

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

**27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Year**

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Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

## **Catholicos Aram I in Fresno October 10th through 12th**



**Catholicos Aram I**

**ARMINE SARGSYAN**  
*STAFF WRITER*

This year many anniversaries of the Armenian world coincide. The Catholicos of the Holy See of the Great House of Cilicia, Aram I, will pay a special visit to the United States in honor of four events: the 75th anniversary of the Seminary of the Great House of Cilicia; the 1600th anniversary of the Invention of the Armenian Alphabet; the tragic 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; and His 10th year anniversary as Catholicos.

Fortunately, Fresno will be one of the places that His Holiness will visit during his stay in the United States.

His Holiness obtained an extensive international education from the Seminary of Antelias and the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey in Switzerland to the Near Eastern School of Theology, the American University in Beirut and Fordham University of New York, where he received his PhD. His extensive education spans the subjects of philosophy, systematic theology, and Near Eastern church history.

Aram I was ordained to the priesthood in 1963, and received the Armenian designation of *Vartabed* (doctor of the church) in 1970. In 1979, he was elected as Primate of the Armenian Orthodox community of Lebanon and in 1980 he received Episcopal ordination. In 1995 His Holiness was elected Catholicos of the Holy See of the Great House.

His Holiness has published over 20 books pertaining to theology, Armenology, and ecumenical subjects. In addition, he played a lead-

SEE **CATHOLICOS ARAM** PAGE 8

## **Armenia Summer Study Program 2005 Leaves Lasting Impressions**



**Armenia Summer Group at Khor Virap.**

**BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN**  
*ADVISOR*

The Armenia Summer Study Program 2005 brought together nine students and their professor for a three-week journey to Armenia. Students gained three units credit as part of the class, which ran June 20-July 9. After a quick two-day visit to London, the excited group arrived in Yerevan on June 23, beginning what was to be an unforgettable experience for all.

Headquarters for the group was the Yerevan State University Guest House located in the center of Yerevan, just steps from the

Matenadaran. And university life was to be a major part of the visit, as students met with their counterparts from Yerevan State University on many occasions, forming lasting friendships.

A typical day included an outing to one of the many historical sites in the country, such as Garni-Geghart, Haghbat, Sanahin, Khor Virap, Etchmiadzin, Ambert, etc. These visits included class sessions where the historical background of the monuments were discussed. Other days included visits to local museums such as the National Gallery of Art, the Sardarabad Ethnographic Museum, the Armenian Genocide Museum, and others.

The days flew by with language classes, special seminars by YSU faculty in the area of business and economics, and a visit with the Foreign Minister of Armenia, His Excellency Vartan Oskanian.

A special visit to Holy Etchmiadzin and a visit with His

SEE **ARMENIA** PAGE 5

## **Catholicos Karekin II Visits Fresno State**



*Photo: Randy Vaughn-Dotta*

**Left to Right: Fresno State President Dr. John Welty with His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II.**

### **STAFF REPORT**

California State University, Fresno President Dr. John Welty bestowed the President's Medal of Distinction upon His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, at a special ceremony on

Tuesday, June 14, at Fresno State.

The President's Medal of Distinction is the highest non-degree honor the University can bestow on an individual. It is presented to individuals whose contributions in the areas of professional achievement or public service are of na-

tional or international significance, or represents a contribution of great significance to the university. It is awarded to those who are worthy of emulation through their leadership.

SEE **CATHOLICOS KAREKIN** PAGE 8

## **7th Annual Armenian Film Festival at CSUF**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2006**

*Sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization  
Armenian Studies Program  
California State University, Fresno  
Partially funded by the Diversity Awareness Program of the University Student Union*

### **First Call for Entries**

Entries are being sought for the 7th Annual Armenian Film Festival. Films made by Armenian directors/writers, or films with an Armenian theme are being sought. Films may be in any language, English preferred. Films may be on any topic, Armenian theme preferred. Films must be in video (NTSC)/DVD format.

**Deadline for entries to be received is January 15, 2006.**

Please send the video/DVD to: Armenian Film Festival, c/o Armenian Studies Program 5245 N. Backer Ave. PB4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001. For more information call the Armenian Studies Program office at 559-278-2669.

## **Pianist Vahan Mardirossian Opens Keyboard Concert Series**



*Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian*

**L. to R.: Keyboard Concert Series Director Andreas Werz, Vahan Mardirossian, and Tiroui Melkonian.**

**SEBOUH KRIOGLIAN**  
*STAFF WRITER*

Vahan Mardirossian, an accomplished Armenian pianist, performed in the Concert Hall at Fresno State on September 11, in a concert sponsored by the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concerts series and the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

Born in Yerevan, Armenia, in

1975, the prize-winning Mardirossian went on to graduate from the Paris Conservatory and become one of Armenia's leading pianists. After entering the Paris Conservatory in 1993, he was awarded the first prize for piano, the chamber music prize and the Conservatory's higher diploma in 1996. He then moved on to post-graduate studies.

SEE **MARDIROSSIAN** PAGE 4



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.

- Very Rev. Fr. Muron Aznikian, NY, for the copy of his book *Lusashavigh Akosner Yev Kiraknorya Hokevor Tsolker*.
- AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School, Canoga Park, for the book, *Book of Reflections Written on the Occasion of the 90th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide* (April, 2005).
- Aghop Der Karabetian, Ph.D., La Verne, for the two books he translated, *Jail to Jail* by Hagop Der-Garabedian and *Vahan's Triumph* by Vahan Hamamdjian (2004).
- Armenian Genocide Museum-Insitute, Yerevan, Armenia: *Issue of the History and Historiography of the Armenian Genocide, No. 9* (Yerevan, 2004); *Recognition and Condemnation of the Armenian Genocide by the Nations, Parliaments, and International Organizations of the World* (Yerevan, 2005); and A Boxed Set of Photographs, "The First Genocide of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century," published on the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. All donations made by Dr. Lavrenti Parseghian, Director, Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute of Armenia.
- Haigazian University, Beirut, for the copy of their journal *Haigazian Armenological Review 2004*.
- Mayreni Publishing, Monterey, for the copy of the book by Harutiu Mekeryan, edited and translated by Vatche Ghazarian, (2005) *Mikayel S. Giurjian. His Life and Work*. (California, Mayreni).
- Ms. Rose Nevart Jerzyk, Tucson, AZ, for several books both in English and Armenian.
- Keith & Mimi Koligian, Fresno, for the books from the estate of her parents, Dr. & Mrs. Ara Hairabedian.
- Col. Carl Mahakian, Rancho Mirage, for the seven separate donations of books by/or about William Saroyan, made during the summer
- Dr. Gayane G. Makhmourian, National Academy of Sciences, Yerevan, Armenia, for the book and CD, *The Policy of Great Britain in Armenia and Transcaucasia in 1918-1920*. (Yerevan, 2002).
- Jack Manuelian, Paramus, NJ, for the series of articles and CD titled *The Planned, Organized, Executed Genocide of Armenians Folder No. 2*.
- Dr. Andrea Scala, Piacenza, Italia, for *Dall'Italia e dall'Armenia, Studi in onore di Gabriella Uluhogian* (2004).
- The Stone Foundation, Santa Fe, NM, for the magazine *Stonexus*.

Tashjian Scholarship Established  
STAFF REPORT

The Armenian Studies Program announces the establishment of the Haig Tashjian Memorial Scholarship at Fresno State.

Haig Tashjian was a graduate of Fresno State. He earned a B.A. in Math, was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and graduated in the top 7% of his class. In school, Haig was an exceptionally bright student who had a special gift for music. He loved jazz, blues, rock-n-roll, and his passion in life was the guitar. He taught himself to play and could learn a song by just listening to the melody.

Haig was a passionate, deep and honest person. He always spoke his mind. He was very meticulous, taking time to do everything right until it was perfect. This was the analytical mind of the mathematician. He analyzed everything in life over and over trying to find a solution.

Haig passed away this last spring at the age of 34. In remembrance of his desire to encourage other young people, his immediate family and the cousins he grew up with have established a memorial scholarship fund in Haig's name to recognize one Armenian Studies student with a scholarship each year.

The Tashjian Memorial Scholarship will provide for scholarships for the benefit of students who enroll in Armenian Studies courses or for research grants to be awarded students in the field of Armenian Studies.

California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program

Spring 2006 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
<b>General Education</b>				
<b>Social Sciences, Area D3</b>				
• ArmS 10 Intro to Arm Studies (Class #32588)	3	10:00-10:50A	MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Arts, Area C2</b>				
• Arm 1B Elementary Armenian (Class #32586)	4	11:00-11:50A	MTWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Arts, Area C1</b>				
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia (Class #33531)	3	DIGITAL CAMPUS		D. Kouymjian
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia (Class #33830)	3	DIGITAL CAMPUS		D. Kouymjian
<b>Upper Division Courses</b>				
• ArmS 105 Arm Genoc Compar (Class #36095)	3	ARR		I. Kaprielian
• ArmS 108B Arm History II (Class #33640)	3	9:30-10:45A	TTh	B. Der Mugrdechian
• ArmS 120 T Arm Films (Class #36506)	1	4:00-10:00P 9:00A-5:00P	F S	D. Kouymjian
<i>Class meets Friday and Saturday, February 10 &amp; 11, 2006</i>				
• ArmS 120T Kazan Visiting Prof. (Class #36661)	3	2:00-4:50P	W	Kazan Professor
• ArmS 121 Arm Painting (Class #36000)	3	DIGITAL CAMPUS		D. Kouymjian
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Area IC for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after</b>				
• Arm 148-Masterpieces Arm Culture (Class #32587)	3	9:00-9:50A	MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian

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

HYE SHARZHOOM

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2004-2005 Annual Fund  
(donations received up to Sept. 1, 2005)

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# 1600th Anniversary of the Invention of the Armenian Alphabet

## STAFF REPORT

A conference dedicated to the 1600th anniversary of the invention of the Armenian Alphabet was held on Saturday, September 24, on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Seven scholars from throughout California participated in the conference, which was sponsored by the Hamazkayin Educational and Cultural Society, Western Regional Executive Committee, in conjunction with Dr. Peter Cowe, Naregatsi Chair of Armenian Studies at UCLA.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State participated with a paper on “The Political Situation in Armenia on the Eve of the Discovery of the Armenian Alphabet.” The paper examined the political situation in Armenia after the first partition of Armenia between the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire and the Sasanid Persian Empire in 387AD. The partition presented Armenia with some important challenges, not the least of which was the danger of integration and assimilation into the respective Empires. Der Mugrdechian outlined how the adoption of Christianity in the first quarter of the fourth century affected Armenia’s historic ties to Persia and led to closer relations with the Byzantine Empire.

Dr. Peter Cowe of UCLA gave



Left to Right: Conference participants Hagop Gulludjian, Dr. Peter Cowe, Dr. John Ahramanian, Dr. Marzbed Margossian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and Dr. David Bundy.

several presentations, beginning with “Armenian Oral Culture Before the Creation of the Armenian Alphabet,” “Aesthetics of Armenian Letter Forms,” and “Armenian Accounts of the Invention of the Armenian Alphabet.”

Other scholars presenting papers included, Dr. David Bundy (Fuller Theological Seminary) who spoke on “Armenian Letters as Numbers and the Development of Science,” Rev. Dr. Krikor Haleblan (Fuller Theological Seminary), who spoke on “The Inauguration of a Written Culture in Armenian,” Dr. Marzbed Margossian (Los Angeles), who spoke on “Universal Literacy and the Modern Armenian

School,” and “Dissemination of the Armenian Alphabet in the Print Medium,” Dr. John Ahramanian (Berlitz International School for Languages), who spoke on “The Armenian Script and the Expansion of Armenian Intellectual Horizons in the Medieval Monastic Academies,” and Hagop Gulludjian (UCLA), who spoke on “The Armenian Alphabet in Cyberspace.”

Roger Khadarian opened the conference with brief remarks and Hrayr Sherikian and Khadarian concluded the conference by presenting the participants with beautifully engraved bronze plaques as a memento from the conference.

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN  
ADVISOR

This year marks the auspicious celebration of the 1600th anniversary of the discovery of the God-pleasing Armenian alphabet. When the pious and virtuous Mesrob Mashtots made this discovery, through the guidance of the spirit of God, the Armenian people received a wonderful gift, an alphabet of thirty-six letters that would completely and permanently alter the nature of the Armenian people. The first book translated into the Armenian language was the Bible, the sacred “Breath of God,” which became the inspiration for generations of Armenian artists and writers.

Armenia’s adoption of Christianity in the fourth century set the course for Armenian history, putting the Armenian people on God’s path, through the centuries of challenges to be faced. And so the Armenians had become Christian, sharing fully in God’s bounty, and prospering as a people and a nation. Yet the lack of an Armenian alphabet hindered the complete evangelization of the people, making the development of the Armenian alphabet a necessity.

The wise St. Sahak, together with the God-fearing King Vramshapouh, supported Mesrob Mashtots in his quest to develop an Armenian alphabet. After much struggle and frequent failure, Mashtots was successful, ushering in a new age of creativity, when the fifth century writers and historians, began to create the original works which would set the foundation for Armenian literature. Koriun, Agatangelos, Buzantatsi, Parpetsi, Yeghishe, Yeznik, and Khorenatsi became the writers of the age of discovery, providing an influence for generations of Armenian writers.

The lyrical, unique, and perfect thirty-six letters of the Armenian alphabet gave the Armenian people an identity that would keep Armenians as Armenian until today. For 1600 years, this alphabet, has been



The Armenian Alphabet created by the monk Mesrop Mashtots in 405 A.D.

the bulwark against all challenges. It is what makes an Armenian Armenian.

The Armenians have written poems to this language, and sung to this alphabet. In the first words of Siamanto’s poem, “The Glory of Invention,” we see the love and respect accorded to Mashtots.

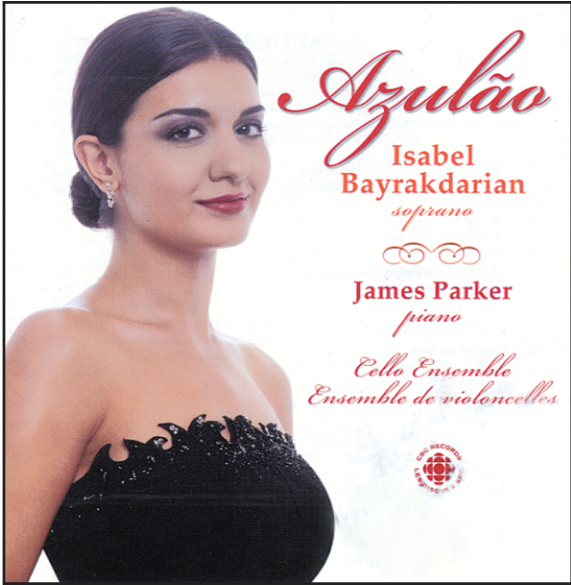
“Mesrob! You stand an unshatterable diamond rock against time. Against the Armenian centuries.”

We exist today, an Armenian people, living in Armenia, or in the Diaspora, because of Mesrop Mashtots, because of St. Sahak, and King Vramshapouh, whose love and dedication give us a life sustaining spirit. That spirit exists in all those today who speak and write Armenian.

In Yeghishe Charents’ words, “I love the sun-baked taste of Armenian words.”

In the Armenian alphabet God granted the Armenian people the instrument of its survival and its prosperity. May we continue in that spirit for generations to come.

## CD Review: Isabel Bayrakdarian-Raising the Bar for Operatic Excellence



SVETLANA BAGDASAROV  
STAFF WRITER

Charismatic, professional, strikingly radiant, captivating, and simply irresistible are just a few of the words that come to mind when thinking about the talented Armenian-Canadian lyric soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian.

Not only is she well known and praised for her operatic career, but she also manages to find time for numerous recitals, vibrant concerts, and special surprises for her fans. Although Bayrakdarian is said to be mesmerizing on stage, her recordings are just as magical as her live performances. Capturing the same essence of her angelic yet powerful voice is an easy task, since her musicality is almost flawless

whether in front of a live audience or on a disc.

After the overwhelming success of her first album, “Joyous Light,” the young soprano stepped away from her Armenian roots and recorded something completely different. It turned out that her venture into

new territory was a wonderful idea because her second album, “Azulao,” received just as much, if not more honor than her previous album. For this CD, Bayrakdarian went in a whole new direction. To broaden her musical horizons, she decided to give her listeners a taste of the exotic, sultry, and multi-dimensional sounds of Spain, Brazil, and Argentina.

“Azulao,” which means bluebird, is a superlative album. Azulao proves that Bayrakdarian is an international star capable of capturing the dazzling exuberance of Latin America. It is extremely rare to come across an artist who sings with such a passion that her listeners wonder how a non-native Spaniard managed to absorb and exude the genuine artistry of a foreign land though her unique vocals.

There is truly something for everyone on this album. Whether a piercing ballad, a somber lullaby, or a vivacious melody intrigues you, each song conveys a heartfelt story. No matter what mood you are in, every track on this disc is sure to please. Also, the orchestra adds definition to the already sublime creation. This album is worthy of nothing less than five stars.

As a reward for her enormous efforts, Bayrakdarian became the recipient of the 2004 Juno Award for Best Classical Album (vocal). This was an indescribable honor, since this award is basically a Canadian Grammy. She definitely deserved this award. She has honed her musical abilities and has reached star status. Those who have not yet discovered this jewel should purchase her recordings as soon as possible. “Azulao” as well as her other CD’s are worth every penny. There is no doubt that Bayrakdarian will continue to shine for many years to come. Many admire her work, especially the Armenian community.

On behalf of the *Hye Sharzhoom*, we would like to wish Isabel Bayrakdarian nothing but the best in her future endeavors and aspirations.

For more information, please visit [www.bayrakdarian.com](http://www.bayrakdarian.com).

**Read Hye Sharzhoom!**  
**Let us know what you think—please contact us.**

### 2006-2007 Academic Year Scholarships in Armenian Studies

Fill out an application on-line! Applications available now.

<https://scholarship.csufresno.edu/>

Make sure to mark one of the areas pertaining to Armenian studies

- 1) Will enroll in Armenian Studies
- or
- 2) Armenian-Supplemental application required

You must also complete a supplemental form when you are applying for Armenian Studies scholarships. Come by the ASP office in the Peters Business Building, Room 384, Tuesday through Thursday to pick up the supplemental form.

or you can get a supplemental form on the Armenian Studies Program Home Page <http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu>

**Application deadline: November 30, 2005**

Call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 with any questions.



# Conquering One Heart at a Time Through Jazz



ARMEN NALBANDIAN

**ZHANNA BAGDASAROV**  
*EDITOR*

What do the words Jazz, Fresno Art Museum and Thursday have in common? Well, if you enjoy great music and are willing to put the mundane aspects of your life on hold once in a while, then a night of real Jazz music at the Fresno Art Museum is just what you need, every last Thursday of the month, except in November.

Armen Nalbandian, the man we have to thank for this monthly treat, is truly someone you must experience performing live. Nalbandian is linked to the Fresno Art Museum through his position as the Musical Director/Resident Artist. You might be wondering how a Jazz performer ended up on the museum’s stage, especially since a venue such as this is not the most common place to indulge in genuine Jazz. The Jazz Program at the museum actually exists due to the exhaustive efforts of Nalbandian. His desire for a place to perform on a regular basis sparked this idea.

Nalbandian believes that the Museum is the perfect place to allow one’s artistic side some much-

deserved pampering. It is here that you are able to witness Nalbandian at his greatest on the piano. It doesn’t take long to realize Nalbandian’s dedication and seriousness when it comes to his music. It is truly admirable to see a musician committed to educating his listeners and exhibiting an undeniable passion for his work.

If that’s not enough, Nalbandian is responsible for composing full concerts inspired by the work of the exhibiting artists; he incorporates elements of Jazz music and artworks that influenced him to create a unique expression of his individuality. According to Nalbandian, last season was very prolific for him; he produced over a hundred compositions for the art and that does not include the music he wrote with an Armenian motif. He composed over thirty compositions inspired by traditional Armenian music, which he hopes to perform in the near future.

During the month of September, Nalbandian and his fellow musicians held a charity concert to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina. This event raised almost \$3,000 to help those in need due to

the natural disaster. This is just one example of how one man’s love for music can inspire an act of pure selflessness. His community efforts do not end here. Nalbandian makes it a point to involve himself in multicultural events; he performs in clinics, retirement communities and donates proceeds from his benefit concerts to support the American Cancer Federation and “Relay For Life.”

On the evening of September 29, Nalbandian, along with his Quintet, began his second season of performing his original works at the Fresno Art Museum. The concert, cleverly called “Rhythms of Art,” was the first in the series of entertaining evenings to come. That night, Nalbandian was joined on stage by Larry Honda on the woodwinds, Joe Lewis on the cornet, Kevin Hill on the bass, and Brian Hamada on the drums. The compositions he wrote and performed were influenced by the visual art of Junko Chodos, which Nalbandian was influenced by and thus wished to convey to his listeners. He definitely succeeded in producing an appreciative response from his audience and allowed every person in the concert hall the opportunity to interpret his compositions on different levels.

Armen Nalbandian’s stage presence is another thing one should observe when he is in his element. His ease and refreshing sense of humor certainly helps the listener enter a comfort zone that allows one to truly enjoy the music. With all these aspects accounted for, one is able to forget about the daily hassles and disappointments and concentrate on the pleasurable experience.

When asked what he hopes to accomplish with the new, second season of concerts at the Fresno Art Museum, Nalbandian said, “I would like Jazz to play a larger role in our community and to give the community access to what we do.” The upcoming “Rhythms of Art” concert will take place on October 27, 2005 and if the aforementioned commentary intrigued your artistic side, do come out and join Armen Nalbandian and his Quintet in their celebration of life!

For more information about concert dates go to [www.armennalbandian.com](http://www.armennalbandian.com).

## MARDIROSSIAN, FROM PAGE 1

Mardirossian has performed in Austria, Canada, England, France, Germany, Greece, Russia, Spain, and the United States, and he has been regularly invited to appear with orchestras including the Armenian Philharmonic, the Cannes Orchestra, the Yerevan Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestre International de Paris, and the Orchestre du Conservatoire de Paris.

He has collaborated with his friend, composer Tanguy. Mardirossian’s April 2001 recital was reviewed by the newspaper Le Monde, which headed the article “Pianiste Phénoménal!” He has made recording of works by Brahms, Handel, and Schubert, for the Intrada label. He has also made live recordings devoted to J.S. Bach and Eric Tanguy for the TransArt Live Label.

Vahan Mardirossian started his performance with Frederic Chopin’s “Ballade in G Minor, Op. 23,” which gave the audience a perfect overview of what to expect from the concert. Mardirossian showed the audience his mastery of the piano by playing such a dynamic piece with incredible precision, emotion, and beauty. He then performed Chopin’s “Ballade in F Major, Op. 38,” Brahms’s “Rhapsody in B Minor, Op. 79 No. 1” and “Rhapsody in G Minor, Op. 79 No. 2,” and Eric Tanguy’s “Passacaglia.” These pieces further displayed Mardirossian’s ability to play the rapid and thunderous passages with unrelenting intensity, while being able to play the more calm and elegant passages gracefully.

The second half of the concert included Robert Schumann’s

“Kreisleriana, Op. 16” and Frederic Chopin’s “Polonaise in A-flat Major, Op. 53.” The rather lengthy “Kreisleriana, Op. 16” was full of changes in tempos and dynamics, and again showed Mardirossian’s immense control over the piano. After the last piece, the much-deserved applause encouraged Mardirossian to play two encores. The first was one of Chopin’s Nocturnes from Op. 2, followed by Khachaturian’s “Tocatta.”

Mardirossian played very passionately throughout the performance, humbly smiling and bowing after each piece. At the end of the concert, some of the audience described it as “amazing,” “powerful yet elegant,” “no nonsense and straight to the point” and “incredibly precise as well as emotional.” They appeared to be more than satisfied.

# 2005-2006 ASO Executive



**L. to R.: Seated, Grigor Kyutunyan, Suzie Pogosyan, Armine Sargsyan. Standing: Guyane Frnzyan, Kristina Pogosyan.**

*The new 2005-2006 Armenian Students Organization executive members were asked their views on a few questions.*

**Question 1:** What do you hope to contribute to the ASO this year by being on the executive committee?

**Question 2:** What do you see happening for the ASO this year?

**Question 3:** How do you hope to increase the membership and do you have expectations from your current or new members?

**Question 4:** What do you hope to gain from being an executive officer?

**Question 5:** What is the one thing you would like for members to know about you?

**Kristina Pogosyan-President Major: Criminology; emphasis in victimology Junior**

**Career aspirations:** I hope to graduate next year and go to law school in the Los Angeles area. I would like to attend Loyola Law School or Pepperdine University School of Law. Once I finish law school, I plan on becoming a real estate or family attorney.

**1.** As president I hope to unite old and new members together and to make this year one of the best years the Armenian Students Organization has ever had.

**2.** We have planned many exciting fundraising events. We’re arranging a Halloween party and we’re planning on taking a trip to one of the beaches in the Los Angeles area to have a bonfire with some of the other Armenian Students Organizations. We would like to end the year with

an exciting event. We are planning a winter formal or a Christmas party. As far as fundraising, we are planning a charity event to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. We also would like to support some of the impoverished communities in Armenia and have a canned food drive for the Poverello House for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**3.** As far as increasing membership, we are trying to introduce our organization to the Armenian students at Fresno State. We have also passed out fliers in the Free Speech area and use word of mouth to get more members to join. I expect members to go out there and let their friends know about our organization, because I feel that it is the best way to attract new members.

**4.** As an executive officer, I hope to make many memories, make life-long friends, and gain career experience that I can use in the future.

**5.** I would like to let members know that I am a very friendly person and if they have any questions or concerns about anything, I would gladly help them out in any way.

**Guyane Frnzyan-Vice President Major: Business Sophomore**

**Career aspirations:** Running/ Owing my own company

**1.** As ASO Vice President my ambition is to unite all my fellow Armenians. Like they say, “If you’re a true Hye, you’ll never say vigh, vigh!”

**2.** To my knowledge we have a very strong and dedicated executive, who have new, creative, and exhilarating ideas. We all seem to have the same focus and motivation, which creates a strong bond within the ASO. This is how I see

SEE **ASO EXECUTIVE** PAGE 6



**ASO members gather at Woodward Park for a picnic.**



# Armenia Summer Study Program 2005

**ARMENIA, FROM PAGE 1**  
Holiness Karekin II in the Veharan (Patriarchal residence) were the highlight of the trip.

Below, some of the student participants share their thoughts on the Armenian Summer Study Program 2005.

**BARSEG ABANYAN**

It's always great to take a trip out of town, especially in the summer when the temperature is always above 100F in Fresno. As soon as I heard about the Armenian Studies Program trip to Armenia I jumped on board. I needed to visit Armenia to get a deeper sense of the country and see my family members once again.

I was in Armenia in the summer of 2001, before I started attending Fresno State and I yearned for another opportunity to return. This time I choose to travel on the ASP study trip because of Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, who organized the trip and is a person who knows a great deal about the politics, social structure, and great sights in Armenia. The meetings prior to the trip rein-

derful experiences in traveling abroad.

**CARINA KARAKASHIAN**

In the past four years I have heard nothing but how much Armenia has improved. My previous visit to Armenia was in 2001 as a pilgrim with the Armenian Church Youth Organization of the Western Diocese in commemoration for the 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armenia's conversion to Christianity.

I chose to go to Armenia with the program because for the past four years my knowledge and interest in Armenia has changed and evolved due to the courses I have taken. The Armenian Studies program taught me more than I ever knew existed about Armenia's history and I wanted to visit all the churches, villages, and monuments that I learned so much about first hand with the program. By understanding the church floor plans, knowing when the churches were built, and truly understanding the Armenian National Style of architecture I was able to understand the history of where I was.

Participating in this program gave

memory that seems to stand out, but the whole trip in general was memorable. From waking up in the University guest house and waiting for everyone to gather for our next trip, to the bus rides, to the different sights we would go to see, and finally the nights we would spend in the city afterwards.

It was also a great experience living with people I did not know very well for 3 weeks in a city over ten thousand miles away from home. While we quickly got to know each other with all of the good times we spent together, we also made strong bonds with Armenia, whether through the local people we got to know or through the many sites we saw and learned about. In the end, I believe we all left Armenia with stronger ties to our culture and homeland then we had when we had just arrived in Armenia.

**MITCHELL PETERS**

I have lived in Fresno, Calif., all my life. I am a Fresno State graduate and a third generation Armenian-American. I have an amazing family and group of friends who have shaped my perception of what it means to be an Armenian. In my 24 years, I've been fortunate enough to do my fair share of traveling throughout various parts of the world. This was my first visit to Armenia.

In the weeks leading up to my trip, I had several conversations with people who had visited Armenia before. One of those individuals was my 88-year-old Uncle Pete (Peters), whose last visit to the country was more than 30 years ago. To my surprise, he remembered the experience as if it were yesterday. Listening to him reminisce was both entertaining and educational.

Within his stories, he touched upon how it came to be that my great-grandfather first arrived in America. The story was sad, yet inspiring. It made me appreciate the fact that I had this excellent opportunity to visit the land of my ancestors.

Upon my return, I sat down again



**Fresno State participants with YSU students during an Armenian language class with teacher Lusine Grigoryan.**

great-grandmother before she passed. The enormous meals we ate on a daily basis reminded me of Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter, when both sides of my family come together for celebration. The scent from the countless churches we visited reminded me of Sunday services at Fowler's St. Gregory.

During our bus rides and brief visits to the countryside villages, I would look at the Armenian people and try to imagine myself trading places with them. I asked myself: What would it be like if my ancestors never immigrated to America? What kind of life would I be living in Armenia? Who would I be? The thought didn't frighten me at all.

Though many of the people live in poverty, their lives seem to be filled with happiness. The children play with smiles on their faces and the adults stand with a sense of pride. Life is simple and the countrymen are strong. Observing them affirmed in my mind that Armenians are, in fact, survivors.

Within the first two days of our three-week trip, I felt at home. It was an overwhelming feeling to turn in any given direction and see nothing but beautiful Armenian faces. I cannot put it into words. Although I am assimilated to the American way of living, I've always felt a sense of pride in being Armenian. I wasn't

Armenia became available, I jumped at the opportunity. I knew that if I didn't take advantage of traveling to Armenia with my knowledgeable professor as a guide, I most likely never would see the things that I should see. I was able to take the time off from my summer job, and my parents really wanted me to go, so all factors seemed to be in my favor.

The trip to Armenia was an amazing, unique experience, which will always serve as a milestone in my life. I had taken family trips and school trips, but I had never gone to a foreign country with vague acquaintances. However, that was also the draw for me—that I would be going with other Fresno State students. Most people travel with family or friends, so this was part of the adventure for me. It was my first trip abroad and in the company of mostly strangers. However, these strangers, in the true Armenian tradition, welcomed me as a fellow countryman and we quickly became friends. There were some students who had been to Armenia before, so they helped me out with the language and customs. I now feel a special bond with these fellow travelers, both as fellow students and Armenians.

When we first arrived in Armenia, I didn't know what to expect, but it was similar to what I had concluded from my classes and stories of my paternal grandfather. It opened my eyes to how large the world is by seeing the day-to-day work of the people there. The one thing I enjoyed the most in Armenia, but had to get used to, was the delicious food they serve there. There weren't any fast food restaurants, but the variety of meats, vegetables, and drinks were so much tastier and healthier than anything fast-food can offer.

People talk a lot about getting in touch with their roots, but that cliché really holds meaning for me now and I attribute it to my trip to Armenia. In fact, my experience had an influence on my family as well. My mother now eats plain yogurt, which she used to eat as a child, but had replaced with fruit-flavored yogurt in recent years. It may seem insignificant, but eating food, "breaking bread," is a very personal experience and those small details served to enrich my experience.

We were very fortunate to meet distinguished people in Armenia, such as the Foreign Minister, the Directors of the many museums in Armenia, and the head of the Armenian Church, the Catholicos. We saw all the different parts of Armenia. All the Armenian studies classes that I had taken came to life because it's one thing to see a picture and another to be in the picture. I would definitely like to visit Armenia again sometime and contribute to the growth of the country.



**L. to R. Mitchell Peters, Sebouh Krioghlian, Nyrie Karkazian, Christina Karakashian, Carina Karakashian, Matthew Zakarian, Barseg Abanyan, His Holiness Karekin II, Bishop Yezras Nersissian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Evan Stockdale, and Talene Karkazian. Shahan Khatchatrian, Director of the Gorky Museum to the left, rear.**

forced this fact as we were given an itinerary of the places we would visit and the interesting individuals we would meet.

For me, every successive visit to Armenia has strengthened my ties and made me think of ways in which I can assist the people. It's as though every visit gives you a more detailed perspective of what you can do to help out. I plan on distributing medication and providing health improvement information for remote villages of Armenia as soon as I am finished with school. The interactions we had with the students of Yerevan, students visiting from Los Angeles, professors, and other officials were amazing.

The greatest memory I have from the trip has to be the day we met with the Director of the Genocide Memorial, Dr. Lavrenti Barseghian, then proceeded to a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Armenia, Vartan Oskanian, and later took a small drive to Etchmiadzin where we had fruits and coffee with the Catholicos of all Armenians, his holiness Karekin II. The fact that our group of students went out every night to explore the city of Yerevan was another awesome part of the trip.

The most important thing I learned from the trip is that we tend to forget how fun traveling abroad can be as we are being consumed by our day to day activities. Sometime we just have to stop what we are doing for a brief period to take a break and enjoy won-

derful experiences in traveling abroad. me some of the best memories I ever experienced in Armenia including meetings with the Foreign Minister, directors of several museums, and most importantly a very memorable meeting with his Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians. Opportunities like these are very rare and I am thankful to have received them with this program. Though these memories will last a life time, the most important thing that I received from this trip was the experience of visiting Armenia with the eight other amazing participants who helped me form a stronger tie with the nation I am proud to call my motherland.

**SEBOUH KRIOGHLIAN**

When I heard about the opportunity to study abroad in Armenia through the Armenian Studies Program, I was very excited to go. The fact that it was a study abroad course with a knowledgeable professor guiding us throughout the trip, made the trip even more appealing.

Some of my best memories from the trip included the trips to Geghart and Haghartzin, which are my favorite churches located in Armenia. The scenery on the way to each of these churches, especially Haghartzin are simply amazing. I also enjoyed the time we spent in Yerevan at night, which seems to have become much more beautiful since my last visit. Celebrating Vartavar in Etchmiadzin as well as in the city was also a



**Summer study group with YSU students in Yerevan.**

with Uncle Pete and told him about my trip. Halfway through our conversation, I mentioned that traveling through the country reminded me so much of being back home in the Central Valley. His response: "Well, Mitchell, why do you think the Armenian immigrants chose Fresno to settle in?" After a moments thought, it made sense because the landscapes are so similar and conducive to farming.

Armenia's summer heat gave me the feeling of being home on my family's vineyard. The elderly women sitting on Yerevan's street corners selling sunflower seeds brought back vague memories of my

sure where that feeling came from until I saw the country and its people with my own eyes.

**MATTHEW ZAKARIAN**

As far back as I can remember, I have always wanted to travel. I remember being a kid in Office Depot and coming across a talking globe. I immediately began searching for Armenia and was thrilled when I actually found it. I told my mom I wanted to go there someday, but now that I think of it, I wasn't sure if my dream would become a reality. Since I began Fresno State, I have taken classes in the Armenian Studies department and have been encouraged to continue my studies. When the trip to



# Exchange Students Spend Fall Semester at Fresno State

**SARAH SOGHOMONIAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Fresno State has welcomed Talene Naljian to campus this semester.

Naljian, 19, from Upper Saddle River, N.J., is taking part in the National Student Exchange Program. The sophomore attends Ramapo College of New Jersey, one of the many universities in the United States that allows students to study a semester at a different school.

Naljian was drawn to Fresno State because she has Fresno ties. She was born in Fresno and lived here until she was 5 years old. Naljian also has family in Fresno and comes every July for a month-long visit. "I know a bunch of people here," she said.

One of those people is Naljian's cousin, Tamara Shamlian, a Fresno State junior. Naljian says that being able to attend school with Shamlian and getting to spend extra time with her is one of the highlights of her experience in Fresno. "I'm having a good time so far," Naljian said.

Another advantage of attending Fresno State for Naljian is getting to interact and bond with Armenians both in and out of the classroom. "There are a lot of Armenians here," Naljian said.

"There are very few Armenians in New Jersey and those that are Armenian are not as familiar with Armenian culture and tradition," Naljian said. In Fresno, "everyone is very dedicated to the Armenian cause," she said. "Everyone is really close-knit."

An exciting surprise Naljian dis-



**Talene Naljian**

covered at Fresno State is the Armenian Studies program. "Who would have thought they would have an Armenian class?" she said. "In New Jersey, they don't even know what an Armenian is!"

Naljian is enrolled in Armenian Studies 20, Arts of Armenia, and Armenian Studies 108A, Armenian History I, a survey of ancient and medieval history. Naljian said she is enjoying learning and seeing examples of successful Armenians by attending Armenian Studies program sponsored events.

Fresno State has benefits that Naljian's college in New Jersey does not offer. "There is more cultural diversity and the classes are bigger and more are offered," she said.

Naljian is a nursing major and plans on becoming an Anesthetist, which is an assistant to the Anesthesiologist. Naljian's father, an Anesthesiologist, is the source of her inspiration, she said.

Naljian will return to New Jersey in December following the end of the fall semester, but will take with her fond memories of her time at Fresno State. "Everyone is really welcoming!" she said.

**SARAH SOGHOMONIAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Christian Toros is visiting America for the first time. The 24-year-old Armenian is studying this semester at Fresno State as part of a foreign exchange program.

Toros is from Göppingen, Germany and attends the University of Nürtingen. A group of eight students from his university, five business majors and three finance majors, are attending Fresno State until December.

Toros, whose field of study is Automobile and International Management, is enjoying his time in the United States and at Fresno State. "I like Fresno," he said. "It has a perfect location between all the big cities."

Since arriving in California in August, Toros has traveled to Los Angeles, Las Vegas and both Yosemite and Sequoia National Park. Before returning home to Germany, Toros and his fellow classmates plan on exploring San Francisco, Seattle and parts of Canada.

Toros, whose last name was shortened from Torosian, did not know that Fresno had a large Armenian population or that Fresno State offers Armenian Studies courses when he began looking into studying in the U.S. "It is really fantastic to have an Armenian Studies Program at the university," he said. "That is impossible in Germany."

A desire to improve his English and explore the United States is why Toros said he chose to study at Fresno State, where many students from his school have come in the



**Christian Toros**

past. Another thing that made Fresno State stand out was that it offered a semester-long program versus a year-long program.

Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program and Fresno's high Armenian population were a pleasant surprise for Toros. "It was accidental," Toros said. He added that his parents did not really want him to come to the United States, but when they found out Fresno was full of Armenians, they got excited about the idea.

"Germany has a small, but close Armenian population," Toros said, "Armenian culture is alive within them. They have Armenian churches, parties, and even an Ar-

menian soccer team."

While studying at Fresno State, Toros is enrolled in Armenian Studies 10, Introduction to Armenian Studies. "It is very interesting," he said. "I am learning a lot of new information."

Toros notices a lot of differences between America and Germany. "The structure of the city is much different. You have to have a car here," he said. "Everything is so far away from each other."

Toros has found Americans to be very nice, but says he sticks mostly with the group from his school. He said he has had a hard time making contact with Americans outside of the classroom.

"There are many perks to attending college in the United States," Toros said. He said he enjoys attending campus activities, such as watching the Bulldogs play football. He could not believe the excitement and pageantry that goes along with Fresno State football.

Toros' experience at Fresno State has been very positive. "It is a wonderful campus," Toros said. "Our whole university is the size of the Peters Building!"

## Eench ga Chga-

### WHAT IS YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY AT FRESNO STATE?

**HAKOP TATARYAN-STAFF WRITER**

**Karine Frnzyan**  
Chemistry – freshman

Everyone seems to bond together like brothers and sisters. They seem to welcome every kind of Armenian with open arms, and that's awesome. I am proud to be part of this community.



**Suzie Pogossyan**  
Fashion Design – freshman

I have met a lot of Armenians on campus; unfortunately I never see them all in one place. "The Community," seems to be dispersed all over, but I guess that is an epitome of the global Armenian community, isn't it?

**Marineh Krioghlian**  
Pre-Nursing – freshman

Umm.... You know, I should probably go to an ASO meeting before I can answer this question properly.



**Svetlana Bagdasarov**  
Pre-Nursing – freshman

"I am very pleased to see and be a part of the cultural unity and the tremendous impact Armenians are having on the Fresno State Campus."

## ASO Executive, cont. from page 4

the ASO, strong and determined!

**4.** I would love to leave with an experience that would inspire me to be a better person.

**Armine Sargsyan-Secretary**  
**Major: History**  
**Senior**

**1.** Since I am the secretary I plan on keeping the ASO organized and well structured. I hope that my contribution to the group will prove that our organization is for everyone and to show that our group does exist...we want to get the word out.

**2.** I see enthusiasm throughout our whole committee. We are all very excited about making it an eventful year. We have put many ideas together and will take each event at a time to accomplish this goal. Moreover, I am very optimistic about gaining new members.

**3.** We have been working on bringing new members to the organization. We set up a table on campus passing out flyers about events and about ASO. We have also been going to Armenian studies classes and informing the students about the club.

**4.** I hope to gain better leadership and organizational skills. I also hope to build upon our team's cooperation and to learn more about the role I play as secretary. In addition, I anticipate gaining networking and

public speaking skills.

**5.** I would just like members to know that I am a dedicated and hard-working individual. Also, that I am a team player who hopes to better the ASO by holding more events and educating others about our culture.

**Grigor Kyutunyan-Treasurer**  
**Major: Business Administration**  
**Junior**

**Career aspirations:** I plan to work in a business related field to obtain the experience and knowledge necessary to serve the Armenian community and society.

**1.** I will work with the other executive officers and ASO members by planning fun activities, meetings, parties and much more.

**2.** I see an increase of Armenian involvement and contribution to the ASO and its activities, especially for the Armenian Genocide Commemoration at Fresno State and the flag raising in front of Fresno City Hall.

**3.** I hope to increase membership by telling Armenians about the ASO and about the meetings, activities and parties.

**4.** I hope to gain a sense of responsibility and to contribute to the ASO to the best of my ability.

**5.** I am proud to be an Armenian.

**Suzie Pogossyan-Public Relations**  
**Major: Fashion Merchandising**  
**Freshman**

**Career Aspirations:** My ambition is to graduate from Fresno State and attend FIDM (Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising) in Irvine, California. Once I finish FIDM, I plan on becoming the next Donatella Versace.

**1.** I would like to help the ASO become more recognized by the community. Since we have purchased a camera for the club, I hope to take memorable photos to help encourage others to join the organization.

**2.** Whatever happens this year, we hope that it will change the upcoming years for ASO. We hope to hold exciting and memorable events. Some of our plans include throwing a Halloween party, a formal event, as well as picnics and fundraisers.

**3.** I hope to take many pictures that will attract others and help them see what a fun and exciting time we all have as a club. I expect our members to get the word out about our organization.

**4.** I hope to gain experience that will help me in the future, build many memories, and establish lasting friendships.

**5.** The one thing that I would like to let members know about me is that I am a very outgoing person.



# ASP Honors Program Launched

WENDY DUNBAR  
STAFF WRITER

As the fall semester has begun, the Armenian Studies Program is pleased to announce the Honors Program participants for the 2005-2006 academic year. Isaac Halls, Christina Karakashian, Sebouh Krioghlian, and Alina Melkonian have all shown academic excellence and dedication, which are a few reasons for their acceptance into the program.

One cannot just ask and receive the Armenian Studies Honors distinction, but must satisfy a number of requirements. To name a few, students must have junior standing upon entry with an overall GPA of at least 3.4, complete 20 hours of community service per semester while in the program, complete an Armenian Studies Minor, and during senior year work side-by-side with the Armenian Studies faculty on an individual research project.

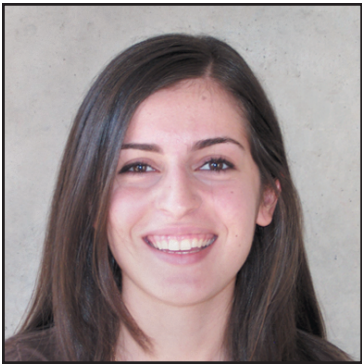
Despite all the requirements, participants receive honorable recognition and are also offered a two-year scholarship incentive if they maintain their GPA. The program also greatly benefits students by providing them with rare opportunities to expand their knowledge of Armenian studies, and hands on experience to advance skills necessary for their educational career.

For real insight into the program however, who better to provide information but the participants themselves?

### Why did you join the Armenian Studies Honors Program?

**Isaac:** At first I thought about joining the Honors Program because I wanted help paying for college. The more I thought about it though, the more I realized that it will probably help me in my career. I plan on getting into federal

law enforcement, perhaps even on an international level, and it is always good to have background training on foreign countries, especially in that area of the world.



Alina Melkonian

**Sebouh:** I joined the Honors Program in order to be more active in the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

**Christina:** When I first found out about the Armenian Studies Honors Program I was attracted because of the opportunity it provided to work with the Armenian Studies professors on a project. Minorng in Armenian Studies has allowed me to take classes that have helped me grow in my knowledge of Armenian history, architecture, and literature. The project that the Honors Program requires, allows me to apply this knowledge, which is an educational experience.

**Alina:** I joined the Honors Program in order to get an experience of what a graduate program would be like. I want to use it to broaden my knowledge.

### What were you expecting of the program?

**Isaac:** I expected pretty much what I have gotten so far, a thorough background and information about what Armenia is doing in the world

today.

**Sebouh:** I was expecting to research on a topic dealing with Armenia, while also taking part in different activities dealing with the Armenian Studies Program.

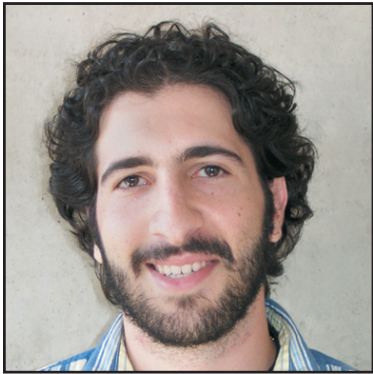
**Christina:** I was expecting the program to require a lot of dedication and time.

**Alina:** I expect the program to meet what it said it would. It's supposed to prepare a student for graduate work, teach how to do research, etc...

### What are your first impressions of the program?

**Isaac:** The classes are challenging, but interesting because I have never been taught anything like this before.

**Sebouh:** The program is pretty much what was expected. Currently I am helping organize slides for the Armenian Studies 20 class dealing with Armenian architecture. The purpose of this is to have a better, more updated way to present different Armenian architectural images.



Sebouh Krioghlian

**Christina:** Once the semester began I got a little more familiar with the program. Guidance was given

to me about the requirements and what was expected of me. The community service hours we are required to perform are not as time-consuming as expected. I also was informed that the project portion of the program will not take place until my senior year at Fresno State, therefore allowing me more time to research and determine the topic of my project.



Christina Karakashian

**Alina:** My first impressions were sort of overwhelming due to the amount of time that needs to go into this program (honors colloquium lectures, putting time into the research, community service hours, etc...) besides having a full load of coursework. However, it's been pretty decent.

### What would you tell other potential Armenian Studies honors students?

**Isaac:** I would tell potential Armenian Studies Honors students that if they are interested in learning about Armenia and its people then there is no better place in Fresno to do so than in this program.

**Sebouh:** This program is a good way to become more involved with the Armenian Studies program and I would encourage them to join.

**Christina:** To potential Honors

Program students I would say that the program gives the opportunity to work with the Armenian Studies professors to gain knowledge and experience that not all students have the opportunity of gaining. The program is not as strenuous as one might first expect, and definitely can be managed with a full-time class schedule. Potential Honors students should take full advantage of the opportunity to be part of the program, the experience will be beneficial, and the payment of tuition and honors recognition doesn't hurt!

**Alina:** I would tell them that courses such as the Masterpieces of Armenian Literature really broaden your knowledge of the material and give you a better understanding of what you will be doing in the Program. For example, I've been working on translations of various book title pages that I studied in that class.



Isaac Halls

As you can see, the program serves different interests, is applicable to many, and is feasible for full-time students willing to put forth a little extra effort. For those contemplating a rewarding experience, further information about the Honors Program is available on the Armenian Studies website at [www.armenianstudies.csufresno.edu](http://www.armenianstudies.csufresno.edu). Congratulations to those accepted, and best wishes to prospective applicants.

## Armenia...

GARINE MELIKIAN  
STAFF WRITER

- was the first to declare itself a Christian nation in 301 A.D. (we have always fought very hard to hold onto our identity as Christians)
- has been a part of the Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Persian, and Ottoman Empires
- is located in Southwestern Asia, east of Turkey (40 00 N, 45 00 E)
- consists of an area of 29,800 sq km of which 28,400 sq km is land and 1,400 sq km is water
- borders Azerbaijan-proper, Azerbaijan-Nakhichevan exclave, Georgia, Iran, Turkey
- holds deposits of gold, copper, molybdenum, zinc, alumina
- is landlocked in the Lesser Caucasus Mountains
- has the largest lake in this area, *Sevana Lich* (Lake Sevan)
- has a population of 2,982,904 (July 2005 est.)
- is composed of 11 provinces (*marzer*, singular-*marz*); Aragatsotn, Ararat, Armavir, Geghark'unik', Kotayk', Lori, Shirak, Syunik', Tavush, Vayots' Dzor, and Yerevan
- gained independence on September 21, 1991 (from the Soviet Union)
- has as its current chief of state President Robert Kocharian (since March 30, 1998)
- has as its head of government Prime Minister Andranik Margaryan (since May 12, 2000)
- GDP is \$13.65 billion (2004 est.) (and growing by 9% annually)
- exports \$850 million to the following countries: Belgium 16.8%, Israel 14.3%, Russia 14.2%, Germany 11.4%, Iran 9.9%, US 7.8%, Netherlands 5.8% (2004)
- life expectancy: 71.23 years
- has had an alphabet since 405 A.D.
- has its own national currency, the *dram*: 444 *drams* equals 1 dollar, 536 *drams* per euro
- has the best folk-hero in Sasoonndtzi David (David of Sassoon) (recognized as the national folktale)

## California State University, Fresno-Graduates 2004-2005

### College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology

#### Bachelor of Science

Staci N. Gallian  
Gary Lee Kalajian, Jr.  
Chris James Kalashian  
Michelle E. Melikian  
Ross K. Parnagian

### College of Arts and Humanities

#### Bachelor of Arts

Tiffany Miranda Balakian  
Justin W. Dervishian  
David J. Gejeian  
Christopher Dee Housepian

### The Craig School of Business

#### Bachelor of Science

Christine Helen Caprelian-Bedoyan  
Jonathan Edward Chortanian  
Jaclyn T. Gostanian  
Joshua N. Hovsepian  
Zaven Alex Kalebjian, *Cum laude*  
Carina Julie Karakashian  
Armen Hagop Postoyan  
Steve Sevgulian  
Alison Mary Shapazian  
Arman Stepanyan  
Sarah Kathrine Tozlian

### Kremen School of Education and Human Development

#### Bachelor of Arts

Rafi John Garabedian

Dennis Michael Jizmejjan

### College of Engineering and Computer Science

#### Bachelor of Science

Izabella Gevorkian

### College of Health and Human Services

#### Bachelor of Arts

Narine Goukasian  
Kimberlee Kathleen Torosian,  
*Magna cum laude*

#### Bachelor of Science

AnnMarie Kevorkian Mattie  
Brett Leon Sarkisian  
Hovig Henry Torigian

### College of Science and Mathematics

#### Bachelor of Arts

Zhanna Bagdasarov,  
*Summa cum laude*  
Tatevik Ekejian

### College of Social Sciences

#### Bachelor of Arts

Maral Gregoire Kochayan  
Richard Sarkis Sanikian  
Stephanie Erin Stockdale

#### Bachelor of Science

Kevin Bruce Kalajian

Hampartsum Vartan Khatchadourian

### Division of Graduate Studies

#### College of Health and Human Services

##### Master of Arts

Jenyfer Lin Hurley Maranian

### Craig School of Business

#### Master of Business

##### Administration

Matthew Peter Cholakian  
Anna K. Hadjinlian,  
*with distinction*

### Kremen School Education and Human Development

##### Master of Arts

Tamar Kataroyan  
Hagop R. Kelejian  
Nancy Elizabeth Nersesian

#### Master of Science

Jamie Lyn Avedian  
Lacey Lynn Dendesian  
Sona A. Yemenjian,  
*Phi Kappa Phi*

### College of Science and Mathematics

##### Master of Science

Pamela Mejloumian



Photo: Randy Vaughn-Dotta



**L. to R. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Dr. John Welty, Catholicos Karekin II, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian.**

**CATHOLICOS KAREKIN, FROM PAGE 1**

His Holiness was paying his second Pontifical visit to the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, June 1-21, 2005. As part of his visit, under the title of "Renaissance of Faith," His Holiness visited campus upon the invitation of the Armenian Studies Program.

Catholicos Karekin II, accompanied by His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese, Arch-

ity of Fresno State faculty teaching at the Seminary, thereby also establishing closer relations between the two institutions.

Following the discussion, a luncheon was held in the Smittcamp Alumni House to honor His Holiness. Guests mingled in a warm atmosphere as they enjoyed lunch.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program in his opening remarks spoke of His Holiness' leadership during the past six years, and how Holy Etchmiadzin is undergoing a spiritual and administrative renewal. In addition, many new churches are being built, and older churches renovated as part of His Holiness' plan to reinvigorate the Armenian people.

Dr. Welty then bestowed the President's Medal of Distinction to His Holiness.

On October 27, 1999, Archbishop Karekin Nersissian was elected the 132nd Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians and was consecrated on November 4, 1999 in the Cathedral of

bishop Vatché Hovsepien, Archbishop Nerses Bozabalian and the Catholicos' entourage arrived at the Fresno State campus at 11:30AM and were greeted by University President Dr. John Welty, his wife Dr. Sharon Brown Welty, Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program, co-hosts Dr. and Mrs. Varoujan and Lena Altebarmakian, and invited guests and students.

Dr. Welty and His Holiness discussed many areas of mutual interest between the Catholicosate and the University. The Gevorgian Seminary in Etchmiadzin has recently achieved recognition by the Armenian government as an institution of higher learning. Discussions were held about the possibil-

the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

Since his election, His Holiness has begun the difficult work of the restructuring and reorganization of internal church life, the revitalization of the theological seminaries of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, strengthening Christian education, and the reconstruction of churches and monasteries. Special emphasis has been placed on the preparation of a new generation of clergy to serve Armenian faithful throughout the world.

As of November 2004, more than 25 newly built churches have been consecrated, foundations of 5 new churches have been blessed and are in progress, and reconstruction of historic monasteries and monastic complexes have been completed under the leadership of His Holiness.

In the first five years of his pontificate, more than 100 new priests have been ordained to the Holy Order of Priesthood. Over 35 of these new priests are continuing their higher education in theological universities throughout Europe, the United States and the former Soviet Union.

His Holiness' visit to the United States coincided with several important dates for the Armenian people. 2005 is the 90th anniversary of the Armenian genocide and at the same time the 1600th anniversary of the discovery of the Armenian alphabet.

His Holiness paid his first visit to Fresno State in May 2001, during his first Pontifical visit to the United States, associated with the 1700th anniversary of the establishment of Christianity in Armenia.



**The Armenian Studies Program presented His Holiness Karekin II with a set of lithographs by artist Varaz Samuelian.**

Photo: Randy Vaughn-Dotta

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

***1600th Anniversary of the Armenian Alphabet  
405-2005 AD***

**“The Origins of the Armenian Alphabet  
and its Cultural Impact”**

by  
**Dr. Peter Cowe**

*Dr. Peter Cowe is Naregatsi Professor of Armenian Language and Culture at UCLA and is an internationally recognized authority on the Armenian language.*

**“The Political Situation in Armenia  
on the Eve of the Invention of the  
Armenian Alphabet”**

by  
**Barlow Der Mugrdechian**

*Barlow Der Mugrdechian teaches in the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. He teaches courses in Armenian history, language, literature and culture.*

**Friday, October 21, 2005 7:30 p.m.**

**Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191**

**University Business Center • Fresno State**

**CATHOLICOS ARAM, FROM PAGE 1**

ing role in many organizations before he was elected Catholicos. He was one of the founding members of the Middle East Council of Churches. He held many positions in the World Council of Churches, on the Central Committee in 1983, and was Moderator in 1991.

His Holiness Aram I will arrive in Fresno on Monday, October 10 and will stay until Wednesday, October 12.

Judging by the current atmosphere among Armenians in Fresno, one can be certain that Catholicos Aram's upcoming visit will prove to be a fruitful event for the community.

**Schedule: October 10-Hrashapar Service-Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church-5:00 PM.** Immediately following, the youth from the community, will get a special opportunity to speak with His Holiness.

**October 11- City Hall -8:30 AM Armenian Community School of Fresno- 9:45 AM.**

**Fresno Pacific Univ.- 11:00 AM. Pontifical Banquet-6:30 PM-Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Social Hall.**

**October 12- Antasdan (blessing of the four corners)- 9:30 AM.**

**California Arm. Home-11:00 AM First Armenian Presbyterian Church-2:00 PM**

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