

HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

27th Year

December 2005

Vol. 27, No. 2 (92)

Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

Reid Appointed Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies



Dr. James Reid

ALEX BUNCH
STAFF WRITER

Dr. James Reid has been appointed the fifth Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at Fresno State for the Spring 2006 semester.

Dr. Reid will be teaching a three-unit course, Armenian Studies 120T, "The Armenian Genocide in History and through Eyewitness Accounts," which will be offered on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00-4:50 PM. The Spring 2006 semester begins on Wednesday, January 18.

Armenian Studies 120T examines the historical context that led to the Armenian genocide. This course looks at the Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire, as well as other Christian groups. Emphasis will rest with understanding events that occurred from the mid-1870s to 1920 through eyewitness narratives. Some part of the course will study Ottoman perpetrators and why they committed to the plan of genocide and massacre. The class will teach about the Armenian Genocide not as a single event, but rather it will be examined through eyewitness testimonies, because every testimony has something different to say, and therefore examining these testimonies will be the primary focus of the class.

When asked why he was interested in the Armenian Genocide, Dr. Reid said, "From my teenage years, I have seen the results of war and destruction in Europe, and among the Americans. I myself have faced innumerable, dangerous situations, where the issue of life and death confronted my wife

SEE REID PAGE 3

"Glimpse of Armenia" at International Coffee Hour



Left to right: Barlow Der Mugrdchian, International Coffee Hour coordinator Yannis Toutountzis, and Dr. Berta González.

CAITLIN TIFTICK
STAFF WRITER

From the holy city of Etchmiadzin, to the humbling grave of William Saroyan, students and faculty of all cultures got a glimpse of Armenia, Tuesday, November 15. The presentation by Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program, took place during the weekly Interna-

tional Coffee Hour on campus. The lecture gave attendees the opportunity to learn about Armenia and the Armenian Studies Program summer study abroad program directed by Der Mugrdchian. The Coffee Hour presentation was also part of International Education Week at Fresno State.

Many of the students and faculty in attendance were unfamiliar

SEE ARMENIA PAGE 7

Discovery of the Armenian Alphabet Celebrated



Left to right: Barlow Der Mugrdchian, Dr. Peter Cowe of UCLA, and Avik Issahakian, grandson of noted writer Avedik Issahakian.

HAKOP TATARYAN
STAFF WRITER

This year is the 1600th anniversary of the creation of the Armenian alphabet by Saint Mesrop Mashtots. As part of this year's Armenian Studies Lecture Series,

Dr. Peter Cowe was invited to speak on the origins of the Armenian alphabet and the cultural impact it has had for the past 1600 years for Armenians and the Diaspora.

On October 21, Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian began the evening by speaking on "The Political Situation in Armenia on

the Eve of the Invention of the Armenian Alphabet." Der Mugrdchian then introduced Dr. Cowe.

Dr. Cowe is Professor of Armenian Language and Culture at UCLA. He received his Ph.D. in Armenology from Hebrew University and has been a professor at Columbia University as well as at UCLA. Dr. Cowe is the author of several books including: *Commentary on the Divine Liturgy* by Xosrov Anjewatsi, *The Armenian Version of Daniel*, and *Modern Armenian Drama: An Anthology*.

On the eve of the 5th century, Armenia was just starting to develop an identity. However, it was difficult, as geographically and politically she was divided into two sections: the Persians largely dominated the east and governors appointed by the Byzantine empire ruled the western regions of historic Armenia. The two empires had plans of assimilating the Ar-

SEE ARMENIAN ALPHABET PAGE 6

Armenian 1A Class Promotes Interest in Armenian Language



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

Armenian 1A students, rear row, left to right: Yervant Hovanessian, Bryce Hovannisian, Grigor Kyutunyan, Kyle Torosian, Suzie Pogosyan, Juana Guadian, Christina Goukasian, Syuzanna Simonyan, Karine Frnzyan, Bernadette Moordigian, Robert Brenner, Lena Koujaoghlanian, and Knar Mekhitarian. Front row, left to right: Sevag Jierian, Michelle Arakelian, Ariana Kasparian, and Stepan Kyutunyan.

SARAH SOGHOMONIAN
STAFF WRITER

The average language class is commonly filled with students from different backgrounds, but one would think that an Armenian language class would be filled only with Armenians that look and sound alike.

That is not the case with Armenian 1A, an introductory Armenian language course.

Everyone in the class, taught by Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian, is Armenian, except for two students. But the backgrounds of the Armenian students that fill the seats are very different.

Michelle Arakelian, a sophomore majoring in Marketing, is from Turlock, Calif. She is a quarter Armenian and no one in her immediate family speaks Armenian. When Arakelian entered the

SEE ARMENIAN 1A PAGE 8

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.

Armenian Prelacy of Greece, Athens, Greece for the booklet *Xopan*.

Josephine Arklin, Dana Point, for the copy of *I Am Haiganoosh*, the narrative she wrote about her grandmother.

Eunice & Charlie Basmajian, Selma, for the books: *A History of the Armenian People Volume II*, by George A. Bournoutian; *Minatures Arméniennes*; *Armenian Art Treasures of Jerusalem*; *Aghtamar, The Church of the Holy Cross 915-921*; *Armenians in America-Celebrating the First Century*; *Armenian Artists, 19th - 20th centuries*; *Treasures of Etchmiadzan*, and other journals

A. J. Hacikyan, Coordinating Editor, Westmount Quebec, Canada, for the copy of *The Heritage of Armenian Literature Volume III: From the Eighteenth Century to Modern Times* published by Wayne State University Press, Michigan, (2005).

Walter Karabian, Los Angeles, for the photographs and archival materials about the American National Committee for the Homeless Armenians and the CD on Arshag Dickranian’s 100th Birthday.

Col. Carl Mahakian, Rancho Mirage, for 79 books and archival materials by or about William Saroyan.

Virginia A. Meltickian, Fresno, for the book *Songs of Artivin*, written by Minas Minassian in 1913 and republished by his great granddaughters, Veronica and Mirina Kaskanlian in 2005.

Martin M. Tourigian, Drexel Hill, PA, for the copy of his booklet, *Martin M. Tourigian’s Tango Music*.

Tufts University, The Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies, Medford, MA, for the booklet *Engaging in Dialogue on U. S. Foreign Policy: Lighting the Path to Understanding an Occasional Paper*.

Letters

Dear Editor:

Keep up the good work.

Ms. Tamara Mchitarian
Rockford, IL

Dear Editor:

I really like the “Hye Sharzhoom!”

Mrs. Jackie Kurkjian
Valley Village, CA

Dear Editor:

Enjoy reading your paper! Keep it coming!

Anthony P. Mezoian
S. Portland, Me.

Dear Friends,

Enclosed is a donation for your wonderful newspaper. I send the donation in memory of my father, Donabed Vanitzian, who was interested in journalism as a career but was unable to pursue it when World War II broke out. I learned of his passion for journalism after his death, after I had concluded a successful 19-year career as a professional journalist. I encourage all of you to continue in journalism, because we need you to document current affairs. If you will not do it, who will? God bless you all.

Carissa Vanitzian
Scottsdale, AZ

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

Spring 2006 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education				
Social Sciences, Area D3				
• ArmS 10 Intro to Arm Studies (Class #32588)	3	10:00-10:50A	MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Arts, Area C2				
• Arm 1B Elementary Armenian (Class #32586)	4	11:00-11:50A	MTWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Arts, Area C1				
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia (Class #33531)	3	DIGITAL CAMPUS		D. Kouymjian
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia (Class #33830)	3	DIGITAL CAMPUS		D. Kouymjian
Upper Division Courses				
• 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
Class meets Friday and Saturday, February 10 & 11, 2006				
• ArmS 120T Armenian Genocide (Class #36805)	3	2:00-4:50P	W	J. Reid
• ArmS 121 Arm Painting (Class #36000)	3	DIGITAL CAMPUS		D. Kouymjian
Arts & Humanities, Area IC for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
• 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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Read Hye Sharzhoom!

Let us know what you think-please contact us.

Have you moved?

Would you like to have Hye Sharzhoom sent to a friend?

Let us know. Please contact us with any questions regarding Hye Sharzhoom.

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Hye Sharzhoom is a supplement of The Collegian and the newspaper of the CSUF Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program and is funded by the Associated Students. Articles may be reprinted provided Hye Sharzhoom is acknowledged. Hye Sharzhoom welcomes prose, poetry, articles and other material from its student readers. For further information concerning the newspaper or the Armenian Studies Program:

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Fresno County Library Acquires Three William Saroyan Archives

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN
ADVISOR

The Fresno County Public Library officially announced the acquisition of three major archives related to the life of Fresno's most famous native son, William Saroyan, at a reception held on Thursday, November 17.

John Kallenberg, President of the William Saroyan Society, introduced Bill Secrest Jr., archivist of the California History and Genealogy Room, and head of the Saroyan collection.

Secrest thanked the Saroyan Society for its support of the Library in obtaining the new materials. The Library, under the direction of County Librarian Karen Bosch Cobb and California History and Genealogy Room Supervisor Ray Silvia, had made a major commitment to strengthening the William Saroyan collection at the

Library. Private donations and Library support made the new acquisitions possible.

Secrest discussed how the Library had negotiated for the three major acquisitions over the past eighteen months. "We were in the right place, at the right time," said Secrest.

The Rosheen Marcus Archive contains papers from the estate of the late Rosheen Marcus, mother of Carol Marcus Saroyan and William Saroyan's mother-in-law. The major part of the collection includes hundreds of documents, mainly correspondence between Carol Marcus Saroyan and her mother, in the period 1942-1951, while Carol was still married to William Saroyan. The papers document their marriage through letters and photos.

The second major archive, is the Leonard Lyons Archive consisting of the papers of Leonard Lyons, a New York society columnist. This



Left to right: California History and Genealogy Room Supervisor Ray Silvia, archivist Bill Secrest, Jr., William Saroyan Society President John Kallenberg, and Fresno County Librarian Karen Bosch Cobb.

very rich archive includes some correspondence, between 1937-1976, spanning most of Saroyan's public career.

The third archive, called the

Carol Matthau-Aram Saroyan Archive, documents Aram Saroyan's letters to his mother, after she had already divorced William Saroyan. The letters cover all

sorts of family matters, during the period of 1965-1987. Aram Saroyan was instrumental in the process of acquiring the archive, which also includes legal documents and other unpublished materials.

Secrest said that he is proud to say that the new acquisitions make the Saroyan holdings of the Library the second best collection of such materials apart from the Stanford Library, where the bulk of Saroyan's literary legacy is kept.

The new archives focus on manuscripts, supplementing the printed works and magazine holdings of the Library on Saroyan. Secrest looks to the future to continue to look for manuscripts to enrich the collection, even though these types of materials are becoming harder to find.

The three new archives will be a part of the larger William Saroyan collection at the Fresno County Public Library.

Review-Lily's Grill House and Café



Left to right: Zhanna Bagdasarov, Lilit Avakian, and Svetlana Bagdasarov.

SVETLANA BAGDASAROV
STAFF WRITER

On November 11, my sister and I decided to visit the newly opened restaurant by the name of Lily's Grill House and Café. After hearing a number of people praise the restaurant, we just had to experience it for ourselves.

After the family-owned restaurant held its official grand opening on October 31, North Blackstone was swarming with anxious customers. What is particularly unique about this place is the fact that the family takes such pride in their place that they all dedicate numerous hours into perfecting it. With nine years of experience as a professional chef, Lilit Avakian, for whom the restaurant is cleverly named, serves as the head chef, while her kids help out by waiting tables.

The minute my sister and I walked inside the restaurant, we

were immediately seated and served the drinks of our choice. The cozy ambiance was our preference, however, the restaurant offers a convenient outside patio. Soft music played in the background as we browsed the menu.

While we were deciding what to order, we noticed the generous 10% student discount offering. We also noticed the beautifully decorated surroundings. In addition to the exquisite variety of paintings, the aroma of fresh flowers and plants filled the air. After what seemed like the blink of an eye, we were

presented with appetizers. We immediately devoured everything from *yalanchi*, to *tabbouleh*, to *hummos* etc... Shortly after the appetizers, the mouth-watering chicken, lamb, kafta, and beef kebab as well as other Mediterranean foods arrived.

As for dessert, everything from baklava to Lily's special honey cake is offered for your satisfaction. The family owned establishment promises "Authentic Mediterranean Cuisine," and that is exactly what you get.

Compared to other Mediterranean establishments, Lily's Grill House and Café is extremely affordable. The restaurant also accepts all major credit cards for your convenience. Daily specials are announced by the server and prepared just the way you like it. What is wonderful about this restaurant is the fact that it conforms to any occasion. Whether you want to impress a date or simply enjoy a home-style meal with your friends and family, this restaurant is sure to please.

The restaurant is open from 11AM to 8PM and is located at 5048 N. Blackstone Avenue #108, in Fresno.

The bottom line is, the restaurant is more than just a nice atmosphere; the delicious cuisine is what will bring you back for more. The chef puts her heart and soul into everything she prepares. This restaurant deserves nothing less than five stars. I definitely recommend Lily's Grill House and Café, so visit it as soon as possible. Trust me, you don't want to be the last one to try it.

For more information please call: 559-226-2400.

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Armenian Radio Show
"Hye Oozh"
Every Saturday Morning
9:00AM-12:00noon
90.7 FM
On the internet at www.kfsr.org!**

REID, FROM PAGE 1

and me. Through all of these experiences I realized that academic endeavor must serve the needs of human beings. The importance of life and the value humans place on life must come first."

"I will teach a course focusing on the Armenian Genocide. The course will approach the issue from survivors' memoirs and oral histories, plus an examination of what Genocide is in general terms, with a look at why the Ottoman state perpetrated Genocide against the Armenians and other Christian minorities of Anatolia between 1894 and 1923," said Dr. Reid.

Dr. Reid received his BA degree from UC Berkeley, an MA in History from the University of Santa Clara, and his PhD in Middle Eastern History and Persian Literature from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Dr. Reid has published many

articles and books. His last book was *Crisis of the Ottoman Empire: Prelude to Collapse*, which examines the Ottoman Empire and its military problems. Dr. Reid's most recent book is titled *Archilocus' Shield: War and Genocide in the Ottoman Empire, 1839-1878*. He has written numerous articles, which have been published in journals such as *Journal of Genocide Research*, *The Armenian Review*, *Balkan Studies*, and the *Journal of Modern Hellenism*.

Regularly enrolled students at Fresno State may enroll in the class through the Fresno State website. Community members are invited to enroll in the three-unit course by calling the Armenian Studies Program office. There is a \$50 fee to enroll.

For more information on the course please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.

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.**

Class on Fresno Armenians to be Featured in Osher Institute

STAFF REPORT

Barlow Der Mugerdechian of the Armenian Studies Program will teach a special course on “Fresno Armenians” on three consecutive Tuesdays, March 14, 21, 28 from 3:30-5:00 PM as part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program at California State University, Fresno. Space is limited and on a first come basis. Admission is free for Osher Institute members and \$20 for the general public on a space available basis.

Der Mugerdechian has been teaching in the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State for over twenty years and is a native of Fresno. He has frequently taught courses on Armenians in America and Armenians in Fresno.

A \$100,000 grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation in San Francisco has helped fund the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at California State University, Fresno. It will offer intellectually stimulating learning and cultural opportunities to people 50 and older.

The institute’s upcoming programs include—topical curriculum, field trips, forums and other educational opportunities taught by aca-



Barlow Der Mugerdechian, left, with Dr. Berta González, associate Vice-President of Continuing and Global Education.

demics, writers, artists, and professionals. The event will include a presentation about the institute and the opportunity to become a member.

Fresno State’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) joins 59 other Osher institutes established since 2001 in colleges and universities in California and throughout the country.

The grant to the Division of Continuing and Global Education at Fresno State has the potential for an additional two-year renewal and subsequently, the program may

qualify for a permanent \$1 million endowment.

Dr. Berta González, associate vice president of Continuing and Global Education at Fresno State, noted, “The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will augment and enhance the many collaborative senior programs already offered by the university.”

Dr. Shirley Bruegman has been named director of the institute. She retired as vice chancellor of the State Center Community College District in 2002 and teaches in the Community College Faculty Prepa-

ration Certificate program at Fresno State.

“Our goal is to put together a program that appeals to a very vital population and to create a community of learners. We’ll be expanding our offerings as we gain experience in what our members want.”

Membership in the Osher Institute will provide active seniors the opportunity to participate in short courses, discussion groups, lectures and travel study programs beginning this fall. Members also receive free parking on campus during OLLI events, Madden Library privileges and reduced admission fees at Fresno-area museums.

Memberships per semester are \$45 for an individual and \$80 for a couple.

Among the fall offerings of the Institute were Victor Davis Hanson of the Hoover Institute and former

Fresno State faculty member; William Sadler, author of “The Third Age,” Dwayne Berrett on “How to Retire TO Something—Not FROM Something;” Marilyn Miller on “The Importance of Fitness After 50;” and Kenneth Fugelsang, Fresno State winemaker, “The Art of Winemaking.”

The Osher Foundation was founded in 2001 by Bernard Osher, a successful San Francisco businessman and community leader, a patron of the arts and education, whose philanthropy has affected countless organizations over the past quarter century.

For more information on Fresno State’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, call (559) 278-0008, e-mail sbruegman@csufresno.edu, or see www.csufresno.edu/ExtendedEd/osher.htm.

Garó Antreasian- His Journey Through Time and Art



Garó Antreasian

ZHANNA BAGDASAROV
EDITOR

His name has been linked with the revival of creative lithography in the United States for over fifty years and his contributions to the world of art are undeniably immense. Mr. Garó Antreasian’s exhibit at the Fresno Art Museum finally shared his acclaimed paintings, drawings, and prints with a Fresno audience, September 6, 2005-October 30, 2005.

Walking into the museum on the eve of the artist’s lecture, I was immediately confronted with a magnificent view of Antreasian’s large works. The entire museum appeared alive with geometric elegance, which is evident in most of his designs. While taking a closer look at the works on display before the lecture, one question arose in my mind, “What could possibly serve as the artist’s motivation and influence to create such elaborate art pieces?” It was as though the artist knew precisely what was of interest to his audience because he not only answered that question, but also covered his life’s journey.

The hour-long lecture took place

on Thursday, October 27 at 5 PM and was immediately followed by a reception. My question was answered little by little throughout the lecture, yet it was the beginning of the lecture that touched on Antreasian’s influences the most. He spoke at length about his background, which consisted of being born in Indianapolis to Armenian parents. His father was a revolutionary and his mother and grandmother were both survivors of the terrible Armenian genocide of 1915. It was his father who insisted on beginning a new life in America, yet his mother and grandmother were determined to maintain their Armenian cultural heritage. Thus, Antreasian was taught to speak Armenian at home, he ate Armenian cuisine and scarcely spoke English until entering grade school. As a young boy, he spent much of his time reading and day-dreaming, which in turn became the crucial aspect of his later career in art. Nonetheless, he admits that his art was greatly influenced by the two cultures he experienced while growing up.

Antreasian acquired his first set of oil paints due to the exhaustive efforts of his sixth grade teacher,

who talked his parents into investing in these instruments. His first art-related experiences included painting in the company of elderly ladies every Saturday. It wasn’t until his high school years however, that Antreasian was introduced to lithography and began his life-long efforts to try and revive it in the United States. As soon as he entered the John Herron School of Art, Antreasian found better lithography equipment than at the high school, yet was disappointed to find the needed courses discontinued. Thus, throughout his life, Antreasian would experiment with lithography technology in hopes of perfecting it.

After completing his BFA degree at Herron, he was offered a teaching position there and remained for 16 years, during which he initiated new courses in design, advanced composition, print-making, and advanced drawing and painting. For the next few years, the artist made incredible progress in regards to technology, new materials and equipment and stimulating interest among new artists. Antreasian’s big break came at the time he was invited to join the newly established lithography program at the University of New Mexico. It is here that his works adopted a more abstract, hard-edged and simple approach, yet it was more demanding technically.

According to the artist, he was also very much influenced by the art of other cultures. His trip to Brazil and Turkey sparked an interest in decorative and Islamic art. This also brought about a need to paint again, which is something he hadn’t done due to his interests in printmaking. Retirement in 1987 allowed the artist to rejoin the art of painting, which is something he urged to do after a lengthy break.

Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professorship in Armenian Studies

Appointment: Available either Fall 2006 or Spring 2007. (Candidates must specify semester for which they are applying.)

This is a one time appointment for one semester only.

Salary: Dependent upon academic preparation and professional experience.

Teaching Load: One course in modern Armenian studies (nineteenth or twentieth century) is required, other teaching is optional.

Instructional Level: Undergraduate

Specific Position Characteristics: The successful candidate will be required to teach a single course in Armenian Studies in the modern period (nineteenth century or later). Candidates should indicate the specific course they propose to offer, including a very brief outline. In addition, the successful candidate will be required to give three public lectures on a single topic to be published later as a monograph. Candidates should indicate their three-lecture topic by title in their letter of application. The successful candidate may be expected to teach in a distance learning mode. The successful candidate will be expected to work cooperatively with faculty and staff in the department and college. The successful candidate may be asked to teach an additional 3-unit course during the semester.

Qualifications: Academic Preparation: An earned doctorate. Preference will be given to candidates with a completed Ph.D. in Armenian Studies or a related field, and who have published books and articles in the discipline of Armenian studies or Armenian history or a related area.

Teaching or Other Professional Experience: The university is seeking candidates who possess a record of distinguished publication and research in modern Armenian studies and whose professional career has been in university teaching or research in Armenian Studies, Armenian History, or a closely related field. The successful candidate must have the ability to work effectively with faculty, staff and students from diverse ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Online application form can be found at <http://www.csufresno.edu/aps/vacancy/sc1.pdf>

Applications: Applicants should send a cover letter describing how they meet the requirements of the position. The letter should also specify the semester for which they are applying. A complete up-to-date curriculum vitae; three letters of recommendation; names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses for five references must also be included with the application form. All materials should be sent directly to:

Dr. Bruce Thornton, Search Committee Chair
Department of Foreign Languages
California State University, Fresno
2320 E San Ramon Avenue M/S – EE96
Fresno, CA 93740-8030
Phone: (559) 278- 7037 Fax: (559) 278 -7878
e-mailto: Brucet@csufresno.edu

Open Until Filled: To ensure the fullest consideration of their application, applicants are encouraged to have all application materials on file by: January 31, 2006.

He began to draw again and his works reached a height of six feet and larger. It is these large pieces of art that one couldn’t help but notice walking into the museum.

This lecture shed some light upon aspects of the artist’s life that are the missing pieces to this artistic puzzle. When listening to

Antreasian’s account of his journey through time, one was able to begin to understand the way his experiences, literature, dual cultural backgrounds and works by other artists, have shaped every stroke of his brush, every choice of color, as well as his ideas and themes.

ASO Enjoys Halloween Party



Zhanna Bagdasarov (left) and sister Svetlana.



Gevork Aristakesyan and Liana Gavazyan.



Left to Right: Suzie Pogosyan, Srбуhi Fereshetyan, and Kristina Pogosyan.



Left to Right: Gayane and Karine Frnzyan.

Catholicos Aram I Visits Youth in Fresno

ARMINE SARGSYAN
STAFF WRITER

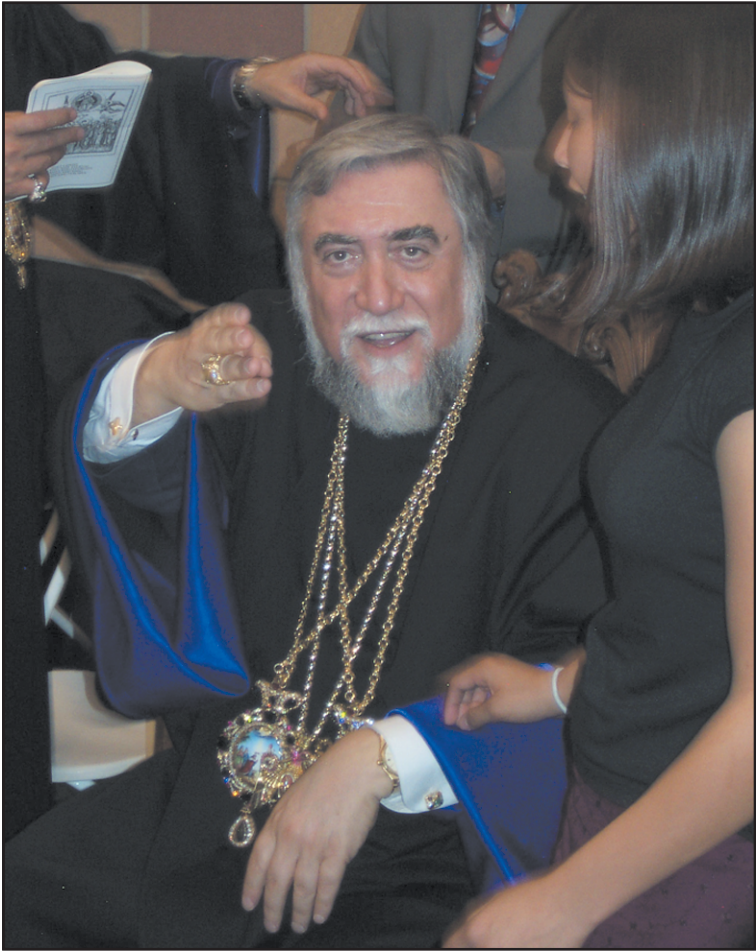
Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, arrived in Fresno on October 10, and on the first day of his visit it was his mission to meet the youth-students from colleges, Sunday school, and the community, who gathered to hear his message.

The excitement for the long anticipated event finally culminated in a warm welcome, concluding with shouts of “Astvats oknakan Vehapar der” in a unified voice, which translates, “May God be your helper, Your Holiness.” Brett Surabian—a student from the Holy Trinity Sunday school—welcomed His Holiness with a speech on the issues that are challenging to the Christian world and the youth especially, providing an introduction to what was to be the main theme of the day’s discussion.

Gathered around the Catholicos were children of all ages and a large adult audience, who, much like the children, listened to the speech with the same degree of curiosity.

His Holiness Aram I opened his speech by informing his audience that youth is not a question of age; rather, a matter of being—for the audience consisted not merely of the youth of today, but those of yesterday and those of tomorrow.

His Holiness stated, “We are in a world of constant change, a world full of challenge... as Christians and as youth we need to identify our place in the world.” His Holiness’ message to society was to



Catholicos Aram I

urge it to sustain moral and spiritual value through education. “We all need to Christianize and re-Christianize ourselves,” he said.

The first question asked following His Holiness’ message pertained to the duties of the Catholicos. Aram I answered that it is a multifaceted vocation and listed his common tasks as Catholicos.

Another child asked, “Do you have hobbies?” The Catholicos humorously emphasized the possibil-

ity that he might even be just like us—the regular folks. He likes sports such as soccer, basketball and football, as well as all types of music. The youth were delighted to hear such an answer. Following the questions, the youth presented a T-shirt to the Catholicos.

As the gathering came to a close, the strong bond that developed between His Holiness and the audience became especially evident.

CD Review-Artsruni

SEBOUH KRIOGHLIAN
STAFF WRITER

Band: Artsruni
Album: *Cruzaid*
Year: 2002
Label: Musea Records, France

While randomly searching for some modern Armenian music, I came across a band called “Arstruni,” whose music completely took me by surprise. The website that aided me in discovering this band, <http://www.arminrock.am/> had a long list of modern Armenian bands with music files that enable you to listen to their music. Only after having gone through the majority of the list did I come across “Artsruni,” whose music samples off the album *Cruzaid* (2002), specifically drew my attention due to their high quality sound production and music played by highly talented and creative musicians. *Cruzaid* happened to be “Arstruni’s” first studio album. Previously they had recorded two live albums, *The Lost and Found* (2001) and *Live Cuts* (2002).

The band includes Vahagn Amirkhanyan on electric guitar, Arman Manukyan on flute, Artur Molitvin on bass, Levon Hakhverdyan on drums, Lilianna Hakhverdyan on other percussion instruments, and most importantly, Vahan Artsruni, the creator of the

band, on guitar and vocals. Vahan Artsruni has previously been involved with a wide range of musical styles, having given concerts with the Armenian National Symphony Orchestra, where his instrumental pieces off his record *Ethnophonica* were played. He has also written chamber music on another album, *Komitas. Ten Revelations*, which was later performed by the Naregatsi Chamber Orchestra and the Shoghakat choir.

The music of “Artsruni” is very different from Vahan’s previous work, where the Armenian influence is the only parallel that could be drawn between them. The music featured on the *Cruzaid* album is a mix of progressive rock and jazz with varying amounts of Armenian-influenced melody. Most of the music off the album has no vocals, while the little that does, is sung in Armenian. Each instrument has a significant role in the music, adding many intricate layers to the product. Furthermore, the introduction of a flute adds great character to the music and especially stands out throughout this album, supplying the majority of the folk melodies, which interweave smoothly with the more modern music of the band. The album as a



whole is very relaxing, yet within each track there are many separate moods varying from calmer and sweeter passages to faster-paced and dynamic ones.

The most memorable tracks are “Cruzaid (part 2)” and “Anush Garun.” “Cruzaid (part 2)” is definitely one of the more technical tracks, featuring fast tempos and great intensity, which allow the rhythmic portion of the band to reign freely. On the other hand, “Anush Garun” is a much calmer and emotional track, which especially allows the flutist and the guitarist to shine.

In conclusion, even though this is not an album to sing along to or dance to, it is definitely one that has a high replay value, which can be listened to and appreciated time and again for its successful fusion of modern rock and Armenian music.

Concert Review-System of a Down



Photo: David Menendian

Serj Tankian

HAKOP TATARYAN
STAFF WRITER

With the exception of the whining Maroon 5, the lip-synching Brittany Spears, and WFW fake wrestling, The Savemart Center has witnessed some amazing performances over the last few years: Andrea Bocelli, Green Day, Kenny Chesney and Neil Diamond. Well,

on October 11, 2005, it added another name to its list of “great performances,” when Los Angeles-based rock band “System of a Down” (SOAD) gave an amazing show for 15,000 Fresnans.

The group is composed of four Armenian-Americans: Serj Tankian – vocals, Shavo Odadjian – bass, Daron Malakian – guitar and John Dolmayan – Drums. The band came together in 1993 when

Serj Tankian and Daron Malakian met each other by coincidence. They soon picked up Shavo Odadjian as band manager, and later they were introduced to John Dolmayan through their producer Rick Ruben. Their music is a melting pot full of melancholic ballads, ferocious metal pieces and politically charged/anti-establishment lyrics. Serj Tankian’s deep and somber voice adds an endearing novelty to their music that is not often found in contemporary rock.

Perhaps the most diverse crowd for any concert, the attendees were from all age groups and all nationalities. There were 10 year-old girls, middle-aged bikers, teenage head bangers, and everyone in between. This concert was also the first time the Fresno Armenian community found a commonality with the Fresno rock community. The diverse draw is perhaps due to the variety of songs SOAD has to offer.

Rock fans enjoyed SOAD performing 26 songs. They played “Sugar” and “Know” from their first album “System of a Down” released in 1998, and also songs such as “BYOB,” “Question,” and “Mr. Jack,” from their album “Mesmerize.” The music by itself was fast and energetic. However, further adding to the energy of the concert were the lighting effects, which rapidly got brighter as the

intensity of the songs jumped and quickly dimmed with the mellow portions.

As the powerful lights sporadically hit, one could see how captivated the crowd was by the music. The sheer energy on stage spread throughout the crowd. The entire audience was pumping their fists and screaming the lyrics to the songs and jumping up and down. At times the jumping was so intense that one could actually feel the floor shaking. The band played for two straight hours without a break, giving the crowd their money’s worth. Serj is an amazing showman; he had the entire crowd at the palm of his hands. Daron also did a wonderful job ad-libbing some lyrics here and there to please the Fresno crowd. Serj said “Fresno is special to us because we’re Armenian, and before there was North Hollywood and before there was Glendale, there was Fresno.”

Politics is not merely something they sing about, they are also very active in the political arena. “System of a Down” is heavily involved in activities related to the acceptance of the Armenian Genocide. Every year, on or around April 24, the band holds a special concert to raise money for Genocide Recognition activities. More recently, they held rallies in front of Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert’s office to urge him to allow a vote on a House bill, which properly addresses and recognizes the Arme-



Photo: David Menendian

Shavo Odadjian

nian Genocide. The bill has already been passed by a House committee and now needs a vote in Congress. In the past, the Speaker has pigeon-holed similar House bills. The efforts of SOAD and their fans have spread the word of the Armenian Genocide to hundreds of thousands of people, and have further encouraged many to get involved.

There is something very hypnotic and contagious about thousands of people singing and dancing to the same tune. You can’t help but get caught up in the music and the moment, especially when the music and the show are performed well. It was an amazing concert. People, who were not fans of System of a Down’s music prior to the show, surely became huge fans afterwards.

Armenian Alphabet, cont. from page 1

menians into their religion and culture. Dr. Cowe remarked, “A country that is limited to only oral communication is in imminent danger of assimilation.”

Due to the resilience of the Armenians on the battlefield, as well as in the religious realm, they were able to maintain their beliefs and culture. The maintenance of identity was greatly improved, thanks largely to the invention of the alphabet by Mesrop Mashtots in 405 AD.

Armenia experienced a Golden Age of literature following the invention of the alphabet. Armenians were now able to record their poems, folk tales, and history for future generations to read. Gradually as the population learned to read and write in their native tongue, education flourished. Thus, the Armenian and Christian doctrine was translated and taught to many. The church, which naturally drew people to it, was a great source of education for the public. Hence, through literature and the church, Armenian culture was defined and is maintained to this very day.

More recently, many Armenians have immigrated all over the world and once again there is a threat to the “Armenian Identity,” as they become susceptible to assimilation into foreign cultures. However, it is the native language, which unites Armenians around the globe. And

it’s no wonder there is such an attempt by Armenian parents as well as educators, to maintain the use of the language no matter where they live.

Mesrop Mashtots is thus one of the most venerated Armenian figures of all time. Under the guidance of Catholicos Sahak Partev and King Vramshapuh, Mashtots was able to create the 36-letter alphabet (two were added later) that defined an entire nation. Often Mesrop Mashtots is depicted holding a stone embossing of the alphabet. This scene is very similar to that of Moses holding the Ten Commandments, which God himself gave.

Mesrop Mashtots was born in 362 AD and died in 440 AD. He was truly a Renaissance man, as he was in the military, a clergyman, linguist, and scholar. He translated many important works and established schools and monasteries. His life was documented by several biographers, namely Koriun and Agatangelos.

A large crowd attended the lecture and Dr. Cowe gave an entertaining talk. He made many realize the importance of the Armenian language to its people. It is apparent now, why Armenian parents make such a big deal of teaching their children to speak Armenian in the home. And on this night I too realized the importance of the Armenian language.

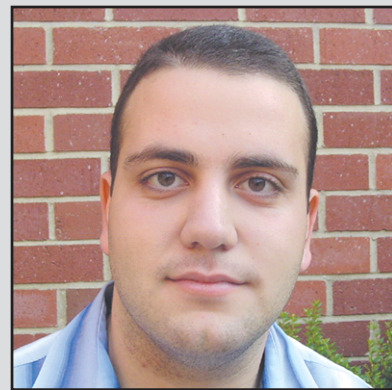
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WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF DATING IN THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY?

WINDY DUNBAR-STAFF WRITER

Gary Krboyan
Sophomore

One is more apt to find an Armenian partner within the Armenian community, if that is their preference. A negative aspect is that many Armenians in Fresno are conservative and have some beliefs that are not progressive.



Courtney Chooljian
Freshman

The good thing about dating an Armenian are the family values they share. As for the negative aspects, Armenians like to know your business, so there is a lot of “oh, they are going to get married.”

Kristina Pogosyan
Junior

As a young Armenian female I find that dating in the Armenian community is a positive thing. Since I was raised with high moral values I was always taught that dating and marrying an Armenian was morally and culturally justifiable. Consequently, I find that the only way that we can keep our Armenian heritage vital is to date and marry other Armenians. I see it as a cultural standard.



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Armenia, cont. from page 1

with Armenia, some not even knowing where it is located. Other students in attendance, however, are involved in the Armenian Studies Program and thus are more familiar with the issues facing Armenia. In both cases, students and faculty were able to learn about “Armenia, A Country in Transition.”

Professor Der Mugrdechian took the audience through the trip using slides from the past summer’s study abroad program, when he and a group of nine students spent three weeks traveling, and exploring the Armenian culture.

The group stayed in the Yerevan State University Guest House, located in the heart of Armenia’s capital. They visited historic sites including the Temple of Garni, William Saroyan’s grave, and the fortress of Erebuni.

In addition to visiting historic sites, the Armenia Summer Study group learned what life is like for college students in Armenia. The students took classes with Armenian students at Yerevan State University and traveled with the students around Armenia. The group also met with Yerevan State University president, Dr. Radik

Martirosyan, and learned about the problems facing the University.

Students were able to further their Armenian experience by visiting many Armenian churches. Converting to Christianity in 301 AD, Armenia has maintained its religious identity to this day. Students attended the church of Holy Etchmiadzin on a Sunday in order to participate in an Armenian service. Students also visited other churches including Zvartnots, Karmravor, and Odzun.

A new church in Armenia, the church of St. Gregory the Illuminator, was completed in 2001. The church holds 1,700 people, representing the 1700th anniversary of Armenia as a Christian nation. The church cost over 10 million dollars to build and all of the money came from donations outside of Armenia.

The head of the Armenian Church, the Catholicos, plays a critical role in the Armenian Church. His status is similar to the pope of the Catholic Church. Having visited Fresno earlier this year in June, students in the Armenian Summer Study program were able to have a personal audience with His Holiness Karekin II, the current Catholicos. The students met with the Catholicos for over three hours.

Another significant person the students were able to meet was the

foreign minister of Armenia, His Excellency Vartan Oskanian. The students learned about the current problems facing Armenia and how the country is transitioning for the better.

Students concluded their trip by visiting the Armenian Martyr’s Monument. The monument represents the 1.5 million Armenians that were killed during the Armenian Genocide. The monument was built in 1965 on the 50th Anniversary of the Genocide. The students left flowers and silently thought about the tragic events Armenians have had to overcome.

The International Coffee Hour was a great opportunity for students to learn about different cultures from around the world. In the presentation on Armenia, students and faculty learned about the tragic events that Armenia has overcome in order to become the independent country that it is today. It also provided an excellent background of the Armenian culture and history and gave the audience a glimpse of Armenia today.

International Coffee Hour is co-sponsored by the International Student Services and Programs, the USU Diversity Awareness Program, the Division of Student Affairs, and Fresno State.

Student Shares Impressions From Armenia Summer Study 2005



Armenian Summer Study 2005 group at St. Hripsime Church.

The Armenian Summer Study Program 2005 took place June 20-July 9, 2005. Students who participated in the Program had the opportunity to reflect upon their experience. Below is a piece by Christina Karakashian.

CHRISTINA KARAKASHIAN

As a student in the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, I knew that the ability to visit Armenia would not only allow me to visit the homeland of my ancestors, but also give me the opportunity to strengthen what I have learned in my Armenian Studies courses. Prior to this trip I had visited Armenia as a child and my experience was vague and uneventful. I knew that a second trip to my homeland was necessary, and when the opportunity arose to travel with a group of students with the Armenian Studies Program I took full advantage. Returning to Armenia was an experience that I will never forget. After gaining the knowledge of Armenia through my classes, the visit was filled with much more meaning and emotion compared to my prior visit. From the sight of Mount Ararat through the blue sky

to sinking my feet in the sand at Lake Sevan, the experience was unforgettable.

The trip was filled with many memories through the visitation to the various monuments, churches, and areas where certain events in Armenian history took place. The most emotional of my experiences was our visit to the monastery of Geghart. The church at Geghart has wonderful acoustics and a priest there sang an Armenian Church sharakan. The combination of his voice, the sun rays peering into the church, and the mere realization that I was in Armenia provided me with an unforgettable feeling. After visiting Armenia I feel as if it is necessary for all Armenians in the diaspora to visit the home of their ancestors. Prior to my visit to Armenia I felt as if a link was missing between me, an Armenian in the diaspora, and my homeland, Armenia. Through the classes of the Armenian Studies Program I have been able to piece together the missing links between myself and Armenia, and this experience has definitely connected the chain that will forever be a part of my life and will never be broken.



Students of the Armenia Summer Study Program 2005 at the Armenian Genocide Memorial in Yerevan.

ARMENIAN LANGUAGE, FROM PAGE 1

language course she did not know “a single word” of Armenian. She said her cousin, who received a minor in Armenian Studies, influenced her to take the course.

Arakelian said she enrolled in the class not only to learn a new language, but also to learn more about her culture. So far she has learned the Armenian alphabet, basic conversation, and verbs.

One of the best things about the class, Arakelian said, has been meeting people of her ethnicity. “In Turlock there aren’t very many Armenians,” she said.

Armenian 1A does not just teach students how to speak Armenian, but also how to read and write it. “It surprised me how many people in this class already speak Armenian,” Arakelian said.

Suzanna Simonyan, a sophomore majoring in Nursing, is one of the students who already knew how to speak Armenian.

Armenian is Simonyan’s first language and it is the primary language spoken in her home. She was born in Armenia and was taught how to read and write Armenian in school before she moved to Fresno. The only problem is she forgot her reading and writing skills. She said she took this introductory language course “to learn how to read and write in Armenian again.”

According to Simonyan, it is coming back to her easily, because she already knows how to speak

the language. “I’m getting the hang of it,” she said. “I learned most of the letters.”

Another student in the class is still in high school. Michael Krikorian is a junior at University High School, which is located on Fresno State’s campus. “All University High students have to take a college language course,” Krikorian said. “I wanted to learn to speak Armenian.”

Krikorian’s family speaks Armenian, but he never learned. He said his parents mostly speak Armenian when they do not want him to understand. They better watch out because Krikorian is catching on fast. “It hasn’t been that difficult,” remarked Krikorian. “I think I’m doing OK. I’m getting a good start.”

No one stands out more in the class of about 20 than Robert Brenner, a junior studying molecular biology from Camarillo, Calif.

Brenner has no Armenian background, but he mentioned that he has always been interested in European history, which drew him to the course. Brenner also loves to learn different languages, such as German and Spanish.

Brenner has had a “pleasant experience” in the Armenian language class and said that everyone has been every “encouraging and supportive.”

Armenian 1A is taught every fall. Arakelian said “I recommend this class for anyone who is interested in learning a new language or a culture people are not familiar with.”

Armenian Studies Program Armenian Students Organization 7th Annual Armenian Film Festival

Featuring the films of a new generation of Armenian film makers-films have a variety of themes and may be in English or Armenian.

Featuring “My Son Shall Be Armenian”

Directed by Hagop Goudsouzian

Exploring the question of Armenian identity, “My Son Shall Be Armenian” follows the initiatory voyage of filmmaker Hagop Goudsouzian, who, accompanied by five Montreal men and women of Armenian origin, returned to the land of his ancestors in search of survivors of the genocide of 1915.



**Friday, February 10, 2006
7-10:00 PM**

**Industrial Technology, Room 101
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A wide variety of films will be screened. A list of films to be screened will be available in January 2006.

Free Admission-The public is welcome.

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***For details please go the Armenian Studies Program website at
<http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu>***

Armenia%20Semester%20Abroad.htm or contact

Barlow Der Mugrdechian by email at barlowd@csufresno.edu

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Armenians on the Internet

WINDY DUNBAR • STAFF WRITER

Address: www.myspace.com

Description:

Myspace.com is a website devoted to bringing friends and strangers together, and provides a means of keeping in touch and discovering new people from all over the globe. Here’s how it works: one creates a profile in which they have a plethora of options to display their personality. Then slowly friends begin to find you, or you find them, and your “friends” list grows. They can leave you comments on your page about you, your pictures, or your blogs. One can send email to other Myspace users, post blogs, search profiles from all over the world, play games, find music, and lastly but most importantly, members are able to create or participate in group discussions.

Of the million plus groups, Armenians have formed over a hundred to discuss their own issues, whether they be relative to the benefit of society, or strictly for entertainment purposes.

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