

# HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

# 26<sup>th</sup> Year

December 2004

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Supplement to The Collegian

## Armenian Studies Program Honors Program Approved

HAKOP TATARYAN  
EDITOR

Ambitious Fresno State students who are taking Armenian Studies courses have something to look forward to in the Fall of 2005. An Honors Program has been approved for students taking upper division classes in the Armenian Studies Program. The Honors Program will also offer numerous benefits to its participants.

All students who apply to the Armenian Studies Honors Program, must have Junior standing (60 units) with at least a 3.5 GPA in Armenian Studies courses, a cumulative GPA of 3.4, and must have completed at least four Armenian Studies classes.

Along with the Armenian Studies classes, students must participate in the Smittcamp Family Honors Colloquium (a weekly two-hour meeting for all honors students) as

long as they are in the Armenian Studies Honors Program. The colloquium will cover an array of topics regarded as higher learning - including: public policy, current affairs, and contemporary society.

To encourage community involvement and offer a greater experience, the Program requires its students to complete twenty hours of community service each semester. Opportunities are available for Armenian Studies-oriented service in the various programs available on campus: *Hye Sharzhoom*, "Hye Oozh Radio," and "All Things Armenian."

In the last semester of the program students in the Honors Program will be researching a topic of choice under the supervision of a faculty member. The topic can be in various areas of study such as language, history, architecture, or

SEE **HONORS PROGRAM** PAGE 8

## Poochigian Awarded "Top Dog" Distinguished Alumnus Award



Debbie and Chuck Poochigian

STAFF REPORT

California State Senator Charles "Chuck" Poochigian was awarded California State University, Fresno's Distinguished Alumnus Award at the 52nd Annual Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala held on Thursday, Oct. 28. The Distinguished Alumnus Award is the highest honor given by the university's Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association has been honoring a distinguished alumnus since 1953, when Robert Greelis, Class of '39, was the first honoree.

Other recipients of the top alumni honor have included U.S.

Secretary of Treasury Paul O'Neill; California Secretary of State Bill Jones; the late journalist H. Roger Tatarian, former Houston Mayor Lee "Pat" Brown; the late Sen. Ken Maddy; the late legendary coach and educator Cornelius A. "Dutch" Warmerdam; and former U.S. Ambassador Philip Sanchez as well as numerous local leaders.

Poochigian is a third-generation resident of the San Joaquin Valley who received his bachelor's degree from Fresno State in 1972 and served in the Air National Guard.

He serves as State Senator for the 14th Senate District and has been Senate Republican Caucus Chairman and Assistant Minority Leader since 1998. He serves on various committees, including Appropriations, Constitutional Amendments, Agriculture and Water Resources and Revenue and Taxation.

He established the partnership between the Attorney General, the California State University and the

SEE **POOCHIGIAN** PAGE 4

## Society for Armenian Studies Celebrates Thirtieth Anniversary With Special Events

STAFF REPORT

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) celebrated its 30th anniversary with a series of celebratory activities in the month of November.

The SAS was founded 30 years ago in Boston by Dr. Richard Hovannisian (UCLA), Dr. Avedis Sanjian (UCLA), Dr. Dickran Kouymjian (AUB and later Fresno State), Dr. Robert Thomson (Harvard), and Dr. Nina Garsoian (Columbia). They set the foundations of a Society, which today has more than 200 members worldwide and is the leading organization in the field of Armenian Studies.

The SAS is dedicated to the development of Armenian Studies as an academic discipline. It has as its goals to promote the study of Armenia and all aspects of Armenian culture; to promote the teaching of Armenian subjects in educational institutions; to promote the publication of texts in various fields of Armenian studies; to organize and sponsor conferences, symposia, panels, and other forums pertaining to all aspects of Armenian cul-



Photo: Armen Hovannisian

Dr. Richard Hovannisian, left, receiving a plaque from SAS President Barlow Der Mugrdechian. The award recognizes Hovannisian's role as one of five founders of the SAS.

ture and society; and to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of scholarly information pertaining to Armenian studies through a program of publications, consistent with the objectives of the SAS.

The first activity of the anniversary celebration was a reception in honor of SAS held at UCLA on November 7. Dr. Peter Cowe,

SEE **SAS** PAGE 8

## Lucille Apcar Introduces New Book



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Left to right: Mimi Malayan and Lucille Apcar with photo of Lucille's grandmother, Diana Agabeg Apcar.

SARAH SOGHOMONIAN  
STAFF WRITER

On October 26th the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Studies Organization welcomed Lucille Apcar, granddaughter of Diana Agabeg Apcar. Lucille Apcar spoke about her grandmother and shared stories from the newly published book, *From the Book of*

*One Thousand Tales: Stories of Armenia and Its People, 1892-1922* by Diana Agabeg Apcar.

Diana Apcar was born October 12, 1859 in Rangoon, then British East Indies, now Yangon, Myanmar. The Apcar's family trace back to Persia where they lived for over 300 years.

In 1891, Apcar moved with her

SEE **APCAR** PAGE 6

## 6th Annual Armenian Film Festival Friday, April 1, 2005

Sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program. Partially funded by the Diversity Awareness Program of the University Student Union, CSU Fresno.

### First Call for Entries

Entries are being sought for the 6th Annual Armenian Film Festival to be held at Fresno State. Films made by Armenian directors/writers, or films with an Armenian theme are being sought.

Films up to 1 hour in length • Films may be in any language, English preferred • Films may be on any topic, Armenian theme preferred • Film must be in video/DVD format- if in video, it should be in NTSC format.

**Deadline for entries to be received is February 1, 2005.**

SEE **FILM FESTIVAL** PAGE 4



## ASO Gets New T-Shirts



The Armenian Students Organization would like to thank the following individuals and organizations who have donated to the ASO or supported its activities: Neverik Ashkarian, Evgeniya Bagdasarova, Kutnarian Family, Rima Shakhazizyan, Monte Cristo Café, and MGA Wine and Liquor.

### 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.

**His Holiness Aram I**, Catholicos of Armenia, Cilicia, Antelias, for the two copies of his book *The Christian Witness at the Crossroads in the Middle East*.

**Trdat Bishop Balean**, *A Catalogue of the Armenian Manuscripts in Caesarea, Smyrna and in Their Vicinities*, edited by Gevorg Ter-Vardanyan, with a bibliography of Bishop Balean's works by Karine Avetean, Yerevan: Knnaser, Armenian Textological Society, 2002, 248 pages with indexes and a map. In Armenian with English title. Gift of Gevorg Ter-Vardanyan, Matenadaran, Yerevan.

**Sarkis Chouldjian**, Los Angeles, for the copies of his book *History of Adiyaman. Autobiography*.

**Zarooi Der Mugrdechian**, Fresno, for a map of the region of Van, Armenia.

**Juliet Eynatyan** with the cooperation of **Gevorg Ter-Vardanyan**, "Chapters of Calendars" (VII-XV Centuries). *Research and Texts*, Yerevan: Knnaser, Armenian Textological Society, Matenadaran, 2002, 295 pages, index, calendrical tables. An analysis of three manuscripts in the Matenadaran collection; in Armenian with English title. Gift of Gevorg Ter-Vardanyan, Matenadaran, Yerevan.

**Handes Art and Literature Quarterly**, Glendale, for the book *Handes Art and Literature Quarterly issues Number 0 to 8*.

**Doreen Davidson**, **Harper Collins Publishers**, New York, for the book *Hip: The History* by John Leland.

**Dr. Zareh Hovanesian**, Old Tappan, NJ, for the copy of his book, *The Philatelic History of Armenia*.

**Zoya Kachadurian**, New York, for the books *Amitayi Artzakankneru Verakochumn* by Dikran Spear, 1953, and *Tzayn Tarapelots* by P. Tonapetian, 1922, Paris.

**Col. Carl Mahakian**, Rancho Mirage, the copy of *Sons Come and Go Mothers Hang in Forever* by William Saroyan (a limited first edition) and *Tamerlane The Earth Shaker* by Harold Lamb.

**Avetis Papazyan**, Los Angeles, for the copy of his book *Paykar Hanun Ardarutyun, Vol. II*.

**Bedros A. Tekeyan**, *Armenia in Ancient Maps of the World*, Quebec: the Author, 2004, 255, 230 maps (in black and white), 25 pages. Chapters on History of Cartography, Armenia in Maps, Armenia out of Maps (the genocide). Courtesy of the author: btekeyan@kronotch.com.

**Union of Marash Armenians of California, Inc**, Pasadena, for the copy of their magazine *Kermanig*.

**Marie-Louise von Wartburg**, "Cypriot Contacts with East and West as Reflected in Medieval Glazed Pottery from the Paphos Region," *Proceedings of the 7th International Congress on Medieval Ceramics in the Mediterranean*, from the author.

**Marie-Louise von Wartburg**, "'Hochzeitspaare' und Weintrinker zu Bildmotiven der mittelalterlichen Keramik Cyperns," *Zona Archeologica. Festschrift für Hans Peter Isler*, Bonn, 2001, pp. 457-465 plus two plates. From the author.

**Dominique de Willencourt**, composer and cellist, *Etchmiadzine et le Mont Ararat*, a tribute to Armenia, CD, EA Records, Paris, 2004. A remarkable 15 minute composition for solo cello by the brilliant Parisian cellist-composer, based on his concerts and visits in Armenia, inspired by the earthquake and suffering. Available at [www.de-willencourt.com](http://www.de-willencourt.com).

## California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

### Spring 2005 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</b>				
• ArmS 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	10:00-10:50A	MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian (Class #32154)
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Arts, Area C2 for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after</b>				
• Arm 1B Elementary Armenian	4	11:00-11:50A	MTWF	B. Der Mugrdechian (Class #32152)
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Arts, Area C1 for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after</b>				
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia	3	DIGITAL CAMPUS		D. Kouymjian (Class #37421)
<b>Upper Division Courses</b>				
• ArmS 108B Arm History II	3	11:00A-12:15P	TTh	I. Kaprielian (Class #38170)
• ArmS 120T-William Saroyan	1	4:00-10:00P 9:00A-5:00P	F Sa	D. Kouymjian (Class #38080)
<i>Class meets Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12, 2005.</i>				
• ArmS123-Armenian Architecture	3	4:00-10:00P 9:00A-5:00P	F Sa	D. Kouymjian (Class #38079)
<i>Class meets Friday and Saturday, Feb. 18, 19; 25, 26; and March 4, 5, 2005.</i>				
• ArmS 120T-Armenian Dance	1	5:00-10:00P 9:00A-5:00P	F Sa	T. Bozigian (#38620)
<i>Class meets Friday and Saturday, February 4, 5, 2005.</i>				
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Area IC for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after</b>				
• Arm 148-Masterpieces Arm Culture	3	9:00-9:50A	MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian (Class #32153)

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

## HYE SHARZHOOM

### ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

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### Read Hye Sharzhoom!

**Hye Sharzhoom** is also available on the Armenian Studies Program website

[www.armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/hye\\_sharzhoom/index.htm](http://www.armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/hye_sharzhoom/index.htm)

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International Education Week Features Presentation on Projects in Armenia



L. to R.: Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Bill Erysian, Tom Burns, Sasan Fayazmanesh.

STAFF REPORT

As part of International Education Week at Fresno State, the Armenian Studies Program organized a presentation on Wednesday, November 17 on “Armenia Today: Fresno State Projects in Armenia and Opportunities for Study Abroad.” Participating were three Fresno State faculty who have traveled to Armenia during the past several years: Dr. Sasan Fayazmanesh, Professor of Economics, Tom Burns of the Management Department and Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program.

Bill Erysian, director of grants and international projects and coordinator of International Education Week for the Division of Continuing and Global Education, opened the program and welcomed the audience. He then introduced Barlow Der Mugrdechian, who is the project coordinator for the partnership project between Yerevan State University and Fresno State.

The project, called “A Faculty and Development Program in Business and Economics,” matched the

YSU Faculty of Economics and the Fresno State Craig School of Business. In 1999 this project was given a \$100,000 grant from the Newly Independent States College and University Partnership Program of the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the United States State Department, and was subsequently renewed for three more years with an additional \$300,000. The grant is scheduled to conclude in December of this year.

Yerevan State University is the largest university in Armenia, with a student population of about 10,000. Some 1,200 of these study in the Faculty of Economics, including more than one third of the top high school seniors in the country.

The project’s main means of implementing its goals was through the planned exchange of faculty from both universities for periods of from two to three weeks. During the past five years more than 10 faculty from Fresno State have traveled to Armenia, and some 18 faculty and administrators have visited from Armenia. Faculty have

worked with their counterparts in discussing curriculum and learning about possibilities to modify or change courses. Faculty on both sides have learned a great deal in the interchange, which has been a valuable part of the experience.

Der Mugrdechian explained that higher education in the former Soviet Union was supported entirely by the state and students enjoyed a free education.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, and Armenia’s subsequent independence on September 21, 1991, responsibility for funding of the higher education system fell entirely to the government of Armenia. The entire education system had to face what the rest of the country faced, a dramatic decrease of funding due to the economic collapse in Armenia.

The financial problems were the main but not the only issues to be faced by the university. Among the non-financial issues faced were the ability of the university to attract students, competition from newer private universities, and the need to completely reform curriculum, a curriculum that was thoroughly imbued with communist ideology.

The Armenian educational system was traditionally very strong in many areas, thus the project did not aim to replace the old curriculum completely, but rather to present faculty with choices based on what could be best applied for Armenia.

The project provided three fully equipped computer laboratories plus computers and printers for each department office. In addition, internet access, which also was lacking, was provided for the students. The entire building where the Faculty is housed has recently been wired for internet access.

Der Mugrdechian then intro-

duced Professor Tom Burns, director of the Executive MBA program at Fresno State, who traveled to Armenia in the summer of 2002. Burns presented a power-point presentation on his activities in Armenia. In particular he had worked with a group of five students from Armenia, who had participated in a distance learning program, which also involved five students from Fresno State. Together they produced an economic report on two countries-Armenia and Ireland.

Burns gave many interesting insights into the business environment in Armenia, noting in particular how Armenian society and ways of doing business were different from American society.

Der Mugrdechian next introduced Dr. Sasan Fayazmanesh, who teaches the history of economic thought and monetary theory in the department of economics at Fresno State. Fayazmanesh returned on November 16 from his first trip to Armenia, where he had the oppor-

tunity to interact with students and faculty. He gave a power-point talk about his experiences in Armenia emphasizing especially the warm hospitality of his colleagues. While at YSU he gave several presentations to students and faculty on a variety of topics in his field of expertise.

Der Mugrdechian closed the program with a description of the Armenian Studies Semester Abroad program, which will begin in Spring 2005. Initiated by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno state, the Semester Abroad Program gives students from all over the United States the opportunity to spend one semester living and studying in Armenia. Students will take a variety of Armenian studies related courses while in Armenia.

The evening was an inspiring look at the achievements of both Armenian and American faculty in working together to assist educational development in Armenia.

California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program

Armenian Studies 120T-  
Armenian Dance

(Learn how to dance traditional Armenian dances)

conducted by

Tom Bozigian



The internationally recognized dance instructor was born in Los Angeles. Each year Mr. Bozigian travels to Armenia to continue his research working with various institutes and dance specialists. He is particularly sought out for his extensive knowledge of dances from the pre-1915 period. He also specializes in new Armenian folk-dance as well as choreography. Mr. Bozigian regularly tours the Orient and Europe teaching Armenian dance.

Friday, February 4, 2004 • 5-10 PM  
Saturday, February 5, 2004 • 9 AM-5PM

Meet in the South Gym, Rm. 134-Fresno State

Fresno State students enroll through  
web registration.

The course is open to the public  
for a fee of \$50.

To register for the class contact the  
Armenian Studies Program or come  
to the first class session.

Contact the Armenian Studies Program, 278-2669,  
for more information.

Read Hye Sharzhoom !

Karanian and Kurkjian Present New Travel Book

ALEX BUNCH  
STAFF WRITER

For the everyday person, there has never been a comprehensive travel guide to Armenia and Karabagh. Well, now there is. In Matthew Karanian’s and Robert Kurkjian’s book, *The Stone Garden Guide: Armenia and Karabagh*, anyone traveling to Armenia or Karabagh can find exactly what they need. *Armenia and Karabagh* is very comprehensive and you can find just about any piece of information you are looking for. If you are planning a trip to Armenia or Karabagh, this is an essential book to read.

When you look in the table of contents, you can clearly see this book is indeed as comprehensive as the authors’ claim. *Armenia and Karabagh* includes sections such as geography, population, language, sites to see, transportation, exchanging money, customs regulations, foreign embassies in Yerevan, and even a very comprehensive section on ecology.

“Of special interest is Chapter 3, Ecology. We felt this was important because we did not just want to promote irresponsible travel to the region,” said Robert Kurkjian.

That is exactly why their book is extremely helpful, because it goes

beyond the basic information.

The book is also divided up by region, so one would know what to see with respect to the area they are traveling to. These individual sections are full of information, especially with respect to places of interest such as museums, churches, landmarks, and theaters.

What is also

great about this travel guide is its structure-all the information is neatly organized and the index is very helpful to find information as well. The entire book, even the maps, is in color. “It is a unique travel guide for the quality of the book, the design, and the number of color photos,” Kurkjian said.

After examining the book, I agree with his comments. Having this book as your guide, you cannot go wrong and you are sure to have a great trip to Armenia and Karabagh.

Most of the information was obtained first-hand by the authors themselves, who have been travel-



Matthew Karanian and Robert Kurkjian

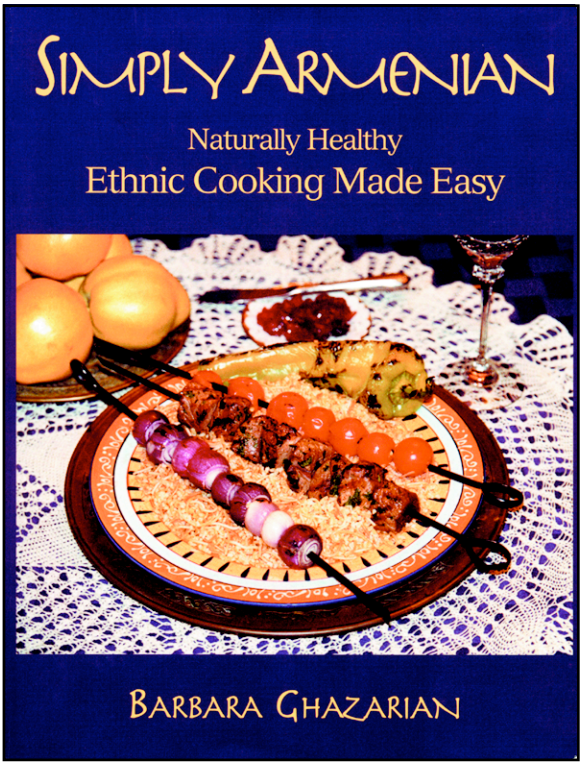
ing to and from Armenia for several years now, so the information provided is very reliable. In fact, this alone makes the book a better book when compared to other travel guides to Armenia.

“We consider our book an “Insiders Guide” because both Matthew and I have been living, working, and traveling in Armenia since 1995,” said Kurkjian.

If you are planning a trip to Armenia or Karabagh, then this book is a necessity. When you look at the amount of information available in the guide, you are sure to have a pleasant trip to Armenia and Karabagh.



# Let's Cook-Armenian Cookbook Review



SARAH SOGHOMONIAN  
STAFF WRITER

Hungry? Craving delicious, authentic, traditional Armenian food? Well, don't run to the closest Armenian deli, be adventurous, make your favorite Armenian foods from scratch. *Simply Armenian: Naturally Healthy Ethnic Cooking Made Easy*, a new cookbook by Barbara Ghazarian, is here to guide you through the steps to making delicious Armenian delicacies. *Simply Armenian* contains every recipe you can think of and is divided into sections and subcategorizes for your convenience. The first section is titled "Appetizers and Spreads" and has specific areas focusing on those two subjects. Under "Appetizers" you will find recipes for Armenian

Zesty White Bean Dip, and Black Olive and Yogurt Cheese Spread, to name a few.

After indulging in hors d'oeuvres, one is ready for the first course. Under the section titled "First Courses" one finds subcategorizes dedicated to Grains and Vegetables, Salads, Soups and Stews, and Stuffed Pastries (Boreks). Grains and Vegetables offers recipes from Bulgur and Rice Pilaf to egg plant dishes to a spinach casserole recipe. There are salad recipes titled Parsley Salad (Tabouli), Cracked Wheat-Tomato Salad (Eetch), and Four-Bean Salad. Recipes for Lentil and Swiss Chard Soup, Tomato and Bulgur Soup, and Lamb and Rhubarb Stew are found in the Soups and Stews sub-category. Craving Cheese Borek or Spinach Borek? You can find these and other Borek recipes

in the stuffed Pastries (Boreks) sub-category.

Ready for the main course? What will it be? Lamb, Pork, Fowl, or Fish? You will find recipe featuring these foods under "Main Courses." The sub-category, Lamb, features recipes for Shish Kebab, Armenian Tartare (Kheyma), and Lamb-Stuffed Grape Leaves (Sarma) and many others that are sure to fill your tummy.

There is a section of the cookbook titled "Armenian Basics." It is divided into the following topics: Flatbreads, Loaf Breads, Pizzas, Tea Breads, Eggs Sauces, Dairy Basics and Drinks. So, if you want to make your own Armenian Cracker Bread, Lahmejun, Choreg, Madzoon or Tahn, *Simply Armenian* is where to turn.

Everyone loves dessert! Recipes for Cakes and Pastries; Cookies; Fruits, Spreads and Candy; and Quince lie in the Sweets category. Who needs the bakery? Make your own Paklava!

*Simply Armenian: Naturally Healthy Ethnic Cooking Made Easy* is by Barbara Ghazarian of Hartford, Connecticut. She loves to cook and hopes to have created an easy way for cooking ethnic cuisine. Ghazarian states, "The journey into a foreign cuisine is not necessarily an easy one. Armenian cooking can be intimidating for the novice."

After looking over *Simply Armenian*, I can tell you the recipes are laid out in away that seems to be easy to follow and that is important no matter how experienced a chef you are.

So, be adventurous; take Armenian Cuisine head on. It will be fun, filling and will make Grandma proud! Happy eating!

# Eench ga Chga- WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ARMENIAN FOOD AND WHY?

CARINA KARAKASHIAN-STAFF WRITER



Name: Ariana Kasparian  
Year: Freshman  
Kheima. I love it because it's unique and tasty! Also because when I talk about it nobody understands what it is and it is very fun to make with my grandma.



Name: Jack Ajamian  
Year: Sophomore  
Cheese Bourek, because my grandmother makes it the best!



Name: Rami Gabriel  
Year: Senior  
Kebab, because I like meat.



Name: Knar Mekhitarian  
Year: Freshman  
Sarma, because my mom makes it the best!

Armenian Studies Program  
2005/2006 Scholarship Applications  
Now Available On-Line  
<http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/scholarships.htm>

# ASO November Activities



Left to right: Gary Krboyan, Stepan Kyutunyan, Lena Koujaoghlianian, Grigor Kyutunyan, Hakop Tataryan, Armine Sargsyan, Windy Dunbar, Srbui Fereshetyan, Angela Aslanian, Kristina Pogosyan, Jennifer Torosian, Aida Vareldjian, Alyssa Sahakian, Zhanna Bagdasarov, and Svetlana Bagdasarov.

ZHANNA BAGDASAROV AND  
MARINE EKEZYAN  
STAFF WRITERS

Events come and go but the memories tend to live on. In the months of October and November, the Armenian Students Organization held two events for two different occasions. On October 30, the organization put together a Halloween Party,

which took place in the Monte Cristo Café. The event was organized by a few members of ASO who took the time to decorate, which set the mood for the celebration. In the spirit of Halloween, the members dressed up in creative costumes such as Greek goddesses, Egyptians, doctors, fairies, devils, and cats and danced the night away. The members had a chance to have a night away from daily rou-

tines and academic worries. Furthermore, the students were able to get together and meet new people. In order to entice people to dress up in the Halloween tradition, a contest was held for the two most creative costumes. The winners received a gift card to Macy's department store. Overall, everyone enjoyed some time with their friends and appreciated this chance to relax. As the saying goes, "time flies when you're having fun," and before we knew it our Halloween celebration came to an end.

On November 19, the ASO held a Bowling Event in order to give back to the community by collecting non-perishable food items for the unfortunate for the Thanksgiving holiday. The members contributed a minimum of two cans of food per person. These generous donations were taken to the Poverello House to feed the homeless. Besides the act of benevolence and selflessness, the members enjoyed a few hours of perfecting their bowling skills.

All in all, these events were a nice opportunity to interact with fellow members, because after all, it is important to preserve the Armenian student bond, as well as lifelong friendships.

## POOCHIGIAN, FROM PAGE 1

University of California to provide DNA educational training and he was instrumental in establishing public service training for the Kenneth L. Maddy Institute at Fresno State. His awards include being named Legislator of the Year by the California Building Industry Association, the California State Student Association, Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California and the California County Boards of Education. Chuck is married to Debbie (Koligian, 1974) and they have three children, Mark and his wife Jennifer, Kirk and Laura.

## FILM FESTIVAL, FROM PAGE 1

Please send the video/DVD to: Armenian Film Festival, c/o Armenian Studies Program, 5245 N Backer Ave. PB4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001 Entries should be accompanied by a CV of the director/writer and a synopsis of the film. Telephone 559-278-2669 • Email: [barlowd@csufresno.edu](mailto:barlowd@csufresno.edu) The Festival Committee will meet to view and judge which entries will be accepted for the Film Festival. Entrants will be contacted by email with the decisions.



L. to R.: Ani Estefanian, Marine Ekezyan, Zhanna Bagdasarov.



## Three Fresno State Faculty Return from Armenia With Fond Memories

*Fresno State professors Sasan Fayazmanesh, Emil Milevoj, and Elizabeth Shields returned in November from a visit to Armenia, where they were working with faculty from the Faculty of Business of Yerevan State University. Following are their impressions of their visit, in their own words.*



Photo: Sasan Fayazmanesh

### ELIZABETH SHIELDS

Visiting Yerevan State University in mid-November I reminisced with Armenian colleagues from the Department of Economics about the great changes that have taken place there over the past five years. When I first visited the department in 1999 it was housed in a dilapidated building far from the main campus. Students walked down muddy pot-holed roads to classes. Classes stopped in early December and resumed in March because there was no heat in the building. The computer lab consisted of half a dozen ancient machines running on MS-DOS. The fact that so many faculty and students worked in these conditions spoke volumes about their dedication to higher education.

At that time, economics and business courses were attracting increased attention from the top high school graduates who had previously been drawn to the techno-

logical areas of physics, engineering, and mathematics. As job opportunities in the 'hard' sciences dried up students sought to develop skills than would serve them in the new market economy. Thanks to the farsighted leadership in the department faculty members had enrolled in microeconomics and macroeconomics courses at the American University of Armenia in 1993 and 1994 and were already restructuring the curriculum and course work to introduce their students to market-based economic theory and business principles.

Simultaneously the introduction of the Newly Independent States (NIS) University and College Partnership Program provided an opportunity for faculty members from the Craig School of Business and the Department of Economics at Fresno State to collaborate with their counterparts at Yerevan State to further strengthen the curriculum and to provide support for teaching and research. Money was also available to improve computer and other technological resources.

Since 2000 eighteen faculty member and administrators have visited Fresno to work on improving their curriculum and coursework, to discuss research activities, to observe our teaching methods, and to become more knowledgeable about our higher education system. Some faculty members whose initial visits overseas were through the NIS Partnership Program with Fresno have gone on to seek funding for further study abroad and worked in other universities. Faculty members from Fresno have visited Yerevan and presented seminars and workshops in economics, marketing, information systems, finance and human resource management. Students



**L. to R. Dean Hayk Sargsyan, Dr. Grigor Gharibyan, Dr. Anna Karapetyan, Emil Milevoj, Elizabeth Shields, Lusine Grigoryan, Dr. Sasan Fayazmanesh, and Harutyun Marzpanyan at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Faculty of Economics at Yerevan State University.**

from both campuses have collaborated on projects. This interchange of ideas and culture has enriched all the participants.

The most significant curricular change has been the introduction of an entirely new Management Information System program at Yerevan under the guidance of Dr. Sasan Rahmatian of the ISDS Department at Fresno State. This new program is already very popular with students who recognize the software development and computer systems management is one way in which Armenia which has few natural resources and is entirely land-locked can compete in a global economy. Other changes within existing programs include the introduction of marketing and distribution courses, human resource management courses, and modern financial management courses.

Shortly after my initial visit the

Department of Economics moved to renovated quarters on Abovian Street in the center of Yerevan close to the main campus. Now students gather in bright airy classrooms. They can surf the Internet on any of 100 state-of-the-art computers provided by funds from the NIS Partnership Project between Fresno State and Yerevan State, and the Caucasus Region Resource Center funded by the Eurasia Foundation.

In addition to the new computer resources great strides have been made in curriculum and course work development. Teaching no longer means dictating pages of notes to students who have no access to textbooks. Faculty members have adopted the latest teaching techniques and support for new course presentations, student workbooks, teaching manuals and other teaching tools has been provided by the Partnership Project with Fresno State. Interactive exercises,

case studies, debates and student presentations now comprise many of the classroom activities.

Now attention has turned to the task of keeping these intelligent, well educated young people in Armenia after graduation. Jobs are still scarce and information about job openings is difficult to find. With this in mind a proposal is now being developed to set up a Career Center at Yerevan State University that would serve the needs of all students including those in the Department of Economics. Such a center would help students understand the needs of employers. It would bridge the gap between employers and graduates by providing information on job opportunities and acting as a resume repository for graduates at both the Master's and Bachelor's levels.

It has been exciting to watch the progress that had been made in the Department of Economics since 1999, to see the growth in faculty expertise and self-confidence, to sit in the computer lab and have instant access to information from around the world, and to observe students developing decision-making skills where once they would have been reluctant to make decisions.

Armenians have endured hard economic times since independence but their resilience has carried them through once again. I sensed an air of optimism on the campus and in the streets. Many service businesses are starting up, construction is booming, real estate prices are rising, and new cars are creating traffic jams on the main boulevards – sounds like the recipe for a growing economy that will provide jobs for the graduates of the Department of Economics.

## Entrepreneurial Spirit in Hayastan

### EMIL MILEVOJ

During the month of November I visited Armenia for the second time in the last two years as part of the faculty exchange program between Yerevan State University (YSU) and California State University, Fresno.

What fascinated me the most is the strong spirit of endurance and survival that I encountered on the streets of Yerevan.

A year ago I visited some of the sacred monasteries and churches outside Yerevan. While visiting these sites I felt a strong presence of God. Since most of the monasteries are atop mountain peaks, one gets the feeling that the people wanted to be as close to God as they could. Entering inside the caves of Keghart Monastery I had a feeling that I was entering heaven. Etchmiadzin, Garni, Zvartnots, and Khor Virap all radiate with mystical purity. To ensure that you are not deceived by all the human-made monasteries, nature has made sure you realize how sacred Armenia is by placing the most spectacular mountain right in front of you. There are no words that can describe the inspiring view of Mt. Ararat. It was something sacred that I will treasure for the rest of my life.

This year I gave three lectures at



Photo: Sasan Fayazmanesh

### Emil Milevoj

the Department of Economics at YSU, which allowed me to interact with numerous students. Their English was outstanding. I feel fortunate to have met these university students whose energy and enthusiasm will have a positive impact on the future economic growth in Armenia.

Through my interaction with students and faculty at the university I began to understand the Armenian people's innate ability to survive and endure the most difficult challenges. Things have been very difficult since Armenia won its independence from Soviet Union however the strong desire for people to better their lives and move things forward it is apparent on every corner. Just in one year the changes are fascinating.

Yerevan radiates with culture and entertainment. Restaurants,

shops, cafés are on every corner in this rapidly growing city. I had the pleasure of enjoying the concert at the National Symphony, which made me appreciate the Armenian survival spirit even more.

Strolling through the streets of Yerevan is very pleasant even though sometimes it can be a challenge to cross the street. Since the work day does not start until 9:00 am you can see people on the streets and in cafés until late at night socializing with their families and friends. The lifestyle seems very relaxed although majority of people I have encountered have multiple jobs or run their own business in order to earn a living.

Technology has also transformed the way people live their lives. Internet cafes are filled with young Armenians surfing the web and chatting with people around the world. Almost everyone carries a cell phone however the usage is low due to the high calling rates. As you are walking through Yerevan you see numerous billboards advertising Armenian as well as western products and services. Modern stores selling appliances, clothing, electronics, furniture, computers, food, and other goods have significantly increased in number and variety since my last visit.

Through my conversations with



**Emil Milevoj, left, and Lusine Grigoryan at the main administration building of Yerevan State University.**

Photo: Sasan Fayazmanesh

our hosts I have learned that the number of foreign visitors and investors in Armenia has doubled in the last year.

The Republic Square is very impressive especially at night. All the buildings are lit and the center of the square contains a spectacular water fountain. The most intriguing part is that where ones stood a statue of Lenin now there is a video

wall playing MTW and BMW commercials.

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to visit Armenia during this period and witness the transformation that this amazing country and its people are going through yet again ensuring that the Armenian spirit will continue on for many years to come.



## Soccer Star Alecko Eskandarian



Alecko Eskandarian, center, at the MLS championship game.

**HAKOP TATARYAN**  
EDITOR

Alecko Eskandarian, was named the Honda Most Valuable Player in the recent Major League Soccer championship game held in Carson, California. Alecko helped D.C. United win their fourth title against the Kansas City Wizards. In a span of seven minutes, Eskandarian scored twice in the first half to give his team a 2-1 lead going in to half-time. United won 3-2 even after losing one player to a red card.

Eskandarian also left the game in the second half due to cramping, which prevented him from going for the hat trick. Eskandarian was replaced by the teen phenom Freddy Adu.

Eskandarian's glorious performance was witnessed by 25,797 fans, among them, many Armenians, who waived their Armenian flags and hand-made posters of Alecko. Also in present was Eskandarian's father, Andranik "Eski" Eskandarian, who himself was a star in NASL from 1979-84.

Eskandarian was a number one draft pick out of the University of Virginia, where he was one the finest players in the University's history. His coaches raved about him. "He's a picnic of a player and I'm looking forward to working with him and developing him and he'll be among a tremendous group of players in a vibrant and character-filled room. He's wonderful," said his D.C. United coach, Ray Hudson. Boy, Eskandarian sure lived up to his coach's expectations.

In 2003 the 22 year-old Eskandarian was the leader in goals and assists on the US-23 soccer team. Currently, he has his sights set on the 2006 FIFA World Cup. With his exceptional performance this year, ten goals and two assists in 24 games, Eskandarian is a viable candidate for the U.S. men's soccer team.



Alecko Eskandarian

**ARMENIA, FROM PAGE 5**

## The Tale of Two Cities: From Tehran to Yerevan

**SASAN FAYAZMANESH**

In a recent visit to Yerevan, Armenia, I took the opportunity to stop first in my native town of Tehran, Iran. Not much had changed in Tehran since I saw it four years earlier. In the early hours of the morning, when I arrived, the city of roughly 12 million people was covered with a thick layer of smog, caused mostly by millions of cars filling the streets. In the massive traffic jam a two lane highway quickly turned into three or even four lanes, creating more congestion than if cars had stayed in their own lanes. The traffic jam is an epitome of how hectic life in Tehran has become.

It was therefore no wonder that, upon hearing that I am on my way to Armenia, I was told by a number of people that Iranians go to Yerevan for vacation and relaxation. Indeed, on an old, dilapidated Russian built plane which took me from Tehran to Yerevan, there were numerous Iranians. Similarly, when walking in the streets of Yerevan or dining in restaurants, a number of times I could hear Farsi being spoken.

There is, however, another reason for Iranians gravitating north. The rising population in Tehran and speculation in real estate has caused housing prices to go through the roof. A small piece of property in the northern part of Tehran, I was told, could sell for a million dollars or more. The rising real estate prices have resulted in some Iranians going to Yerevan—which is only one hour away by air—and buying properties. I was told by at least two Armenian colleagues from

the Faculty of Economics that in certain neighborhoods the Iranian purchases of real estate have caused housing prices to rise in Yerevan as well. Yet, despite this new "Persian invasion," the relation between Iranians and Armenians appears to be quite friendly.

Landlocked, Armenia is surrounded by two hostile neighbors to the east and west, Azerbaijan and Turkey, and two friendly neighbors to the north and south, Georgia and Iran. Given the Georgian

an uneasy one. Thus even if the Iranian real estate speculations in Yerevan were to result in increasing housing prices, it is hard to imagine that the friendly relation between the two countries would be adversely affected.

Rising housing costs, which could contribute to inflation, are, of course, the last thing that Armenia needs, since the hyperinflation of the early 1990s is now under control. But there are other problems. The Armenian economy is in a pre-



L. to R.: Mrs. Mnatsakanyan, Elizabeth Shields, Lusine Grigoryan, Dr. Hayk Mnatsakanyan, and Sasan Fayazmanesh.

political instability—which has only recently improved—and its poor transport system, Iran becomes one of the major sources of the Armenian trade. Actually, Iran is the third major trade partner of Armenia after Russia and Belgium and the volume of trade between the two countries has been rapidly growing.<sup>1</sup> This friendly relation between the two countries not only benefits Armenia, but it is also beneficial to Iran, particularly since the relation between Iran and its neighbors to the north, Azerbaijan and Turkey—two countries whose foreign policies are often aligned with that of the US and Israel—is

carious state. "Armenia," writes the well-known development economist Keith Griffin, "has embarked upon a transition from a centrally planned to a market oriented economic system."<sup>2</sup> But, Griffin goes on to say, the "transition has not gone smoothly, not least because Armenia has received a series of blows which have seriously affected the economy." Among these blows, Griffin mentions the massive earthquake of 1988 and the disintegration of the USSR in 1991. According to Griffin, the latter event, which led to the political independence of Armenia, also resulted in deterioration in

**APCAR, FROM PAGE 1**

husband, Michael, to Yokohama, Japan. Michael Apar imported and exported shellac lacquer pearls. They moved to Japan because it was opening its doors to the West and brought business opportunities.

Diana married Michael Apar at age 29 and they had a turbulent 15-year marriage. They had five children between 1890 and 1896; two of whom died as children.

Writing was Diana Apar's passion. She wrote thirteen books, numerous pamphlets and papers, on topics such as politics. In the late 19th century most women did nothing outside of the home; Diana Apar was an exception.

In 1920, Diana Apar was named Consul to the Republic of Armenia. She was the first woman to serve in a diplomatic capacity. This appointment allowed Apar to provide assistance to hundreds of refugees fleeing Turkish and Russian oppression. She helped the refugees by providing economic assistance and shelter.

During this time, Apar interviewed Armenian refugees about the experiences faced while living under and escaping Turkish and Russian oppression. She recorded their accounts and used their stories as inspiration for the book, *From the Book of One Thousand Tales: Stories of Armenia and Its People, 1892-1922*.

Lucille Apar describes the book as "not an epic, but a scholarly story." It used humor and presents

the most human side. She says that the writing is very descriptive and full of feeling. "Diana never stepped foot in her homeland of Armenia, but tells the story better than anyone else," Lucille Apar proudly sates.

Ruth Apar, Diana's daughter, brought the manuscript to America when the Apar family immigrated to the United States in 1946. When Ruth's son, Lionel, passed away in 2002, Lucille found the manuscript.

Lucille, who was encouraged to publish the writings by her cousin, Mimi Malayan (Diana Apar's great granddaughter), knew it was important to share the stories of the Armenians with the world. "It's one of the earliest accounts of the events of the time," Lucille said.

Lucille Apar spoke very fondly of her beloved grandmother, Diana, who passed away in 1937. Education was very important to Diana; she taught her children and grandchildren to read and write English. Lucille is grateful and appreciative for all her grandmother did during her lifetime.

Lucille Apar was born in Yokohama, Japan. In 1946, the Apar family left Japan and came to America. During World War II the Apar family had it rough in Japan. They were treated as the enemy; Lucille's father was imprisoned.

After arriving in America the Apar family settled in San Francisco. Lucille Apar has lived in Mariposa, California the past seventeen years. She found her grandmother's memoirs in 2002 and recently published them in 2004.

have ever come across. A day did not go by without a faculty member taking me and my colleagues out to a restaurant, ordering massive amounts of food and drink, and refusing to accept a penny towards the burdensome cost of the meal. This hospitality and generosity, however, was not confined to spending what appeared to be a 1/4 of one's monthly salary on entertaining guests. On at least three occasions in a week I was given guided tours by one or more faculty members. These tours often lasted for no less than half a day. This meant that colleagues selflessly gave their precious time to entertain a foreign visitor. In Armenia, it seemed, "time was not money," and establishing human connections by making your guest feel at home was far more important than giving up one's time.

In sum, even though my fellow Iranians are famous for going all out in treating their guests, I have to say that when it comes to hospitality and generosity Iranians are dwarfed by the Armenians. I will remember the kindness and warmth of my Armenian colleagues for a very long time.

1. IRNA, Aug 18, 2002 and <http://www.armeniandiaspora.com/archive/10605.html>.

2. *Growth, Inequality and Poverty*, edited by Keith Griffin, A report of a UNPD mission led by Keith Griffin on the *Impact of Macroeconomic Policy on Poverty*, Yerevan, 2002, p.1.

3. Ibid. p.14.

4. For official rate see Terry McKinley, *ibid.* p. 43.

Armenia's terms of trade and loss of industry. Indeed, as a share of GDP, Armenia's industry has declined from 44.5% to 22.1% between the years 1990 to 2000.<sup>3</sup> The result of this dis-industrialization is an official rate of unemployment that stands at 20%, and unofficially, according to some economists with whom I talked, stands at 30-40%.<sup>4</sup> At the same time, according to the official data, real income has declined and poverty and income inequality have increased.

Much of this was evident in daily observations and private conversations that I had with faculty members of the Yerevan State University. One faculty member who had worked for thirty years told me that her university salary was only \$120 per month. Given that a slice of pizza costs a dollar and a bottle of the most inexpensive Armenian beer sells for \$0.80, it is obvious that the regular salary of a university professor does not buy much. If a university teacher faces such hardship, one can imagine the difficulty that Armenians with less prestigious jobs face. Indeed, there was a noticeable degree of poverty on the streets of Yerevan.

Yet, despite all the hardship, Armenians appear to be a very resilient people. Almost all the faculty members that I met had at least one outside job to supplement their meager university income. Many ordinary folks, even those who appeared to be on the verge of poverty, were engaged in creative activities to make a living and the informal economy was thriving.

Moreover, and again despite all the hardship, the Armenians I met seemed to be among the most hospitable and generous people that I



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“That’s Armenia”-Armenian Films

JOHN MOSES

SPECIAL TO HYE SHARZHOOM

Midway through *Vodka Lemon*, a character asks the barkeep of a remote outdoor stand why the concoction that gives the bar its name is called “lemon” when “it tastes like almonds.” “That’s Armenia” comes the answer, with a knowing shrug. *Vodka Lemon* is filled with such moments of deadpan humor, though its absurdist perspective is tempered by genuine sympathy for the characters’ impoverishment as well as their need for companionship and love.

In addition to its own unmistakable merits, *Vodka Lemon* offers U.S. audiences a rare glimpse of contemporary Armenia in a feature film. During the seven decades of Soviet rule, the centralized Armenian film industry seldom reached foreign audiences, and economic instability since the country’s independence has curtailed the expected output from privatized studios.

More numerous by far have been films from the Armenian diaspora, with Sergei Paradjanov (1924-90) and Atom Egoyan (b. 1960) garnering the most attention, and justly so. Whether we recall the ravishing iconic tableaux of Paradjanov’s *The Color of Pomegranates* (1969) or the complexly structured meditation on the Armenian holocaust in Egoyan’s *Ararat* (2002), we have before us world directors of the highest order.

Ironically, *Vodka Lemon*, filmed on location with the participation of an independent Armenian film company, is itself a product of exile. Writer-director Hiner Saleem is an Iraqi Kurd living in Paris, who returned to Armenia for this, his second film in the country. “I consider all Armenians to be magicians,” he explains in the film’s pressbook, “as I don’t understand how they succeed in surviving. I gather they don’t understand it either. They face life with a continual optimism.



That same optimism in the face of catastrophic misfortunes can be seen in another recent film from Armenia, *Merry Bus* (2001), directed by Albert Mkrtchyan. Set after the 1988 earthquake that devastated the country, the film follows characters rebuilding their shattered lives: an orphan boy insisting he be adopted by a middle-aged woman still mourning the deaths of her husband and child. Not the stuff of comedy, but a comedy it is. In surreal moments much like those from *Vodka Lemon*, the boy “rings” church bells that no longer exist; he and his mother-to-be listen to the “music” of fallen telephone wires; a former decathlon athlete rides his bicycle through several scenes, varying his repeated tale of finishing second at the Olympics; and a bus, bursting with weary occupants, lumbers through the streets, those same occupants giving voice to song in the final scene.

*Merry Bus* also illustrates the difficulties Armenian filmmakers face in gaining theatrical distribution in the U.S. First shown at the New York Armenian Film Festival of 2002, it returned for this year’s program in San Francisco. Sufficiently accomplished to be the centerpiece of two successful festivals years apart, nonetheless it was never picked up for a theatrical run in this

country and is unlikely to receive one now.

Similar obscurity came to the highly praised *Symphony of Silence*, directed by Vigen Chaldranian. Two years ago, the film was in the running for a Best Foreign Language Oscar. After losing its bid for a nomination, it dropped from sight to await its release on video.

But the attention given to Armenian cinema may be on the rise. This past summer, to observe the 80th year of Armenian filmmaking, the first “Golden Apricot” International Film Festival was held in the country’s capital, Yerevan. Also celebrated at the festival was the 80th anniversary of Paradjanov’s birth; Georgian-born, he spent his last years living and working in Armenia.

The release of *Vodka Lemon* in the U.S., however brief its theatrical run, is another promising sign. But until we have the opportunity to see more films from Armenia on American screens, look for them in video at Narek.com, which handles dozens of hard-to-find titles. And this Spring, be on the lookout for the sixth Annual Armenian Film Festival at CSU, Fresno, hosted by the school’s Armenian Studies Program.

Review-Vodka Lemon

HAKOP TATARYAN

EDITOR

To this day, the hardships of a post-Soviet Armenia haunt the memories of many. Those who experienced and struggled those years have ambivalent feelings when reminiscing. They recall the cold weather with no heat and the struggle for employment, but at the same time they remember the beauty of their country, the togetherness of the people, and the hope that was in the air. You will find yourself cuddling with the person next to you just to keep warm as Hiner Saleem’s new film “Vodka Lemon,” takes you back on a journey to the days of post-Soviet Armenia, to a village that looks to be the coldest place on earth. The troubled village is the background for a dark comedy that will evoke tears. The cast of the film has good chemistry and the film seems to flow naturally.

Meet Hamo, a white-bearded widower whose daily ritual consists of a visit to his dead wife’s grave for casual chat. Their conversation consists of Hamo lamenting about their sons and the difficulty of life. His frequent visits are a solace for Hamo. The hardships of his life

can only be described by comparing them to those of Job.

Meet Nina, a widow who also visits her dead husband’s gravestone on a regular basis. One day the paths of these two meet and they discover how much they have in common, including their penniless struggle for survival, while worrying about their children.

There are several heartwarming moments as the relationship between the two develops. Needless to say, they encounter many new obstacles in the process, leaving viewers wondering if they were better off without each other.

The cold scenery only accentuates the desperation and anticipation of Nina, Hamo, and the rest of their village. It is interesting watching the family members bond and develop their friendships and love for one another. “Vodka Lemon” is a terrific film and certainly worth your while.

The film will be playing only twice in Fresno, once at 5 pm and again at 8 pm on Friday, December 3, at the Tower Theater in Fresno. Tickets are \$9 dollars for the general public and \$7 for seniors and students with ID.

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**HONORS PROGRAM, FROM PAGE 1**

art. At the end of the semester, students would be ready to present their research findings and be prepared to submit their thesis to be published.

The rigor of the program is obvious, but the rewards are many. Those students brave enough, as well as competent enough, to be admitted to the Program will have full registration fees paid for up to two years. They will receive honors medallions upon graduation, and Honors recognition on their diploma. Perhaps the most important attribute of any Honors Program is the preparation it provides for Masters and PhD programs. Inevitably, by completing the Program, students will have ascertained exceptional research, writing, and analytical skills, making them better candidates for postgraduate aspirations.

“With an Honors Program in Armenian Studies, Fresno State students who seek a minor in Ar-

menian Studies and complete the honors program will be among a very small elite group at Fresno State who benefit from the highest academic standards the University is able to offer its undergraduates. The Armenian Studies Honors Program will provide students with a degree that will immediately reflect excellence in scholarship and learning, a valuable asset for any career,” said Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

This is such a great opportunity for students to develop new skills and get prepared for postgraduate studies. As fees keeps increasing and with books costing an arm and a leg, the monetary incentive the program offers could not have come at a better time. Information on the Program will be available during the Spring 2005 semester by calling 559-278-2669.

Only four students will be admitted each year, so apply fast!



**Robert Amirkhanian**



**Seda Amirkarayan-Sargsyan**

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**SAS, FROM PAGE 1**

Naregatsi Professor of Armenian Studies at UCLA was the master of ceremonies for the reception, whose main purpose was to honor the five founders of the Society. SAS president Barlow Der Mugrdechian, of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, presented a concise history of the organization to the more than 150 invited guests.

Der Mugrdechian presented a plaque to Dr. Richard Hovannisian, AEF Professor of Modern Armenian History at UCLA, honoring him for his role as a founder. Prof. Hovannisian spoke about how the Society was formed and about the early challenges faced by the Society.

Founders Drs. Nina Garsoïan, Dickran Kouymjian, and Robert Thomson were unable to be present at the reception but sent congratulatory messages. Gia Aivazian, librarian and cataloguer of Armenian and Greek materials at UCLA, accepted a plaque on behalf of the late Dr. Avedis Sanjian of UCLA. Dr. Sanjian was the first editor of the award-winning *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*.

Dr. Hrair Dekmekjian, professor of political science at USC spoke about the ties between SAS and organizations with which it is affiliated, especially the Middle East Studies Association. Dr. Robert Hewsen spoke about the publications of the Society, which includes the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* and the *News-*



**Standing, left to right: Roupen Avsharian, Levon Marashlian, George Bournoutian, Asbed Kotchikian, and George Kooshian, Jr. Seated, left to right Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Anny Bakalian, and John Greppin.**

*letter*. Musical entertainment was provided by Zvart Julhayan on flute and Carol Robbins on harp.

The reception was co-sponsored by the Friends of the UCLA Armenian Language and Cultural Studies and the Society for Armenian Studies. Dr. Peter Cowe, Dr. Levon Marashlian (Glendale Community College), and Gia Aivazian spearheaded the committee organizing the event.

On Saturday, November 20, SAS members gathered for the Annual Membership Meeting of the Society, held in conjunction with the Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, held this year in San Francisco. SAS President Der Mugrdechian ad-

ressed members, giving a report on the main activities that had taken place during the year.

On Sunday, following a panel presentation on Armenian immigration to California, SAS members were guests at a luncheon held at the St. John Armenian Church. Parish priest Fr. Sarkis Petoyan welcomed SAS members to San Francisco. Following lunch, President Der Mugrdechian spoke about the Society's activities and also introduced the members present. An informational question and answer period followed.

The SAS will continue its mission of promoting Armenian studies through the activities of its members.

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