, the history of economic thought, and psychological economics, all fields of study taught by Martirosyan and Yeghoyan.

When asked what each professor hoped to gain from his time at Fresno State, Yeghoyan said that he hoped to learn more efficient, more technologically-based approaches to teaching. Martirosyan said that he hoped to discover new, innovative ways of teaching economics, and he was excited to receive greater exposure to a wider variety of economics literature.



Karen Yeghoyan

The time spent in Fresno has not only been beneficial for the various professors that have come from YSU to Fresno State, but it is beneficial for the university as well.

HYE SHARZHOOM, FROM PAGE 1

of the newspaper.” He continued by saying that, “opinion pieces are an essential element in any publication.” Conversely, Arisian explained that his favorite section of *Hye Sharzhoom* dealt with the current on-campus news that the newspaper covered and other informative pieces, such as the regular updates on Armenia.

Next, the two men discussed the personal benefit that each derived from being a part of the *Hye Sharzhoom* legacy. Erysian said that perhaps the greatest benefit was “the pride we gained from creating a quality publication on a consistent basis for so many years.” Arisian spoke of the practical benefit that he gained; one example was the visual presentation skills he gained while working on the newspaper’s layout, which he has been able to utilize in the business sector. He added that, from a journalistic standpoint, simply learning about every aspect of creating a publication has been beneficial for him.

Later in the interview, Erysian



Bill Erysian

explained that Fresno State students and faculty benefit from the quarterly *Hye Sharzhoom* because it “ensures that Fresno State students (and faculty) recognize there is a consistent voice from the Armenian student population of the university.” Arisian echoed this sentiment in his response, saying that *Hye Sharzhoom* encourages a strong Armenian presence on campus and, at the same time, it adds to the cultural diversity present at Fresno State.

Both interviewees were also asked to explain how the community as a whole benefits from *Hye Sharzhoom*. Arisian said that the *Hye Sharzhoom* provides a stable source of information for the Armenian people, providing the community with a widespread information outlet. A byproduct of the

Currently, YSU is striving to meet international standards, and its interaction with Fresno State in recent years has helped to serve as a benchmark for improvement. The university has already seen certain changes, such as the addition of new classes that are focused on preparing students specifically for the business world. Another great improvement has been the university’s recent ability to provide internet access for the students on campus.

The two professors also spoke of the great difference in teaching styles separating YSU and Fresno State. While the Fresno State business program has meshed theoretical teaching with practical, real life



Arakel Arisian

newspaper is that it also keeps the Armenian community as a whole in touch with the Armenian youth, especially at the university level. Erysian similarly stated, “*Hye Sharzhoom* has always been a focus of interest in the Armenian community, both locally and worldwide. The Armenian community sees the publication as an essential source of news and information about the Armenian Studies program at CSU Fresno and about issues affecting Armenians everywhere.”

At the end of the interview, both men spoke regarding the success of *Hye Sharzhoom* over the last twenty-five years. Arisian enumerated multiple reasons why the newspaper has been successful: *Hye Sharzhoom* has remained connected to both Fresno State and to the Armenian Studies Program, it has consistently received tremendous student support, the universality of the topics covered have encouraged a broad reader interest, and the continual support of both Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, and Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, have enabled the students to succeed in producing an impressive newspaper. Erysian, drawing the same conclusion, concisely responded that *Hye Sharzhoom*’s long-term success stems from “maintaining its consistency and its commitment to quality.”

It is this “consistency and commitment to quality” that has indeed given *Hye Sharzhoom* its strong reader base and continual benefactor support; it has also given the Armenian students on the Fresno State campus a voice that extends throughout the Central Valley and to the whole world. It is to *Hye Sharzhoom*’s constant, unchanging presence that we say, “Best wishes for another twenty-five years!”

examples and hands-on training, YSU has followed the theory-based Soviet model. The two professors hope that they will gain a greater understanding of how to use practical instruction, so that they may utilize this pedagogy in their classes back at YSU. The ultimate desire of YSU is to provide a balanced theory- and practice-oriented educational experience for their students.

By mid-March, Martirosyan and Yeghoyan had returned to Armenia and were back teaching at YSU. Yet their experience here at Fresno State was very beneficial, better preparing them to teach and to positively influence the lives of the students at YSU.

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ASO and ASP Hold April 24 Vigil



Students and community members gathered Friday, April 23, for an evening candlelight vigil on the Fresno State campus.

JACK ARIKIAN
SPECIAL TO HYE SHARZHOOM

As an Armenian born and raised in the United States, I have heard hundreds of stories about the difficulties and challenges our people have endured throughout history. In fact, almost every Armenian has heard the stories concerning the battles of our bravest warriors, King Drtad and Vartan Mamigonian, or of Armenia being the first nation to declare Christianity as a state religion in 301 AD; the most painful is the Armenian Genocide of 1915. We have been told these stories to help us appreciate how far our people have come and the struggles we have overcome, but more importantly, to preserve the culture. These historic events created who we are today and help define the pride and strength of the Armenian people. It is important that we tell these stories to strengthen our knowledge for future generations, so that centuries from now, future generations will understand what it means to be an Armenian and will be proud to say that they are Armenian. On Friday evening, April 23, the Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program gave the Armenian community an opportunity to hear more accounts and remember those killed during the genocide. Two films were screened, “Hidden Holocaust” and “Armenia: The Betrayed,” followed by a candlelight march and vigil. The vigil

Armenians do to deserve the Young Turks’ plan to obliterate their people? Davis, as many other Armenians, missed out on a tremendous part of life. Stories like this should be told and repeated to keep the memories alive. While the first film was difficult to watch because of its graphic nature, the second one, “Armenia: The Betrayed,” produced by James Miller of the BBC, was even harder to watch. It presented Turkey’s position on the Genocide, or rather its denial of the events. I found the second movie to be especially disturbing since not only the Turkish government, but also the most of the people, deny the facts. Overall, this film illustrated that the people of Turkey are completely unaware of the facts; actually, they believe millions of people, both Turkish and Armenian, died during World War I. More specifically, the government goes as far as to say they were defending themselves against the Armenians. Having extensively studied this period in Armenian history by taking Armenian Studies classes, I found these statements to be far from the truth. In my opinion, these statements pour salt in the wound and this attitude by the Turkish government should fuel the fire of the Armenians to tell our story. Though I did not live during this period, I share the pain of my ancestors, because this era of Armenian history changed the complexion of all our lives. I need not share the stories of my grandparents because every Armenian has stories close to their hearts. What happened to the Armenians touches all of us in different ways, yet the facts do not change. This is why I commend the Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program for planning such a meaningful event and for giving us the opportunity to gather. We should not forget and should continue to share stories and educate the world on what happened to our people. The candlelight vigil gave our community the opportunity to gather and reflect on the past and to remember what our ancestors endured to give us what we have today.

Charitable Giving to ASP

Ways to give to the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno while retaining lifetime rights. (Continued from the March, 2004 issue of *Hye Sharzhoom*.)

Charitable Remainder Trust. A Unitrust is also a separate trust, established and managed in the same manner as an Annuity Trust. The distributions to the life income beneficiary, however, are variable. At the time the Unitrust is established, the donor designates a “unitrust percentage” and a “valuation date” to be used to calculate the distribution for each calendar year. For example, a 5% unitrust percentage and a January 1 valuation date would result in a revaluation of trust assets as of each January 1, with the life income beneficiary to receive 5% of that value as distributions for that year. With a successful investment policy, an increasing value of trust assets will result in an increasing income to the life income beneficiary.

Unitrusts may be either in the form of a “standard” percentage arrangement or in the form of a “net income” arrangement. With a “standard” percentage, the payment is made first out of ordinary income (dividends, interest, rents) and then out of capital gains. With a “net income” arrangement, the lesser of the unitrust percentage or ordinary income for the calendar year is paid out.

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SHOGHAKEN,
FROM PAGE 1

and kept the audience in a highly energized state until its end at 10:00 PM. This was not only the result of the expert skills of the performers, but also largely due to the beautifully rich voices of a brother and sister duo, Hasmik and Aleksan Harutyunyan. Whether it was Hasmik Harutyunyan singing her exquisite lullabies, or her brother expressing his love for his land, the audience couldn’t get enough of their great stage-presence. What generated an even greater audience response was the dancing by the duo during their performances together. Their most notable duet was when they not only sang but also danced in a way most appropriate to the lyrics of the song. One could easily notice the audience’s encouraging response when the siblings introduced dancing to their selection. Some could hardly refrain from jumping from

their seats and joining the performers on stage. Undoubtedly, it was this warm welcome that caused the ensemble to be comfortable enough to incorporate all their skills into the performance. This was a first such concert for me and I must admit that it greatly broadened my knowledge of Armenian instruments and music, and it made me appreciate the level of skill and dedication that these people put into every aspect of their performance. The audience appreciation was apparent, which stemmed from the opportunity to listen to such a talented group of people not only maintain a tie with their roots, but also continue the tradition well into the 21st century. The concert was jointly co-sponsored by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, the Armenian Studies Program, and the Armenian Community School of Fresno. Proceeds of the concert benefited the Armenian Community School of Fresno.

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DER MUGRDECHIAN, FROM PAGE 1

liament affirmed the Armenian Genocide. Historically there is no debate whether there was a Genocide or not, as the evidence is incontrovertible and indicts the Ottoman Turkish government and its successor state of Turkey. The body of work published in the last ten years alone, documenting the Genocide, provides clear, precise, and irrefutable evidence of the premeditated nature of the crime. And because much of this evidence comes from Ottoman Turkey's war time allies, Germany and Austria, it is powerful.



A memorial service in the afternoon at the Mt. Davidson cross in San Francisco.

What is equally as clear is the responsibility to continue the effort to bring justice to the Armenian case. This is imperative as the modern state of Turkey continues to pursue its aim to eradicate the memory of the Armenian people, through the destruction of historical monuments, and through its campaign of disinformation and outright denial of the genocide. The responsibility we have is to maintain our own collective identity, and to perpetuate the existence of our people, in the face of this blatant campaign to eradicate the memory of the Armenian people. Recognition of the Armenian Genocide and compensation for the losses of the Armenian people is a necessary precondition to the process of healing.

I would like to speak to you this evening not only about the past, but also how history has brought to us the opportunity that presents itself as we begin the twenty-first century.

That opportunity is for action-action that will make a difference in our personal lives, in our community relations, and in the world at large that we live in.....

What better way to make sure that the victims of the Genocide had not fallen in vain? What better

way to make sure that the Armenians would continue to flourish in the world and that their achievements would be known?

I believe that each individual has an opportunity to take such an action or actions in their lives-and that each individual must make a decision on how to participate in the communal life of the Armenian people.

...Our lives are the accumulation of actions and decisions taken over a lifetime. These conscious and unconscious decisions help to shape our identity and who we are, thus, through our positive action we can achieve the changes that we desire and achieve a deeper realization of what it is to be Armenian.

On the community level, our actions again should speak louder than our words. ...We can work together to achieve our common vision for the future. There is so much to achieve, to educate our community and the community at large, and to reach out to each other.

So much has changed in the world since the Armenian Genocide, and among the greatest changes to affect Armenians has been the establishment of the independent Republic of Armenia in 1991. The crystallization of an centuries-old dream, realized briefly in 1918-1920, has today become a reason for a change in the very concept of Armenianness. We can now define an Armenian citizen, there is a country with defined borders, and all of the institutions of a state. In the Diaspora, our concept of identity has also changed, through our relationship with Armenia and with other Diasporan communities. We now feel a stronger tie to a homeland and have a sense of a better opportunity for the future. The independence of Armenia has given rise to many hopes and Armenia is also a place where action must be taken.

Each Armenian, but especially those between the ages of 17-25, those of high school and college age, should visit Armenia. Every

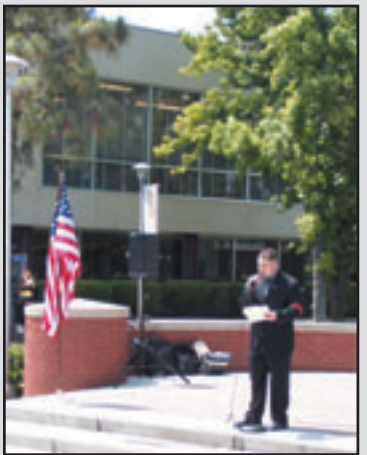
APRIL 24, FROM PAGE 1



Dikran Chekian

men and women were forced out of their homes and onto death marches," said Poochigian.

After the senator's speech, Sevag Tateosian recited a poem called "You Will Fall" by the fa-



Armen Postoyan

Armenian should see Mt. Ararat and understand the role of the homeland in the understanding of what it is to be Armenian. This should not simply be a tourist visit, but a structured educational experience, which will include not only visits to historical sites, but also meetings with students and everyday people. Part of that visit will also be devoted to fulfilling an internship/project which will be focused on positive change. The visit will plant the seed for future action, wherever the visitor is from. Many Armenians from the Diaspora have already taken the opportunity to live in Armenia, and to make their contribution. But this type of project should be a national project, which would unify the Diaspora and Armenia. We have the resources, the intelligence, and the desire-we need only the vision to succeed.

You too can take the action which will have a major impact on the life of Armenians.

What greater homage to those whose lives were lost in the Geno-

mous poet Vahan Tekeyan, who himself had barely escaped the genocide. Next, ASO Vice-President Armen Postoyan read a brief statement on the importance of maintaining the fight for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the United States government.

As Armenian *duduk* music played in the background the event ended with the campus tradition of placing flowers on a scale-model of the Dzidzernagapert Martyrs Monument, located in Yerevan, Armenia.



Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

As more and more countries are recognizing the genocide, it is imperative to maintain the fight for recognition. Just recently the Canadian Parliament recognized the Armenian Genocide. With the passing of time the Armenians are showing their vitality around the world.

Events like this one at the Free

Speech Area are testaments to our determination and our love for our heritage. "Its great to see so many people come out and pay their respects," said ASO president Chekian. Around 150 students and community members attended the noon commemoration.

grants to the United States, can be developed-it is possible. There is much work to be done here also in our community organizations. In the last few years people of all ages have put their ideas into action, and have created scores of new opportunities. We live in a country in which there are no barriers to our success. Everything is possible.

We shall never forget the Genocide, nor shall we ever abandon the pursuit of justice. We will honor the memories of those who perished in 1915. But we shall also work and build and create, in order to perpetuate our culture and our traditions, on a personal level, on the community level, and on the national level.

Ladies and gentleman, take action! Put your hearts and minds to work and together we will be the true successors to the legacy of the Armenian Genocide.

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