

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

27th
Year

March 2006

Vol. 27, No. 3 (93)

Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

PBS to Air New Documentary on “Armenian Genocide” April 17

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN
ADVISOR

The Armenian Genocide is the story of the first genocide of the 20th century-when over a million and a half Armenians died at the hands of the Ottoman Turks during World War I.

This one-hour documentary, *The Armenian Genocide*, was written, directed, and produced by Emmy-Award winning producer Andrew Goldberg of Two Cats Productions, in association with Oregon Public Broadcasting.

The film features interviews with the leading experts in the field such

as Pulitzer-prize winning author, Samantha Power, and New York times best-selling author Peter Balakian, and features never-before-seen historical footage of the events and key players of the Armenian Genocide.

The documentary was filmed in the United States, France, Germany, Belgium, Turkey, and Syria and features discussions with Kurdish and Turkish citizens in modern-day Turkey, who speak openly about the stories told to them by their parents and grandparents.

The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) has attracted nationwide protests regarding the proposed screening of a 25 minute panel-discussion to follow the screening of the documentary (note: the airing of the documentary in the San Joaquin Valley *will not* include airing of the controversial panel discussion). Four panelists

“The Armenian Genocide”
Monday, April 17
10:00-11:00PM
KVPT Channel 18
(Cable-Channel 8)

SEE **PBS** PAGE 6

Armenian Alumni Chapter Established at Fresno State



Left to right: Zhanina Bagdasarov, Tatevik Ekejian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Carina Karakashian, Arakel Arisian, Talin Arisian, Christina Karakashian, Rahmi Gabriel, and Eric Mouradian at the Smittcamp Alumni House.

STAFF REPORT

An Armenian Alumni Chapter has just been initiated at Fresno State, as part of the Fresno State Alumni Association (FSAA). The FSAA is the official alumni association for the University and has over 7,000 active members.

The purpose of the Armenian Alumni Chapter will be to maintain and strengthen the connection between Armenian alumni, the University, and the Armenian Studies Program. The primary goals of the chapter will be the following:

To provide valuable network-

ing opportunities for graduates and current students.

To give back to the University and the Armenian Studies Program through student scholarships and other fundraising opportunities.

To enhance communication among students, alumni, faculty and friends of the Armenian Studies program.

All graduates, friends, and faculty of those interested in Armenian educational and cultural activities are eligible for membership. To be an active member of the

SEE **ARMENIAN ALUMNI** PAGE 8

Armenian Studies Holds 18th Annual Banquet Featuring Premiere of “Khachaturian: The Film”

ZHANINA BAGDASAROV
EDITOR

The Eighteenth Annual Armenian Studies Program Banquet welcomed distinguished guests, faculty, students, and generous benefactors to the Residence Dining Facility on an unusually warm Sunday afternoon. On this day, February 12, numerous scholarship recipients were honored for their academic accomplishments and continued involvement with the Armenian Studies Program.

As guests made their way into the banquet hall, they were given the opportunity to not only take pleasure in the sight of incredible art works by Fresno’s artist Varaz Samuelian, but they were also able to purchase selected works by participating in the silent auction. Various original paintings, lithographs, and books by Mr. Samuelian were displayed for the



Left to right: Barlow Der Mugrdechian, ASP Administrative Assistant Fran Ziegler and Dr. Dickran Kouymjian.

enjoyment of the attendees and in turn contributed to the rather relaxing atmosphere.

Prior to the beginning of the evening’s program, the guests were invited to partake in appetizers, enjoy a glass of wine, and get to know those seated at each table. Reverend Vahan Gosdanian, pastor of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, gave the invocation before the delicious meal. It wasn’t long before everyone began enjoying their dinner and socializing with those seated at their tables.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, the Di-

rector of the Armenian Studies Program, officially began the event by delivering the opening remarks. His personal acquaintance with Dr. Vida Samiian, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, made for an interesting introductory statement. Following this, Dr. Samiian took the podium and spoke extensively about the importance of the Armenian Studies Program and its contribution to the College of Arts and Humanities.

“The College of Arts and Hu-

SEE **ASP BANQUET** PAGE 7

Erysian Appointed Interim Director of International Programs

STAFF REPORT

Bill Erysian has been named Interim Director of International Programs at Fresno State University. A Fresno State graduate of the class of 1980, Erysian was the first co-editor of *Hye Sharzhoom* in 1978, a member of the Armenian Students Organization, and took several courses in the Armenian Studies Program.

Erysian has served as Coordinator of Grants and International Projects for the Division of Continuing and Global Education at Fresno State since 2003. He will continue in this assignment as he begins his new role in International Programs.

Erysian is also the founder and current Director of Resource Development for the California State University Consortium for International Development and continues to serve as Executive Director for the Armenian Agribusiness Education Fund, also located on the Fresno State Campus. Erysian, a former study abroad participant



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Bill Erysian

with CSU International Programs in 1979, holds an undergraduate degree in journalism from California State University, Fresno and a post-graduate degree in International & Comparative Politics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is a frequent consultant to the US Agency for International Development, the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service and other international non-governmental organizations in the areas of agricultural marketing and economic development in the Central Caucasus.

SEE **HONORS** PAGE 7

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.

- Mrs. Beverly J. Achki, Fresno, for the book *Crimes Against Humanity and Civilization, The Genocide of the Armenians*.
- George J. Apelian, Ainjar, Bekaa, Lebanon, for the two books he authored, *Beirut* and *Eternal Martyrdom*.
- Armenian International Women’s Association, Watertown, MA, for the book *I Want to Live: Poems of Shushanik Kurghinian*, selected and translated by Shushan Avagyan, edited by Susan Barba and Victoria Rowe.
- Tamar Topjian Der-Ohannessian, Bryn Mawr, PA, for her grandfather, Bedros Der Bedrossian’s book and CD *Autobiography and Recollections*. AIWA Press, Massachusetts. (2005).
- Editions Parentheses, Marseille, for the copy of *Les noces noires de Gulizar* by Arménouhie Kévonian.
- Larry R. Farsakian, D.D.S., Glenview, IL, for the book *Armenian Painting From the Beginning to the Present* by Mayda Saris. Istanbul: AGOS Publishing and Printing Services Ltd. Co. (2005)
- Dianne & Arnold Gazarian, Fresno, for the several boxes of books from their parents’ estates.
- Donald Goodrow, Agoura, for the article printed by The Times, London, “The History of the War Vol. VIII.”
- Patricia Peterson Hansen, Sacramento, for *The Armenian Book: For the Armenian Children of America*, printed in 1931.
- Walter Karabian, Los Angeles, for the archival materials and the DVD *Renaissance of Faith*, 2005 Pontifical Visit by His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians.
- Col. Carl Mahakian, Rancho Mirage, for 175 books by or about William Saroyan and archival materials.
- Mr. Anthony P. Mezoian, So. Portland, ME, for the copy of his book *Armenian Baking and Cooking* (2005).
- Avetis Papazian, Los Angeles, for his book, *The Armenian Genocide According to Young Turkish Tribunal Documents* (2005).
- Dr. James J. Reid, Gold River, for his books *Crisis of the Ottoman Empire*, Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart, and *Studies in Safavid Mind, Society, and Culture*. Mazda Publishers, California (2000).
- Ms. Mary Terzian, Hacienda Heights, for her book *The Immigrants’ Daughter*.
- Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, for the DVD *Armenian Genocide- 90Years Later*.
- Vasbouragan Society, Granada Hills, for the copy of *Varak Periodical*.
- Prof. B. L. Zekiyian, Ligua e Letterature Armena, San Polo, Italy, for the *Year Book of the Armenian Summer Language Institute 1986-2005* by Salpy Kasbarian.

Letters

To the Editor of Hye Sharzhoom,

We have really enjoyed your wonderful newspaper over the past four years. This last issue was even better than before. Please accept our little contribution to your efforts to Hye Sharzhoom.

Keep up the good work,

Sincerely,

Annie Graham
Dallas, Texas

Dear Editor,

You have a great Newspaper!

Ms. Violet B. Galazan
New Britain, CT

Dear Friends,

Thank you for faithfully sending [Hye Sharzhoom]. God bless your dedicated work.

Salutations,

Rev. Gilbert Leonian
Marseille, France

Nalchajian Scholarship Fund Established

STAFF REPORT

An Armenian Studies scholarship was recently established in the name of Mary Nalchajian by her family.

Mary Nalchajian was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts on June 17, 1907 and passed on February 19, 2005. Mary was predeceased by her husband, Sarkis in 1962.

Mary is survived by four chil-

dren, Olga Beers, Dr. Charles Nalchajian (Esther) Dr. Richard Nalchajian (Josephine) Zabel Boyajian (Vahan), nine grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.

Education was a very important priority with Mary and complying with her wishes an Armenian Studies scholarship fund has been established in her name for qualifying students.

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2006 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education				
Social Sciences, Area D3				
• ArmS 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	10:00-10:50A	MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
(Class #71863)				
• Arm 1A Elementary Armenian	4	11:00-11:50A	MTWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
(Class #71862)				
Arts & Humanities, Arts, Area C2				
• Arm 2A Intermediate Armenian	3	9:30-10:45A	TTh	B. Der Mugrdechian
(Class #74541)				
Arts & Humanities, Arts, Area C1				
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia	3	11:00-12:15	TTh	
(Class #71864)				
Upper Division Courses				
• ArmS 108A Arm History I	3	9:00-9:50A	MWF	B. Der Mugrdechian
(Class #71865)				
• ArmS 120 T	3	2:00-3:15	TTh	Kazan Visiting Prof.
(Class #75351)				

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

Get a minor in Armenian Studies. Check on requirements for the Minor in Armenian Studies in the 2006-2007 catalog.

HYE SHARZHOOM

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Editor

Zhanna Bagdasarov
zhannab20@aol.com

Layout

Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Photographer

Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Advisor

Barlow Der Mugrdechian
barlowd@csufresno.edu

Staff Writers

Avo Arikian
Svetlana Bagdasarov
Alex Bunch
Windy Dunbar
Sebouh Krioghlian
Armine Sargsyan
Sarah Soghomonian
Hakop Tataryan
Caitlin Tiftick

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

Armenian Studies Program Faculty and Staff:

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

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Lecturer, ASO Advisor,
Hye Sharzhoom Advisor (barlowd@csufresno.edu)

Frances C. Ziegler, Program Administrative Assnt.
(franz@csufresno.edu)

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

Armenian Studies Acquires Parnay Collection of Rare Books

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN
ADVISOR

Mr. Ray Parnay of Sebastopol, California, has made a donation of a collection of valuable 19th and 20th century printed books in Armenian. The bulk of the collection consists of rare printed books from the Mekhitarist Congregation in Venice.

Mr. Parnay donated the collection to California State University, Fresno because of the large Armenian community in the area and the fact there is an Armenian Studies Program. Mr. Parnay believes that the collection would be best utilized at Fresno State.

Mr. Parnay is a retired District Supervisor and Principal in the Forestville Union School District located in Sonoma County. He has an extensive background in educational administration and teaching, having been a teacher for six years, an elementary and secondary school principal for five years, and district superintendent and principal for the last nineteen years of his career.

Mr. Parnay is deeply committed to public education and has written and read widely on the subject. He is the parent of three children.

The story of how the collection

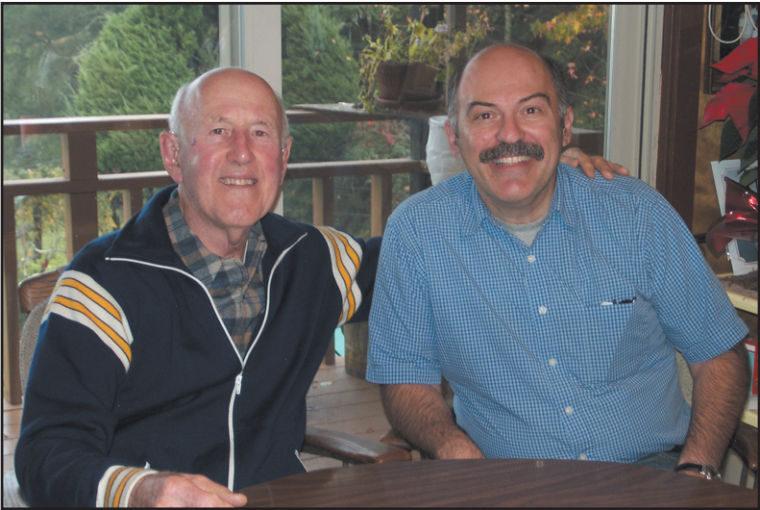


Photo: Michael Missakian

Left to right: Mr. Ray Parnay with Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program.

was assembled involves his father and uncle. Mr. Parnay’s family name was originally Yedikardashian. When his father, Mardig, went into the Oriental business in Berkeley in 1906, two blocks from Sather Gate, he could not afford a sign that long, so he changed the family name to Parnay.

Actually his uncle S. Y. Parnay (Parnag), who died before Mr. Ray Parnay was born, changed the last name to Parnay in the early 1900s for whatever his reason.

Parnag was born in Kostamanou on the Black Sea in Turkey circa

1885. The family later moved to Kayseri in central Turkey. He emigrated to the U.S. circa 1900 and settled in Pasadena. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service for a time, and herein is a wonderful story. In 1905 when Ray Parnay’s father emigrated to the U.S., he lived with Parnag and his wife, Hripsime, until he finished high school.

Parnag and his brother Mardig spent a summer in the mountains of New Mexico on a reforestation project. One morning as they were cooking flapjacks over an open fire in their encampment, a man on

horseback approached and asked if he could join them for breakfast. It was Teddy Roosevelt! (the original environmental president).

Parnag was a highly educated and brilliant man. He was a virtuoso violinist, and therein, according to Ray Parnay, lies another delightful story. He (Parnag), Hripsime, and their young daughter were camped out in Yosemite. It was evening and they were sitting around the campfire. Parnag was playing “Woodland Sketches,” by American composer Edward MacDowell, a lovely piece of music, and many people had gathered to listen. When he had finished, a man approached out of the shadows and said, “ You played that very well. By the way, I wrote it.”

Parnag also had a marvelous singing voice and was a member of at least one choral group. As a nurseryman in Pasadena, he hybridized the popular groundcover, *Cotaneaster parneyi*. He also had a rose named after him.

Both Parnag and Hripsime were highly intellectual and collected many books in addition to those he brought from the old country. He was extremely interested in the history of the Armenian massacres, and he and his brother lost their

mother and a sister to one of the forced marches into the desert at the hands of the Turks.

Some of the Armenian books in the collection were also collected by Ray Parnay’s father, Mardig. Sadly, Parnag and Hripsime lost their daughter to meningitis at the age of nine. Even more sadly, Parnag died of consumption at the age of only forty. Hripsime grieved the rest of her life.

Hripsime passed the collection of books on to Mardig before she passed away. In 1969, when Ray Parnay’s father died, his belongings were brought to Sebastopol, and the books were stored in the garage thereafter. “I always entertained the idea that somehow I must get these books into the appropriate hands at some point,” said Mr. Ray Parnay. “I am now 77 years old, in failing health, and I realized that I must act promptly, or who knows what might happen to this treasury of Armenian history and culture. By the way, I am only half Armenian, and the Armenian language unfortunately was not spoken in our home.”

The Armenian Studies Program thanks the Parnay family for their important donation of books to the Program and the University.

2005-2006 Scholarships & Grant Awards

Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship
Jennifer Torosian

Norma and Bob Der Mugrdechian Endowed Scholarship Fund
Tara Lee

The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation Scholarship Fund
Marine Krdanyan

Yervant, Rose and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grant

Ashley Allred
Avetik Atoian
Alex Bunch
Lara Chekian
Steven W. Colagiovanni
Gayane Frnzyan
Karine Frnzyan
Juana M. Guadian
Sadie Hopelian
Talene Karkazian
Marineh Krioghlian
Ernest Martirosyan
Azniv Orinakyan
Evan Stockdale
Lauren Tinnin

Albert & Isabelle Kabrielian Endowed Scholarship Fund
Talene Karkazian
Suzanna Simonyan

Koren and Alice Odian Kasparian Scholarship
Parker J. Geisinger
Marjorie Visser
Matthew Zakarian

Charlie Keyan Endowed Scholarship Fund
Tacie Gamoian

Charles K. and Pansy Pategian Zlokovich Scholarship

Elliott Ahajanian
Hazel Antaramian-Hofman
Windy Dunbar
Christina Karakashian
Ariana Kasparian
Tara Lee
Knar Mekhitarian
Johnny Oganessian
Hakop Tataryan
Christian Toros
Marjorie Visser

Charles K. and Pansy Pategian Zlokovich Scholarship HONORS
Isaac Halls
Christina Karakashian
Sebough Krioghlian
Alina Melkonian

The Pete P. Peters Endowment
Avo Arikian
Svetlana Bagdasarov
Zhanna Bagdasarov
Christine Goukasian
Talene Kasparian
Grigor Kyutunyan
Stepan Kyutunyan
Mary Madoyan
Marissa Kalashian
Armine Sargsyan
Erin Surabian
Caitlin Tiftick

Haig Tashjian Memorial Scholarship Fund
Ernest Martirosyan

Genevieve Tatoian Endowed Scholarship Fund
Marineh Krioghlian

Telefeyan Evangelical Fund, Inc.
Jenna Gavroian

The Harry and Mary Topoozian Armenian Studies Merit Scholarship Fund
Christina Karakashian

Karabians Donate Scrapbooks of Clippings on Armenians from *Fresno Bee*

SARAH SOGHOMONIAN
STAFF WRITER

Scrapbooking has become a popular hobby in recent years.

People make wedding scrapbooks and scrapbooks of their child’s school years. I made a scrapbook filled with my high school memories.

Satenig Karabian began her scrapbook way before it became trendy. In 1930 she began clipping every article out of the *Fresno Bee* that featured Armenians: marriages, deaths and news stories, Karabian collected them all. Every time she clipped an article out the paper and placed it in her scrapbook, Karabian was recording history.

Karabian, who was born in Bitlis, Armenia, in 1903, came to America with her family in 1906. They settled in Fresno, where other family members already resided, and began their new life. Satenig married her first cousin Benjamin Karabian in 1930. They had no children. This allowed Karabian to become very close to her nieces and nephews.

Karabian, who kept her scrapbook current until her death in 1983, passed the three volumes on to her niece Elaine Karabian Garo and nephew Walter Karabian.

“I have preserved these pages and inserted the originals in plastic covers because I know how valuable they are,” said Walter Karabian, a former State Assemblyman from Los Angeles. “For our Karabian family, every time we turn these pages and show the pages to others, it becomes a wonderful journey down memory lane. Our aunt Satenig always remains in our hearts.”



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Elaine Karabian Garo with Satenig Karabian’s scrapbook containing clippings of Armenians from the *Fresno Bee*.

Now the Karabian family is donating the beloved scrapbooks to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State so they can be scanned and archived.

“I trust Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and Barlow Der Mugrdechian to put them in the right environment so that they have the greatest access to anyone who is studying 20th century Armenian life in Fresno,” Karabian said. “I would like to have them available to Armenian scholars and the Armenian Library Museum of America in Boston so that Armenian scholars can access them.”

One thing that Karabian said is noticeable about the scrapbooks is

that the farther back in time you go, the less coverage Armenians received by the *Fresno Bee*. “This shows that in the first half of the twentieth century the community was less accepting of Armenians,” Karabian said. As time went on the newspaper began covering Armenians more frequently, which reflected their growing acceptance in the community.

Satenig Karabian’s scrapbooks are one of a kind. Her love for Fresno’s Armenian community is evident when one looks at the meticulous care used to create the books. Fresno State is lucky to have such a rich piece of history.

Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble Performs at Fresno State



HAKOP TATARYAN
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes events unfold in ways that leave you feeling regretful. On the evening of February 24, 2006 at approximately 6:45 PM, I asked my mother if she would like to accompany me to an Armenian concert being held in the Satellite Student Union at Fresno State. She replied “sure, when is it?” I told her “in 15 minutes.” The concert was one of the most amazing musical

and choreographically entertaining performances that I have attended—alone because my mother could not attend on such short notice.

University Student Union Productions brought the Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble to perform for Fresno State students and the Fresno community. The Chookasian Ensemble was joined by the Zvartnots Dance Ensemble from Los Angeles. The Chookasian Armenian Concert Ensemble consists of director John Chookasian, who plays a variety of instruments but that night played the clarinet,

Barbara Chookasian who is the principle vocalist, and a medley of fine professionals who have graduated from conservatories in Armenia and some from the United States.

That evening the crowd was dazzled with captivating performances by Vergine Alimian (*Kanun*), Henrik Avoyan (*Dahol*), Peter Dorian (*Oud*), Vladimir Grigorian (*Kemenche*), Andranik Mouradian (Keyboards), Hayk Nalbandyan (*Dumbeg & Daff*), Sarkis Petrosyan (*Santur*), Surik Saz (*Tarra*), Garen Sarkissian (*Shivi*), Albert Vardanyan (*Duduk & Zurna*) and of course the Chookasians.

The group collaborated on twenty folkloric songs from Eastern as well as Western Armenia. Within each song, there were “solos” embedded from the various musicians. Each one was more captivating than the next. Most of these instruments I had never even heard of, but my senses were telling me that I was witnessing something absolutely amazing. Each one of the artists could have held their own concert, but as good as they were individually, they were much better together. Barbara Chookasian is a wonderful per-

former. Aside from her powerful yet lovely voice, she was also a narrator throughout the show, telling the audience a bit of history regarding the artists and some of the songs they played.

I really liked: “Msho Akhchig,” “Hye Dughakner,” and “Ghapama.” They performed over twenty pieces and I heard most of these songs for the first time, but they seemed so very familiar, I thought that I had been listening to them all my life. The music was so beautiful and so “Armenian” that I really wanted to share with everyone I knew. I kept thinking to myself about all of the people that I knew, who were missing out, including my mother.

It is no wonder that in the year 2000, the President of Armenia, Robert Kocharian, invited the Chookasians to Armenia for a concert tour. After the completion of the tour, the President awarded them the distinguished National Gold Medal Award of Armenia. The medal was in recognition of the Ensemble’s cultural preservation and vitality.

Opening and closing the musical performances was the Zvartnots Armenian Folk Dance Ensemble.

Vartan and Armine Aghajanyan spearhead the group. The dancers were made up mostly of teenagers, and they were absolutely amazing. They performed early line dances from various regions of Armenia as well as modern ones. The boys were stern and vociferous and the girls were absolutely graceful. Armine Aghajanyan’s solo performance in “White Dove,” was one of the most elegant pieces of dance or any art I have ever witnessed. I don’t know if it was the subtle hand movements or the gliding across the stage that made it so, but it was just wonderful.

The three-hour show felt like it was about an hour long. The entire drive home I was thinking *what am I going to tell my mommy?* Surely she will ask how the concert was. Well she did ask, and I regretfully yet proudly had to reply, “It was one of the most original and memorable concerts I have been to and I am so sorry for not taking you along. If you want to disown me as a son I will understand.” My mom is a lovely lady, she smiled and said, “next time.” Lucky for me PBS taped the entire program and will be airing the concert sometime in June.

7th Annual Film Festival and Course Showcase Armenian Talent

CAITLIN TIFTICK
STAFF WRITER

Drawing students, faculty, and members of the community, the 7th Annual Armenian Film Festival showcased documentaries, comedies, and a romance. Taking place on Friday, February 10, the festival presented four films that were selected by a screening committee comprised of Armenian Studies students and faculty. The four films included: *Witnesses* directed by Apo Torosyan, *Toothache* directed by Sirakan Abroyan, *My Son Shall Be Armenian* directed by Hagop Goudsouzian, and *Pomegranate* by Kraig Kuzirian and Anahid Nazarian.

Witnesses is a documentary that features two women who are survivors of the Armenian Genocide. The film captures the accounts of the two women, who revealed the torture that they, their families and friends, and the country of Armenia went through during the tragic period.

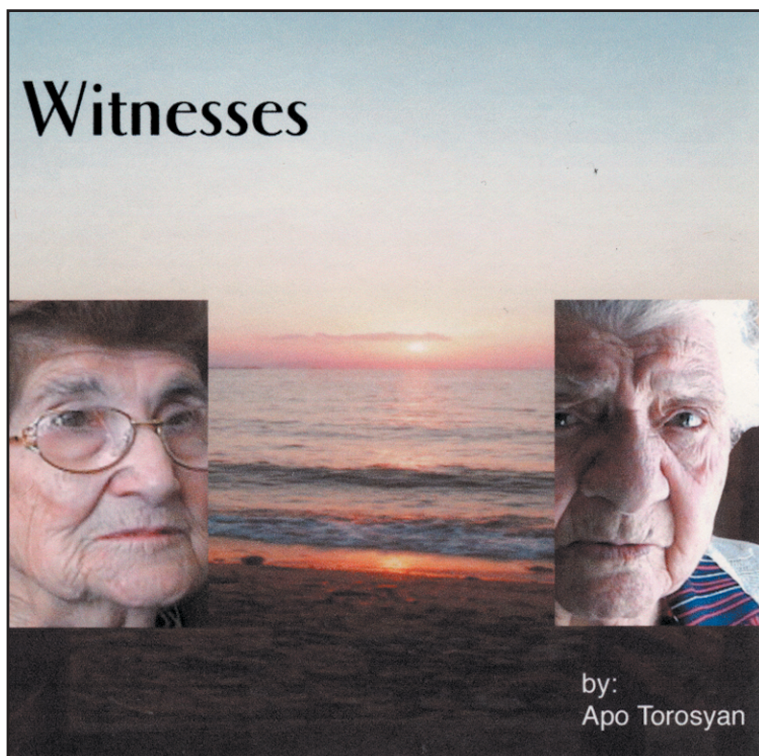
On a lighter note, *Toothache* is a comedy based on a son with a terrible toothache. The family tries to help the son with his toothache, but ultimately they do not help at all.

The son ends up looking like a man in a coma, with bandages wrapped all around his head — and his toothache remains.

The feature film of the festival, *My Son Shall Be Armenian*, is a Canadian documentary, based on accounts of Genocide survivors. A group of five people from Canada travel to Armenia and Turkey to find Genocide survivors. Some want to find out if the Genocide ever occurred, and others want to investigate and document the Genocide by capturing survivors’ accounts before they pass away. The film director aims to acquire these accounts in order to honor his late father’s wishes and to prevent his own son from living with the burden of the Genocide.

The last film shown, *Pomegranate*, was a film centered on romance, yet it also brought in aspects of family heritage and culture. Some of the movie was filmed in Fresno. The audience received this film best, for it featured some familiar faces from around the Valley.

Overall, the Film Festival was a hit. It drew over 140 students, faculty, and members of the community. Armenian Studies student



Sadie Hopelian said, “The film festival was good...it was a great opportunity for the Armenian community to come out and see Armenian films that they would normally not be exposed to.”

In addition to the Film Festival, an Armenian film course took place on Friday and Saturday, February 10 and 11. The course, taught in conjunction with the Film Festival, featured Armenian films and was

taught by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies.

“I think it is important to expose students to film,” said Dr. Kouymjian. The course allowed students to be guided through the films and to see aspects of films that otherwise would be missed if watched with a naked eye. By being educated about the films, students were able to gain more from the films.

Both the Film Festival and the Armenian film course gave students the opportunity to be exposed to Armenian films. While Armenian film has a broad definition, (Armenian director, Armenian actors, based in Armenia, etc.) the important part is that both the quantity and quality of Armenian films is increasing. Dr. Kouymjian recalls that when he first started teaching the film course, there was not much to show. Now, there is so much available that one has to choose which films to feature.

“I wish the film festival could be longer so that more films could be shown,” said Dr. Kouymjian.

Although the Armenian Film Festival was just three hours long, the films shown portrayed different aspects of Armenian talent. Both the festival and course were a great opportunity to see the talent and focus that Armenians are putting into their films.

Another film revolving around the Genocide, *The Genocide in Me* will be premiering in Fresno on Friday, March 17 at 7:30 PM in the Alice Peters Auditorium. Director Araz Artinian of Canada will be present to discuss her film. For more information about this showing and for other upcoming Armenian Studies Program events, please visit http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/upcoming_events.htm.



A scene from the movie “My Son Shall Be Armenian” by Hagop Goudsouzian. A genocide survivor tells her story to family and friends.

FILMS SUBMITTED FOR THE 7TH ANNUAL ARMENIAN FILM FESTIVAL

ANCESTRAL STONES (2005), Director/Producer: Jeghische Gevorkian (GEORGIA)
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE: 90 YEARS LATER (2005), (MINNESOTA)
BOOTH (2005), Director/Producer: Vatche Arabian (MASSACHUSETTS)
BIKE-A-THON AUGUST 2005 (2005) (CALIFORNIA)
JAVAGH: PART I (1999), Director: Levon Atoyants (GEORGIA)
KARAOKE DREAMS (2005), Director/ Producer: Robert Davidian (CALIFORNIA)
KHACHATURIAN THE FILM (2003), Director: Peter Rosen (NEW YORK)
MY SON SHALL BE ARMENIAN (2004), Director: Hagop Goudsouzian (CANADA)
POMEGRANATE (2005), Director: Kraig Kuzirian (CALIFORNIA)
TOOTHACHE (2006), Director/Producer: Sirakan Abroyan (ARMENIA)
THADDEUS (1967), Director/Producer: Arby Ovanessian (FRANCE)
TRIPWIRE (2005), Director: Raffi Kondy (CALIFORNIA)
VANDALISM HYERENIK ARMENIA, Director: Esbardag Karabaghtsyan (ARMENIA)
VAT KINO (2005), Director: Derenik Yapujian (CALIFORNIA)
WITNESSES (2005), Director: Apo Torosyan (MASSACHUSETTS)

Dr. Chookaszian Lectures on Armenian Art



Dr. Levon Chookaszian with display of Armenian khatchkars.

topic that they couldn't wait to ask questions or contribute their own thoughts.

The lecture, which was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization, ended on a positive note with many individual discussions with the speaker. What was particularly interesting about this event was the fact that many seats in the auditorium were taken up by academics from numerous places, all with their own ideas and opinions about the subject of Armenian art.

As a special treat for the attendees, Dr. Chookaszian brought along plenty of visual aids to further heighten everyone's interest. Poster-size color photographs of Armenian churches and *khatchkars* were displayed in the Gottschalk's Gallery. Many depicted the churches and *khatchkars* before and after they had intentionally been destroyed. The photographs were prepared by Research in Armenian Architecture (RAA).

The event went extremely smoothly thanks to the beloved advisors, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and Professor Barlow Der Mugerdechian of the Armenian Studies Program, who organized the presentation. One can wish that Dr. Chookaszian will continue to honor us with his astounding intellect in the years to come.

Photo: Barlow Der Mugerdechian

SVETLANA BAGDASAROV
STAFF WRITER

A large crowd of people gathered inside the Alice Peters Auditorium-University Business Center at Fresno State at 7:30 PM, on Wednesday, February 15, to hear a highly anticipated lecture on "Armenian Merchants of Isfahan: The Dissemination of Armenian Art Between East and West." Though he has visited Fresno State before with his intriguing lectures on Armenian art, Dr. Levon Chookaszian, Chair of the Department of Art History at Yerevan State University, was invited once again to enlighten the Armenian community

with a presentation about the importance of historic art and its fascinating background.

In addition to the "Dissemination of Armenian Art Between East and West," Dr. Chookaszian spoke about the recent destruction of Armenian *khatchkars* (stone-crosses) in Nakhichevan. Both presentations were accompanied by various slides of significant imagery. Everything from beautiful churches and paintings to elaborate textiles were shown during the presentation. Dr. Chookaszian did such a wonderfully thorough job describing each slide that the audience was utterly speechless and engrossed in the presentation. Many people were so interested in Dr. Chookaszian's

Conference Celebrates Translation of the Armenian Bible

STAFF REPORT

Barlow Der Mugerdechian of the Armenian Studies Program co-organized and participated in an international conference "The Armenian Bible: Celebrating the 1600th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Armenian Alphabet and the Translation of the Bible into Armenian" under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian and the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America.

The conference was also dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Society for Armenian Studies.

Dr. Kenneth R. Nielsen, President of Woodbury University gave the opening remarks for the conference, welcoming guests to the historic campus of Woodbury University.

Prof. Barlow Der Mugerdechian opened the conference with a paper on "The Bible and Armenian Culture" and served as moderator. His paper traced the substantial influence of the Bible in Armenian art, architecture, and literature. The translation of the Bible into Armenian in the first part of the fifth century proved to be a significant moment in the history of the Armenian people.

Six papers were read on various aspects of the study of Bible translation. The morning session included Dr. Claude Cox, Adjunct Associate Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, Ontario, speaking on "Little Words are Important Too: The Use of Particles in the Armenian Translation of Job." Dr. Cox commented on the treatment of particles in the Armenian translation of Job and how the

translator treated all the little words. Several years ago he gave a paper on the Old Greek of Job and its treatment of particles when the Hebrew was translated and his paper touched on similar issues for the Armenian.

He was followed by Rev. Dr. Manuel M. Jinbachian, Professor of Septuagint at McGill University in Canada, speaking on "The Prophecy of Jeremiah as it is Found in the Hebrew, Septuagint, Syriac, and Armenian." Dr. Jinbachian took the first two chapters of Jeremiah and compared the three ancient versions, Hebrew, Syriac, and Septuagint, and tried to establish where the Armenian version comes from. He stated that the Armenian follows the Greek very closely in the first two chapters.

Participants and guests had the opportunity for questions and answers at the conclusion of each paper.

Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Vahan Hovhanessian, affiliated with St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, New Rochelle, NY, spoke on "The Reading is From Third Corinthians-A Glance at the Lectionary of the Armenian Church." This paper shed light on the various passages from 3 Corinthians that have been incorporated in the liturgical calendar of the Armenian Church. Exploring 10 different manuscripts of Armenian lectionaries Fr. Hovhanessian traced the various readings from 3 Corinthians in the liturgical calendar of the Armenian Church and examined their contexts. This further supported the argument for the canonical status that 3 Corinthians enjoyed in the Armenian Church.

Very Rev. Fr. Dajad Yardemian, Vicar General of the Western Diocese and one of the co-organizers



Participants at the Feb. 25 conference on the Armenian Bible. Left to Right: Seated-Rev. Dr. Manuel Jinbachian, Rev. Fr. Dr. Zaven Arzoumanian, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Very Rev. Fr. Dajad Yardemian. Left to Right: Standing-Barlow Der Mugerdechian, Dr. Peter Cowe, Dr. Claude Cox, and Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Vahan Hovhanessian.

of the conference, spoke in Armenian on "Armenian Exegesis or Armenian Commentaries on the Books of the Holy Bible: 5th-18th centuries." He referred to the depth of Armenian exegetical works and to their rich spirituality, and provided an evaluation from the theological, ecclesiastical and dogmatic point of view, emphasizing at the same time their high value of moral instruction within the spiritual life. He concluded that today the exegetical works of the Armenian Church Fathers still maintain their contemporary value, as they are a living history of the Christian faith, which is directly connected to our current life of faith.

Following a lunch break, the second part of the conference began with a paper from Dr. Peter Cowe, Narekatsi Chair of Armenian Studies, UCLA, speaking on "Literary and Theological Consid-

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

**Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting
Professor Lectures**

**“The Inner Dimension
of the Armenian Genocide”**

In Three Parts

Dr. James Reid

Dr. Reid is a Tsakopoulos Hellenic Fellow- from 2001-2003 he was the director of the Vryonis Center, and from 1991-2001 he was a senior research fellow at the Center. He has written extensively on the Ottoman Empire and modern Greece.

**Part II-“The ‘Death World’ and Its
Influence on Victim Survivors”
Wednesday, March 22, 2006 • 7:30 PM**

**Part III- “Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in
Survivor Writings”
Tuesday, April 25, 2006 • 7:30 PM**

**Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191
• University Business Center • Fresno State**

Free Admission-Relaxed Parking Available in Lot J

"The Armenian Bible and the Early Formation of the Armenian Church." The Armenian Church, already established one century and a half earlier by St. Gregory the Illuminator (301AD) and his successors, gained ultimate merits from the newly translated Bible. The worship services and the sacraments formed and established by the Armenian church leaders in the 4th century were very inadequate until the Armenian version of the Bible came to the rescue. These liturgical books were immensely enriched by the citations and the allusions of the Bible naturally and by necessity. The Canon Law of the Armenian Church, as well as the Hymnal (the sharagans) became the cornerstones of our Church, requiring the ultimate input of the Armenian Bible.

Closing remarks were made by Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America. Archbishop Derderian spoke on the importance of holding conferences such as these and stated that he would like to continue organizing such gatherings in the future.

The conference, held in cooperation with Woodbury University and Claremont University, took place on Saturday, February 25, 2006 in the Cabrini Hall of Woodbury University in Burbank.

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

Dr. James Reid Presents First of Three Part Series on Genocide

ZHANNA BAGDASAROV AND
CHRISTINA KARAKASHIAN
STAFF WRITERS

Henry S. Kazan visiting professor Dr. James Reid held the first of his three part lecture series on February 21, covering the inner dimension of the Armenian Genocide. Dr. Reid is currently teaching a course which looks at the Genocide through the eyes of witnesses and survivors of the massacres. The class is structured to help students discover the antecedents of the Genocide through the perspective of those that actually suffered through it. Dr. Reid's aim is to provide students with an understanding of how the alienation of the Armenians came about and what lead to the final plan for complete destruction of Armenia.

Dr. Reid began his lecture by introducing the process of looking at the trauma survivors faced due to the Genocide. The lecture focused on two major symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in survi-



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

L. to R.: Anne Visser, Dr. James Reid, and Zhanna Bagdasarov.

vors: the threat of death and the sense of a foreshortened future.

Dr. Reid explored the symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in detail, and explained that the central element of trauma is the threat of death itself. He further discussed two aspects of this threat: the life-death continuum and the death imprint. The life-death continuum is one of the aspects identi-

fied in people who are faced with death and was proposed by Dr. Reid. This category states that during an extended trauma such as a campaign or a death march, a person begins to feel that death, and not the hope for continued life, dominates his or her mind and outlook. To exemplify this concept, Dr. Reid read a narrative from Reverend Abraham Hartunian's mem-

oir *Neither to Laugh Nor To Weep*.

The death imprint, on the other hand, is a concept created by Robert J. Lifton and refers to the individual being haunted by the sight and/or the threat of death for many years after the ending of the traumatic events. According to Dr. Reid, a person begins to define himself or herself by their experience with death or near-death and starts to differentiate himself or herself from others due to the trauma.

The second symptom, a sense of a foreshortened future, was also discussed as a feeling of an "unnatural existence in the survivor." This aspect of the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder states that the traumatized person does not expect to have a normal life span, a career, a family or children. Dr. Reid provided Bob Der Mugrdechian's biography of his father Anooshavan, *Anooshavan: The Intrepid Survivor*, as the example of this symptom. It is also important to note that this aspect is directly related to the life-death continuum experienced

during the trauma. One might also find that superstitions of any type might indicate the presence of this symptom in people.

Throughout his lecture Dr. Reid provided narratives from the memoirs and letters of survivors with personal experiences of genocide to further illustrate these symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Included in these examples were accounts by Hagop Der Garabedian, Abraham Hartunian, Anooshavan Der Mugrdechian and others.

Looking at genocide through the eyes of survivors and their psychological states provides us with a unique outlook on the Genocide rather than mere historical facts. When studying historical facts of the Genocide and what was lost is often what people focus on, but through his series of lectures Dr. Reid is exploring deeper into genocide and the effects it also has on survivors of such traumatic events.

Dr. Reid's next lecture in the series will be held on March 22.

Eench ga Chga-

WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE MUSICIANS AND WHY?

WINDY DUNBAR-STAFF WRITER

Angeline Ohanesian
Senior

Richard Hagopian because he completes every Armenian party and he plays the songs I like to dance to.



Armine Sargsyan
Senior

I like Nune Yesayan for her folk music and vocal quality, Armine Simonyan for dancing, "System of a Down" for getting crazy, and Mister X for the best Cilicia rendition.



Shant Postoyan
Junior

Harout Pamboukjian is my favorite in terms of getting me out of my seat and jamming on the dance floor. Vatche is another all-time favorite because he sings in a variety of different languages.



Sevag Jierian
Sophomore

"System of a Down" and Karnig Sarkissian, what more do you need?



Photos: Windy Dunbar

36th Annual Armenian Summer Games to Be Held in Clovis, June 23-25

The Western Armenian Athletic Association is pleased to announce the coming of the 36th Annual Armenian Summer Games. They will be held June 23-25, 2006 at the Buchanan High School complex in Clovis, CA. Come and join us for a weekend of fun. Since its debut in 1969, the Armenian Summer Games provides a unique venue for Armenian athletes of all ages. The only requirement for participation is that at least one parent is of Armenian descent or you are the spouse of someone of Armenian descent.

The modern and spacious facilities at Buchanan High provide an opportunity for exciting athletic events. This year we will once again feature men's basketball, tennis, track and field, and introducing this year, women's basketball. The track and field competition will take place on Saturday, June 24, with tennis starting that same morning. Both of these sports will be contested in age groupings. First round basketball action will start Friday night. Participants will receive a souvenir t-shirt and a complimentary ticket to the traditional post meet picnic. First, second and third place winners will receive stunning Armenian Summer Games medallions.

Please visit our website at www.armeniansummertimegames.com for applications for all the sports, as well as photos and results of the last two Summer Games. We look forward to another great year of competition!

PBS, FROM PAGE 1

participated: Colgate professor Peter Balakian and University of Minnesota professor Taner Akcam support the film's views, while University of Louisville professor Justin McCarthy and Turkish historian Omer Turan give an opposing perspective. Professor Balakian said that he did not want to participate in a panel with "two bona-fide deniers" but felt that he was "backed into a corner" by PBS. If he had boycotted the panel, he said, it would have jeopardized the broadcast of the documentary, which Balakian called "a major and comprehensive piece of work."

McCarthy, in a recent interview, said that the history of the period is complex and does not lend itself to simple judgements and labels. According to McCarthy, titling the documentary *The Armenian Genocide* is "a false description of a complicated history."

Filmmaker Goldberg said that he did not think the panel was necessary, "but didn't fight it. It wasn't up to me and I had nothing to do with its production."

Both Washington, DC, based lobbying organizations, the Arme-

nian Assembly of America and the Armenian National Committee of America, have called on PBS to cancel its plans to provide Armenian Genocide deniers a national television audience.

It is believed that airing the round table discussion would only serve to call the Armenian Genocide into question, and support the Turkish government policy of denial.

Congressman Anthony Weiner (D-NY), a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian issues, called the inclusion of the genocide deniers on the panel "an insult to the history of that time."

Two Cats Productions is a documentary production company in New York City led by Andrew Goldberg, also produced *The Armenians, A Story of Survival*, which aired on PBS stations nationally in 2002.

The Armenian Genocide is available on DVD or VHS through Oregon Public Broadcasting, P.O. Box 2284, South Burlington, VT, 05407 telephone 1-800-440-2651, website twocatstv.com.

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ASP BANQUET, FROM PAGE 1



L. to R. Bryan Bedrosian, on behalf of National Raisin Co., receiving a certificate of appreciation from Dr. Dickran Kouymjian.

manities is honored to have the Armenian Studies Program in our midst. Armenian Studies, with two faculty, has the visibility of some of our largest departments and makes an impact on the community. This is a source of pride for our College and Armenian Studies is one of the jewels of our crown. The Armenian Studies Program is the best undergraduate Armenian Studies Program in the nation. And it is amazing to accomplish this with two faculty,” said the Dean. She made it clear that the entire Fresno community should be grateful for the existence of this program and encouraged each person present to continue his or her support and involvement. “The Program offers many courses, has implemented a new honors program, and a great outreach program. This would not be possible without the support of the

community. The reason that so much can be accomplished is because of you, because the community has embraced Armenian Studies and given it its unconditional support. Thank you for your support. I look forward to many years of growth and enhancement for the Program,” concluded the Dean. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian then expressed his gratitude to each of the many Armenian Studies Program benefactors. A certificate of appreciation, along with a personal expression of thanks and recognition, was delivered to the sponsors who were present. Dr. Kouymjian especially recognized Mrs. Fran Ziegler, the administrative assistant of the Armenian Studies Program, who has faithfully served the Program for ten years. Mrs. Ziegler will be retiring this Spring. Professor Barlow Der

Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program followed this portion of the program by introducing students who were awarded scholarships by the Armenian Studies Program. Each student was personally introduced, presented to the audience and recognized for his or her academic achievements and involvement with the Program. Once all of the students were introduced, they were recognized for their achievements with a round of applause. The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the screening of the award-winning documentary by Peter Rosen, *Khachaturian: The Film*. This feature presentation documented the life and work of the great Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian. It provided the audience with a rare opportunity to view never-before-seen footage of Khachaturian, acquired by the director from Moscow. The film, lasting a little over an hour, presented an interesting account of Khachaturian’s life. It familiarized the audience with all of the obstacles Khachaturian had to overcome while working in Russia, while also delivering personal accounts from fellow colleagues and family members. The screening of the film was made possible through producers Robert Lawrence Kuhn and Dora Serviarian Kuhn. The applause that followed the screening of the film demonstrated everyone’s satisfaction and enjoyment. The entire event was a success. The guests exchanged comments of gratitude and appreciation not only for the banquet but also for the Program in general. Organizing this

Armenians on the Internet

WINDY DUNBAR
STAFF WRITER

Learn Armenian

<http://www.learnarmenian.com>

Main Categories:

Armenian Alphabet Creation, History of Armenia, About Armenia, Armenian Lessons, The Way to School, Children’s Songs, Storyteller, Bible for Kids, Poetry, Games.

Brief Summary:

LearnArmenian.com is an interactive site for children and young adults to either learn the basics of the Armenian language, or to strengthen their knowledge of the alphabet. Members of the site can choose from a plethora of materials to get in touch with Armenian history, interact with other members, and at the same time reinforce Armenian language and alphabet skills. Stories, map descriptions, and poetry are all written in Armenian and include high-tech graphics.

ASP HONORS, FROM PAGE 1

Transfer students must complete the Armenian Studies Minor with minimum progress of one course per semester.

- GPA of at least 3.5 in Armenian Studies courses.
- Maintain 3.4 overall GPA as a Junior
- GPA of at least 3.5 in the first three semesters (freshman and sophomore) of course work

Other requirements for the application:

- Two letters of recommendation, at least one from an Armenian Studies faculty member.
- A sample of work, preferably a paper written for an Armenian Studies course.

Contact:
Armenian Studies Program,
5245 N Backer Ave. PB 4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001, Telephone: 559-278-2669, Web site: www.armenianstudies.csufresno.edu

Completed applications must be received at the Armenian Studies Program office by 5:00 PM on Friday, April 14, 2006.

Student requirements for successful completion of Honors Program:

- Students must complete the Armenian Studies Minor, which will include honors designated Armenian Studies courses (requirements above regular course work).

- Students must participate in Smittcamp Family Honors Colloquium (a weekly two-hour meeting for all honors students) as long as they are in the Armenian Studies Honors Program.

The colloquia provide presentations on current affairs, public policy, and contemporary society with a focus organized around broad themes.

- Students must complete a culminating honors experience.
- Students must complete 20 hours of community service per semester.
- Students upon completion of the honors project, present their research at the end of the semester and write up their project in journal article format.

All students accepted into the Armenian Studies Honors Program are guaranteed the following scholarship:

- Full registration fees for two years (four semesters)*

*Student must maintain the following GPA to be eligible for the scholarship:

- 3.4 for Junior year
- No less than 3.25 during overall university career.

(Scholarship estimate for Fall 2006/Spring 2007 is \$3,000)

Note: Up to four of these scholarships can be awarded in any one academic year.

evening of socializing and making new acquaintances was a wonderful way for the Armenian Studies Program to express its gratitude for the benefactors and to recognize the accomplishments of each student.

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ARMENIAN ALUMNI,

FROM PAGE 1

association, each person must be a current member of the California State University, Fresno Alumni Association, Inc.

This organization does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, veteran status or disability.

This group of graduates and cur-

rent students will form the core in planning and promoting the new Armenian Alumni Chapter.

Email the Armenian Alumni Chapter at:
armenian.alumni@gmail.com

Become a member of the Armenian Alumni Chapter

of the Fresno State Alumni Association

Show your Bulldog loyalty, pride and spirit!

Call 559-278-2586 for information on how to join
the Armenian Alumni Chapter

Armenian Alumni Chapter of the Fresno State Alumni Association



Spring Mixer and Kickoff Event

Wednesday, May 10, 2006
5:30-7:30 PM

Smittcamp Alumni House Courtyard
Fresno State

• Food, refreshments, music •
Come and meet fellow Armenian alumni

Interested in joining the Armenian Alumni Chapter (AAC)?
Email at armenian.alumni@gmail.com

For more information on the Fresno State Alumni Association
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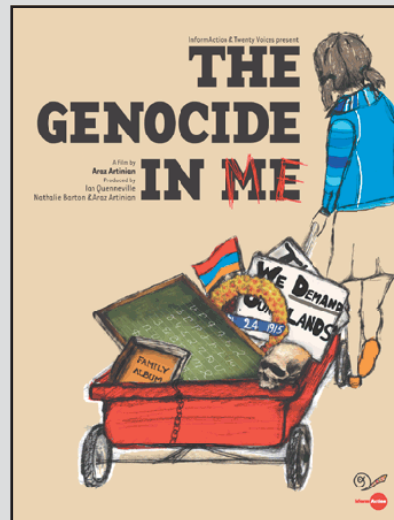
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The Armenian Studies Program
and Armenian Students organization
present the screening of

The Genocide in Me

a documentary by Araz Artinian



Associated Students
California State University, Fresno

This movie event is partially funded by
the Associated Students, Inc.

Friday, March 17,
2006

Screening Time
7:30PM

Q and A with director-8:30PM

Alice Peter Auditorium
University Business Center
Fresno State

Free Admission

For more information call
278-2669

1915 — 91st Anniversary — 2006 of the Armenian Genocide

Fresno Area
Events

• Saturday, April 22-10:00AM
Flag Raising
Fresno City Hall

• Monday, April 24-Noon
Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program
Annual Genocide Commemoration
at Fresno State Free Speech Area

• Monday, April 24-7:00PM
Community Religious and
Civic Observance of the Armenian Genocide
Sponsored by the Armenian Interdenominational Committee
St. Paul Armenian Church, Fresno

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