

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

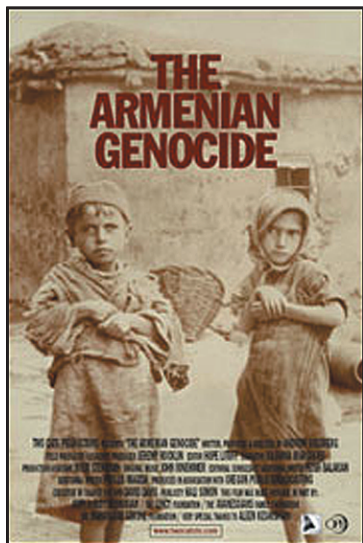
27th
Year

May 2006

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Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

The Armenian Genocide Film- New Affirmation of Genocide



BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN
ADVISOR

The much-anticipated documentary, *The Armenian Genocide*, was aired nationally on PBS stations on Monday, April 17. It was appropriate that the documentary was aired in the week leading to the 91st

anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

The Armenian Genocide is narrated by Julianna Margulies and was written, directed, and produced by Emmy Award-winning producer Andrew Goldberg of Two Cats Productions, in association with Oregon Public Broadcasting.

The documentary opens with a strong statement affirming the Armenian Genocide of 1915. This is followed by questions such as how was it possible for a massacre of such epic proportions to take place, why did it happen, and why has the Genocide remained one of the greatest untold stories of the century? These questions and more are answered during the 55-minute documentary.

The documentary gives an overview of the Armenians and where they live in the world today. It also gives a brief history of the Arme-

SEE **GENOCIDE REVIEW** PAGE 6

“Armenians in Fresno” Subject of Osher Institute Presentation



Osher Institute participants gathered in downtown Fresno for a walk through “Armenian Town” on Saturday, April 1.

HAKOP TATARYAN
STAFF WRITER

Their names are on our street signs, our buildings, and our history books. But who are these Fresnoans that have been part of Fresno since its birth? A class consisting of more than 130 people had an opportunity to learn about these Fresnoans whose names all end in “ian.”

Starting on March 14, 2006, for three consecutive Tuesdays, a class titled “From Armenia to California: The Odyssey of the Fresno Armenians” was taught by Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian in

the Peters Auditorium, under the auspices of the Osher Life Long Institute.

The class was one of many organized by the Osher Life Long Institute, which aims to make available continuing education to adults over age 50. The Institute holds various tours, classes, and workshops. Although Professor Der Mugrdchian managed to sneak in a few homework assignments, in general, Osher Institute classes are usually one class period and have a very relaxed ambience without the dreaded anxiety of homework or exams.

Each class taught by Der Mugrdchian was very interactive,

SEE **OSHER** PAGE 6

Campus Commemorates April 24th-Armenian Genocide Memorial Day-With Solemn Ceremony



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

Members of the Armenian Students Organization, faculty, and staff gathered at Fresno State for an Armenian Genocide Commemorative event at the Free Speech area on April 24.

ZHANNA BAGDASAROV
EDITOR

The United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Turkish Empire, Henry Morgenthau, witnessed atrocities carried out against the Armenians at the hands of Young Turks. His memoir, *Ambassador Morgenthau's Story*, has been published, and corroborates evidence on the Armenian Genocide against

the denialist claims of the Turkish government. The following is a quote from his book:

“...I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the suffering of the Armenian race in 1915.”

-Henry Morgenthau, *U. S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire*

At noon on April 24, the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) of Fresno State commemorated the ninety-first anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Students and community members gathered in the Free Speech Area to pay their respects to the fallen martyrs. Posters, photographs, and various slogans depicting facts about

SEE **GENOCIDE** PAGE 8

Araz Artinian Presents *The Genocide In Me*

HAKOP TATARYAN
STAFF WRITER

Today there are a great many documentaries on the Armenian Genocide. Thus, making a new one that positively stands out can be quite a task. However, Araz Artinian has achieved that very task with her documentary *The Genocide in Me*.

On Friday, March 16, 2006 the Armenian Students Organization along with the Armenian Studies Program held a screening of *The Genocide in Me*, in the Peters Auditorium. Araz Artinian was present to speak about her project, as well as answer questions after the movie. Fresno was one of forty cities that Artinian toured with her film. The evening was a great success, as audience members showed great interest in the film while commending Artinian on her great accomplishment. At the end of the evening audience members purchased



Writer/Director Araz Artinian, seated center, with students and faculty after the screening of her new documentary.

autographed copies of the DVD while having the opportunity to take pictures with the writer/producer.

Araz Artinian is an Armenian-Canadian filmmaker who last visited Fresno in April of 2000, at the invitation of the Armenian Studies

Program, to show her documentary *Surviving the Richter Scale*, a film on the 1988 earthquake in Armenia. For that film, Artinian received six awards, including Best Documentary at the 29th Canadian Stu-

SEE **ARTINIAN** 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.

Alice & Berge Bulbulian, Fresno, for the Armenian book and several copies of *The Armenian Digest*.

Teeter D'Andre, Berkeley, for the copy of *From Ike to Mao and Beyond* by Bob Avakian.

Harry Dikranian, Québec, Canada, for the courtesy copy of the DVD, "Past Lives," which was aired on Canadian TV last year. Mr. Dikranian was the subject of the program.

Linda Farsakian-Wall, Visalia, for Armenian books.

Walter Karabian, Los Angeles, for the DVD in memory of Carole Creason Marks.

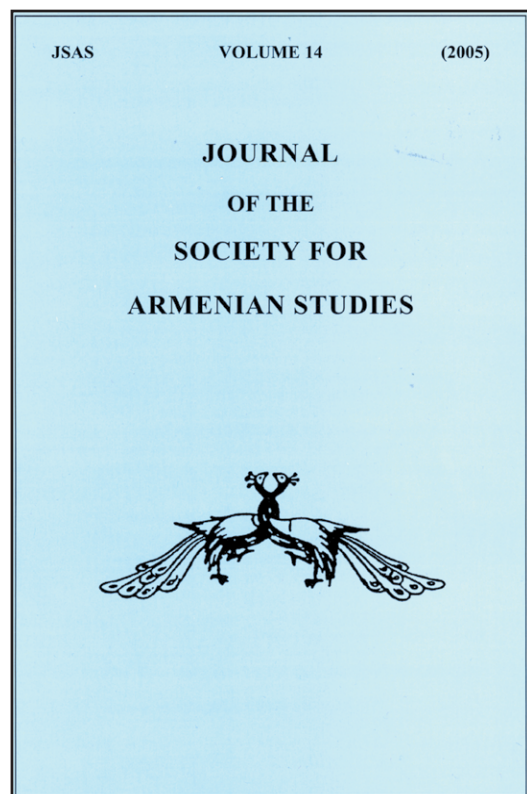
Boghos Armenak Lakissian, Glendale, for his book *Welcome to Musa Ler*.

Col. Carl Mahakian, Rancho Mirage, for 29 books on or about William Saroyan.

Hilary Richardson, Dublin, Ireland, for the book *An Introduction to Irish High Crosses* by Hilary Richardson and John Scarry and *The Passion in Art* by Richard Harries.

Susan Saroyan Vail and Allyn Saroyan, Fresno, for the collection of William Saroyan memorabilia from the estates of their father Ralph Saroyan and his brother, Ruben Saroyan.

Volume 14 of the *Journal for the Society for Armenian Studies*



an article on "Foods and Drinks in Fifteenth-Century Anatolia, as Recorded by A m i r d o v l a t Amasiats'i."

The book reviews included in JSAS 14 indicate the broad spectrum of works with some connection to Armenian studies which have been produced in the past few years. Whether the books relate directly or indirectly to the field, the reviews provide a concise overview of the contents and their evaluation.

Those interested may make their contribution to the JSAS through the submission of articles, book reviews, review essays, and communications.

The Society for Armenian Studies announces the publication of volume 14 of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*. Four articles, twenty book reviews, and a review article are part of JSAS 14.

Dr. John Greppin of Cleveland State University and Dr. Peter Cowe, Narekatsi Professor of Armenian Studies at UCLA are co-editors of JSAS 14.

Earl Anderson, with Mark Host, has contributed an article on "Genetic and Diffusional Themes in the Armenian Sasna Crer: The Sanasar Cycle."

Robert Thomson has contributed a major article "The Armenian Version of the 'Life of Sylvester'."

Vartan Matiossian has contributed an article "A New Piece of the Mosaic: English Poems by Kostan Zarian."

John L. Guerigian contributed

to the JSAS through the submission of articles, book reviews, review essays, and communications. JSAS has a valuable and continuing role to play in the dissemination of Armenian studies throughout the academic world. JSAS reflects the scholarship of its members and is a window to the world of Armenian studies.

JSAS is published under the auspices of the Society for Armenian Studies, by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, which serves as the Secretariat.

For information on how to obtain a copy of volume 14 of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, or back issues of the *Journal*, contact the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, 5245 N Backer Ave PB4, Fresno CA 93740-8001 or call 559-278-2669 or by email at barlowd@csufresno.edu.

California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2006 Schedule of Courses

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

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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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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Dr. Reid Speaks on “Inner Dimensions of the Armenian Genocide”

Dr. James Reid, Henry Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies for the Spring 2006 semester gave the final two of his lectures in a three part series.

Part II- “The ‘Death World’ and its Influence on Victim Survivors,” was given on Wednesday, March 22.

Part III- “Symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Genocide Survivor Writings” was given on Tuesday, April 25.

ISAAC HALLS
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday March 22, the Henry Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies, Dr. James Reid, delivered a very powerful lecture on the survivors of the Armenian Genocide, his second in a three-part series of lectures having to do with the Armenian Genocide and its effects on those that survived.

The “Death World,” as Dr. Reid described it, refers to the recognition that a deadly environment dominated everything that was living. This perception of their surroundings led to the creation of the sense of foreshortened future, which is one’s expectation of not being able to have a normal life after the traumatic event. Dr. Reid’s eloquent lecture discussed how the “Death World,” which was created by the perpetrators of the war, influenced the mentality of the Armenian and Pontic Greek survivors.

Dr. Reid read from various memoirs about the horrific and of-

ten tragic events affecting the Armenian community during the early 20th century. As Dr. Reid presented account after account of tragedy and butchering that were only recorded because of the brave survivors who dared to remember, one can truly begin to understand the “Death World” mentality that the survivors created for themselves.

From the horrific excerpt from *Anooshavan: The Intrepid Survivor*, written by Bob Der Mugrdechian, detailing the many instances of abuse by the Turkish prison guards towards the Armenian prisoners, and especially his father Anooshavan Der Mugrdechian, to the atrocities witnessed by the Reverend Abraham Hartunian after the massacres that took place in his own village, the “Death World” becomes much more real. Another powerful part was when Dr. Reid discussed the catastrophic effects that these events had on the survivors such as the thousands of orphans left behind and their struggle to lead a new life of meaning.

One quote from Dr. Reid’s lecture that impacted me the most was when he said, “In order to understand what the victims of the Genocide underwent and the survivors witnessed, the graphic images must come to light.” Even though it was hard to hear Dr. Reid talk about those events, we must listen to the brave souls willing to talk about it in order for our modern society to truly understand what the Armenian Genocide was like.

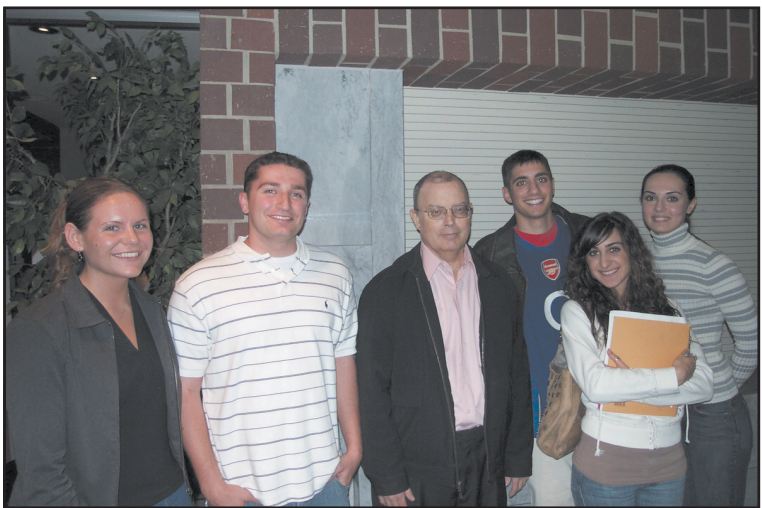


Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Left to Right: Anne Visser, Jack Ajamian, Dr. James Reid, Matthew Zakarian, Christina Karakashian, and Zhanna Bagdasarov.

ANNE VISSER
STAFF WRITER

Dr. James Reid delivered his third and final lecture in his three-part lecture series entitled “The Inner Dimension of the Armenian Genocide” on Tuesday April 25, 2006. Dr. Reid’s lecture entitled “Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Armenian Genocide Survivor Narratives” discussed the symptoms of the psychiatric disorder Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and evidence of the disorder found in the memoirs of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), is a psychiatric disorder brought on by the onset of having experienced a traumatic event in which the individual was exposed to death, or felt an intense fear, sense of helplessness, or horror in

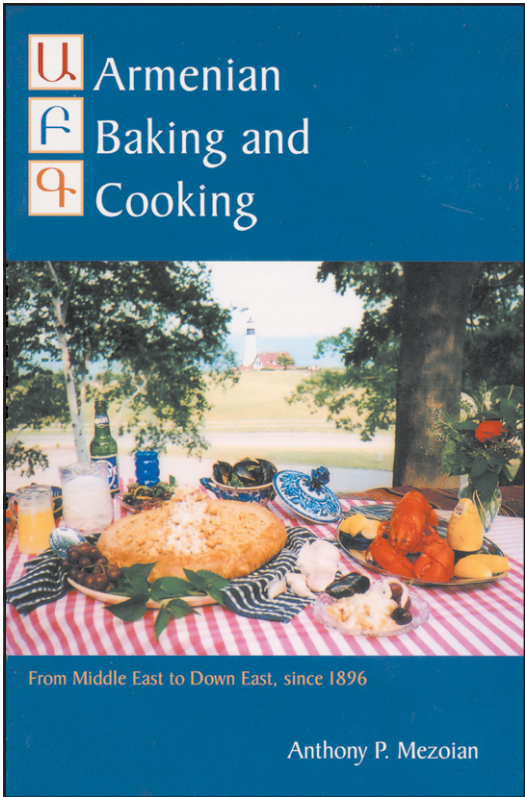
response to a traumatic event. PTSD has two psychological orientations that exist in response to experiencing these events. Identified by Dr. Reid, the first orientation is the life-death continuum, in which “during an extended trauma, such as a campaign or a death march, the person begins to feel that death, and not the hope for continued life dominates his or her mind.” The second orientation, is the Death Imprint, where “the individual remains haunted by the sight and or the threat of death for many years” after the event has occurred.

During his lecture, Dr. Reid elo-

quently read passages from survivor narratives including those of Sano Halo and Anooshavan Der Mugrdechian. Taking the information from these passages, he gave his expert opinion of PTSD as evident in the symptoms of the disorder that were present in each of the memoir passages. Such symptoms included flashbacks of the traumatic events, reliving the tragic events, avoidance of stimuli and anything related to the event, the inability to recall an event, a loss of interest or a lack of participation in activities, hypervigilance, and a sense of a foreshortened future. According to Dr. Reid, everyone who survived the Genocide suffered from this disorder and from one or more of these symptoms. Moreover, these symptoms point to the long-term suffering of the Armenian community for generations after the annihilation of Armenia.

Dr. Reid’s three part lectures series on the “Inner Dimensions of the Armenian Genocide” offers a unique view into his course “The Armenian Genocide Through Armenian Genocide Survivor Narratives” which is being offered this spring at California State University, Fresno. This class is held on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00-4:50 in East Engineering Room 108.

Review-Armenian Baking and Cooking



From Middle East to Down East, since 1896

Anthony P. Mezoian

SVETLANA BAGDASAROV
STAFF WRITER

Anthony P. Mezoian’s culinary masterpiece *Armenian Baking and Cooking: From Middle East to Down East, since 1896* is an interesting and self-explanatory spiral-bound booklet. The 110 pages of pure genius include simple easy-to-follow instructions and vivid images to help make sure the foods turn out the way they were originally intended. What is particu-

larly unique about this cookbook is the clever usage of historical backgrounds and personal anecdotes that accompany the recipes. This is more than just a recipe book—so much new and useful information is written for personal enjoyment and enlightenment. You don’t have to be a professional chef or even a consistent cook to find this book stimulating and very helpful.

In addition to the details on food preparation, a couple of pages are set aside for a glossary of Armenian words and culinary terms, a brief essay on Armenian food heritage, and a generous amount of tips for baking and cooking are all compiled for your convenience. The author also shares his own recollections of his childhood and the part his Armenian heritage has played in his adulthood. He emphasizes the importance of food in Armenian culture and lets the reader experience the excitement of cooking native, country-style Armenian dishes through simple recipes.

Many people avoid cooking and

baking because it takes too long to prepare the food. The beauty of this cookbook lies in the fact that this extra time is not needed. In the fast-paced world that we live in, time is more precious than gold, so knowing that cooking can be both enjoyable and rapid is something to smile about. Some of the recipes include: eggplant and meat casserole, lamb and celery stew, chicken broth with pasta, and mussels and rice. As for the desserts, finger-length cookies, stewed fruit, candy roll, and bread pudding are just some of the mouth-watering delights that may be prepared for special occasions or for personal indulgence.

Armenian Baking and Cooking should be a part of everyone’s cookbook collection. Whether you are a beginner, or looking for ways to spruce up your tedious cooking routine, this book appeals to people of all ages and experience levels. The recipes, as well as the stories, motivate and inspire folks to find ways to hone their culinary skills. The authenticity of this recipe book is unsurpassed. It is a piece of literary work that will become a part of each household if just given the chance. Mezoian’s light recipes prove that cooking doesn’t have to be a chore. I believe this cookbook is worth every penny because the satisfaction that comes from eating good food is priceless.

The cookbook is available online from the St. Vartan Bookstore, <http://www.stvartanbookstore.com>.

Armenian Honors Program

STAFF REPORT

The Armenian Studies Program announces that applications are now being accepted for the Fall 2006 Armenian Studies Honors Program at Fresno State.

The Honors Program is designed to encourage outstanding students to participate in a challenging course of study. Candidates will develop their intellectual and creative talents and have the chance to interact directly with faculty. The Honors Program provides the opportunity for highly qualified, advanced Armenian Studies Program students to sharpen their analytical abilities, refine their writing skills, and expand their knowledge of Armenian studies. The honors culminating experience itself is an opportunity for students to apply the learning and skills they have acquired as Armenian Studies Minors.

Minimum criteria for application to the program:

- Entry as Fresno State student with Junior standing or transfer student with Junior standing (minimum of 60 units)
 - Continuing Fresno State students must have completed at least four Armenian Studies courses. 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 noon on Friday, May 19, 2006.

Student requirements for successful completion of Honors Program

- Students must complete the Armenian Studies Minor.
- 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 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 over-all 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.

Benefits:

- Program Honors noted on transcript and diploma
- Armenian Studies Program Honors Certificate
- Honors medallion
- Recognized as Armenian Studies Program Honors graduate in all publicity.

Congratulations Fresno State Armenian Studies Minors and Grads

Christina Ajamian
Major: Kinesiology

1. Why have you chosen to complete an Armenian Studies Minor?

I have chosen to complete an Armenian Studies Minor because I wanted to learn more about our culture and faith.

2. What Armenian Studies class has influenced you most and why?

Armenian 120T, Armenia to Christianity. This class has influenced me the most because it gave me a deeper look at the stories of how we gained our faith and it taught me more about the great figures in our history as well as how important Christianity was to the Armenians.

3. How has taking Armenian studies courses shaped your college education?

Taking Armenian Studies courses has influenced my time at Fresno State because through the classes I have gained a deeper understanding of my family, and myself, as well as made some life long friends and memories.



Gevork Aristakesyan
Major: History

1. Why have you chosen to complete an Armenian Studies Minor?

To have a better understanding of my Armenian culture.

2. What Armenian Studies class has influenced you most and why?

Armenian 108A-Ancient Armenian History. I have always been interested in the

early history of Armenia, and this class was exactly that.

3. How has taking Armenian studies courses shaped your college education?

Taking Armenian classes has expanded my college education, and thus my knowledge.

4. What are your plans after graduation?

My plan after graduation is to get my teaching credential.

Hakop Tataryan
Major: Business-Accounting

1. Why have you chosen to complete an Armenian Studies Minor?

Not only did it offer a pleasant break from my regular studies, but I really wanted to learn about my culture.

2. What Armenian Studies class has influenced you most and why?

Armenian Studies 108 – Armenian History. There has never been a class that has captured my attention as intensely as did Armenian history. I can now comfortably have conversations regarding history with my parents and at times even correct them when they confuse some facts.

3. How has taking Armenian studies courses shaped your college education?

It has made me more complete. Through Armenian studies classes I have attended many lectures, concerts, and joined the Armenian Students Organization. All of these things have contributed to my great college experience.

4. What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to begin employment in accounting for several years. Then I will decide if it is something I want to continue doing, or perhaps go back to school for more education, and possibly more Armenian Studies.



Anne Visser
Major: Anthropology, Political Science, and Deaf Education

1. Why have you chosen to complete an Armenian Studies Minor?

I am an Anthropology major with a cultural emphasis and thought that taking one Armenian Studies course would be fun. After completing my first course, I had decided that although I was not Armenian, I found the culture and the people to be intriguing and decided to complete the minor as a way to enrich my college experience.

2. What Armenian Studies class has influenced you most and why?

The Armenian class that has influenced me the most was the Armenian Architecture class (Armenian Studies 123) with Dr. Kouymjian. He is a challenging teacher who encouraged quality work from all of his students. I gained an extensive amount of knowledge in regards to not only Armenian Architecture, but also architecture in general. This has sparked my interest in architectural style and trends and how they have developed artistically throughout the course of human history.

3. How has taking Armenian studies courses shaped your college education?

Taking Armenian studies courses has greatly shaped my college education. By learning an extensive amount of information about another culture I have gained appreciation for the great diversity the human community has to offer. Moreover, I have come to understand the world more thoroughly through the eyes of others. The information that I have learned throughout these courses has also provided me with a reference to better understand international politics and policy.

4. What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation I plan on attaining my Master's in International Relations and then continuing to get my PhD in International Policy. I am interested in researching resistance movements in the international community, such as the Anti-Globalization Movement, and developing a research agenda that examines the motivations and tactics employed by participants in these movements, through which the members of the international community can better understand these movements and the people who participate in them.



Armine Sargsyan
Major: History

1. Why have you chosen to complete an Armenian Studies Minor?

I have not completed all the requirements for the minor, but I have taken many classes because I want to be knowledgeable about current issues in Armenia, as well as Armenian history.

2. What Armenian Studies class has influenced you most and why?

Masterpieces of Armenian Culture, Armenian Studies 148, has been one of the most influential classes I have taken at Fresno State. In this class we studied Armenian literature, from early myths to historians in the fifth century, to 19-20th century poets. This class gave me background information on people such as Charents and Sayat Nova: we read from their works and analyzed their style. This was influential for me because when I returned to Armenia the following summer I was able to identify more with the people and culture.

3. How has taking Armenian studies courses shaped your college education?

My major is history, and by taking Armenian history classes I have found interest in a particular time period, which I would like to research in depth. I want to go on to earn my Master's in Byzantine studies, a period where there were many small, medieval Armenian kingdoms that played a big role in its strategic area with the rise of Islam and the invasions of the Mongols.

4. What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to go to graduate school and my aim in life is to become an expert in my field of studies, no matter how long it takes.



Photos:
Christina Ajamian and Armine Sargsyan by *Randy Vaughn-Dotta*.

Gevork Aristakesyan, Hakop Tataryan, and Anne Visser by *Barlow Der Mugrdechian*.

COMPILED BY:
ALEX BUNCH
STAFF WRITER

Arshile Gorky Exhibit at Fresno Art Museum: A Unique Armenian Artist

CAITLIN TIFTICK
STAFF WRITER

From Arthop to cultural festivals, the art scene in Fresno is becoming very popular. More people are becoming interested and exposed to art, which is allowing Fresno to host better art exhibits. The Arshile Gorky Exhibit, on display from April 6 until June 4, 2006, is being showcased at the Fresno Art Museum. This collection includes original works by Arshile Gorky gathered from several prestigious art museums around the world. In addition to the display at the Fresno Art Museum, the inside entry walls at Fresno City Hall hold paintings inspired by Arshile Gorky and painted by Fresno State students in the Art 140 Intermediate Painting course.

At the start of my journey to visit both of these exhibits, I asked myself who is Arshile Gorky? What kind of art did he produce? Why is his art so important? Is this a famous artist that I should know? I have little background in art and besides Picasso and van Gogh, I would not recognize too many more artists' names or work. However, I appreciate art and was determined to find out the importance of Arshile Gorky by the end of my artistic journey.

My first stop was Fresno City Hall. I walked in the doors and asked the receptionist where the student artwork inspired by Arshile

Gorky was located only to find out that the paintings were hanging on the wall right in front of me. There was a small piece of paper explaining how the students created pieces of art based on Gorky's style and a couple of sentences about Arshile Gorky, but nothing that gave a clear picture on the extent of why Arshile Gorky is a renowned artist.

Still not quite knowing what I was looking at, I examined all the pieces of art on display, which consisted of paintings-some of people and some abstract in design. All of the paintings were very emotional; one with a young woman holding a suitcase with an open door in front of her (*Broken Vows*, Julie Jennings); another of a lonely girl sitting on the grass, staring out into open water (*Holly*, Joanie Hathaway); and one of an empty room, dull and gray (*Empty*, Bria Valdez). More abstract paintings included *Anything But Wood* by Julia Roberts, *Soyun Triste Pallaso* by Juan, and *Communication* by Brett Hurst. While the paintings were all very nice, I still did not know anything about them, except that they were inspired by Arshile Gorky. In order to be better connected to the art at City Hall, I ventured to the Fresno Art Museum to find out more about Arshile Gorky and his art.

After printing directions from Mapquest, (yes, it is sad that I have never been to the Fresno Art Museum, especially since I have lived



“Mayrig,” by Fresno State student Armine Sargsyan.

in Fresno my whole life!) I arrived at the Fresno Art Museum and was handed two brochures about the Arshile Gorky Festival. The first brochure contained some background information on Gorky and several events that are taking place around the Valley in his honor. The second was about the exhibits currently on display at the Art Museum, with the Gorky Exhibit as the main feature.

After being pointed in the direc-

tion of the Exhibit, I took my brochures and started to explore. The first drawing that I came across was called *Still Life*, a sketch done in pencil. Everything in the drawing seems frozen—hence the title *Still Life*—and the details were hard to make out. As I walked around the room, I started to notice that all of the drawings

portrait. However, the second painting that is currently on display is much more abstract and does not contain the detail that the first painting displays. After speaking to a Fresno Art Museum representative, I was able to capture the hidden meaning behind not only this painting, but was also able to find out about Gorky's life and the importance of his paintings.

Arshile Gorky was born Vosdanik Manouk Adoian in Khorkom, Van, Armenia. Although his exact birth year is not known, he picked April 22, 1904, the date when he came to the United States. During the first part of the Armenian Genocide, Gorky's father escaped to America. However, he left his family in Armenia. A short time later in 1918, Gorky's mom died of starvation as a result of being forced to march into the desert during the Genocide. Years later, Gorky and his sisters made their way to America. This is when Adoian changed his name to Gorky, which means “Bitter” in Russian.

After learning about Gorky's hard life, it became clear that his drawings are so busy because they contain so much emotion—most of it dark emotions of sadness. After learning about Gorky, I took another look at his drawings and paintings and was able to appreciate them and more clearly understand them. Although unable to sell many paintings during his lifetime, Gorky's art is now known all around the world.

So who is Arshile Gorky? What kind of art did he produce? Why is his art so important? Although the answers may be different for each individual, to me Arshile Gorky is an Armenian, a survivor of the Genocide, and an amazing artist who created abstract drawings and paintings. He was important due to his will and determination to bring unique artistic talent to the world.

For more information about the Arshile Gorky exhibit, please visit <http://www.fresnoartmuseum.org/>.

Matossian Presents “A Case of Mistaken Identity: Why Arshile Gorky Changed His Name” as Part of University Lecture Series at Fresno State

SARAH SOGHOMONIAN
STAFF WRITER

Renowned artist Arshile Gorky's life was torn in two.

The double identity fascinated British writer and actress Nouritza Matossian, and inspired her to write the biography *Black Angel, The Life of Arshile Gorky*.

Matossian spoke about Gorky on April 18 as part of the University Lecture Series and the Arshile Gorky Festival, which is connected to the exhibition of the artist's work at the Fresno Art Museum.

Gorky, born Vosdanik Manouk Adoian in Van, Turkey in 1904, lived and worked in New York City before he hung himself in 1948.

Gorky, an abstract expressionist, changed his name to that of a Russian writer in order to hide his Armenian identity and be more accepted. “He was someone who was exploring his own identity,” Matossian said.

Part of the exploration had to do with accepting his Armenian identity, which haunted him at times.

Matossian learned about Gorky from the closest source available, his sister Vartoush Mouradian. “His sister was devoted to him,” Matossian said.

Gorky's life and work reflected the anguish he experienced during the Armenian Genocide. He, along with his sister Vartoush, and mother were forced out of Van. Gorky watched his dear mother die of starvation.



Nouritza Matossian is a British writer, actress, broadcaster, and human rights activist in the arts, contemporary music, and history of Armenia. Her biography, *Black Angel, A Life of Arshile Gorky*, was published last year.

Gorky's most famous work, “The Artist and His Mother,” gave him the chance “to paint her back to life,” Matossian said.

Even though Gorky's experiences during the Genocide put him at odds with his Armenian identity, Matossian said his past stayed with him. “He had retained a very strong memory,” she said. “The colors were embedded in his memory and in his fingertips.”

Matossian said the flat lines Gorky used in his abstract art were related to Armenian architecture. Sculptures on churches are geometric, just like his work, she said. “In Gorky I see layers of the past.”

According to Matossian, even though Gorky was torn in two, he was not completely against his Armenian identity. “He changed his

name to get respect,” she said.

The last years of Gorky's life were filled with agony. He suffered from cancer and an auto accident left him paralyzed. His pain was reflected in his 1947 piece “Agony,” which hangs in the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. “His painting kept him alive,” Matossian said.

But, in the end a broken heart drove him to take his own life. “He killed himself after he discovered his wife was having an affair,” Matossian said.

Gorky died before his life came full circle and his dual identities became whole. His sister told Matossian that he had said, “As soon as I achieve fame, I'm going to take back my name.”



Paintings inspired by Arshile Gorky and painted by Fresno State students in the Art 140 Intermediate Painting course.

Armenian Radio Show

“Hye Oozh”

Every Saturday morning from 9:00AM-noon.

90.7 FM

On the internet at www.kfsr.org/

President Bush Issues April 24 Statement

April 24, 2006

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/04/20060424-8.html>

Presidential Message

Today, we remember one of the horrible tragedies of the 20th century — the mass killings and forced exile of as many as 1.5 million Armenians in the final days of the Ottoman Empire in 1915. This was a tragedy for all humanity and one that we and the world must never forget.

We mourn this terrible chapter of history and recognize that it remains a source of pain for people in Armenia and for all those who believe in freedom, tolerance, and the dignity and value of every human life. It is a credit to the human spirit and generations of Armenians who

live in Armenia, America, and around the globe that they have overcome this suffering and proudly preserved their centuries-old culture, traditions, and religion.

We praise the individuals in Armenia and Turkey who have sought to examine the historical events of this time with honesty and sensitivity. The analysis by the International Center for Transitional Justice, while not the final word, has made a significant contribution toward deepening our understanding of these events. We encourage dialogues, including through joint commissions, that strive for a shared understanding of these tragic events and move Armenia and Turkey towards normalized relations.

Today, we look with hope to a bright future for Armenia. Armenia's Millennium Challenge

Compact reflects our confidence and the importance we place in Armenia making progress on democratic reform and advancement of free markets. We seek to help Armenia bolster its security and deepen its inclusion in the Euro-Atlantic family. We remain committed to securing a peaceful and lasting settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and hope the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan will take bold steps to achieve this goal.

On this solemn day of remembrance, Laura and I express our deepest condolences to the Armenian people. Our nations stand together, determined to create a future of peace, prosperity, and freedom for the citizens of our countries and the world.

George W. Bush

ASP Administrative Aide Ziegler to Retire



Mrs. Fran Ziegler

STAFF REPORT

Mrs. Fran Ziegler, long-time Armenian Studies Program administrative aide, is retiring at the end of the Spring 2006 semester. Mrs. Ziegler has worked in the Armenian Studies Program for the past ten years and has provided administrative support for faculty and students.

She has also provided an important connection between the Pro-

gram and the community at-large. She responded gracefully to the numerous daily phone-calls which required immediate attention.

Her husband, Dr. Stan Ziegler, who has taught Chemistry at Fresno State, is also retiring this Spring. For the past few years Dr. Ziegler was Associate Dean in the College of Science and Mathematics.

The Armenian Studies Program wishes Fran and her husband a happy and healthy retirement.

GENOCIDE REVIEW, FROM PAGE 1

nians, which is very helpful for those who are not familiar with the Armenians or Armenian history.

Expert statements about the Genocide are made by a wide variety of scholars, including Ronald Suny of the University of Chicago, Peter Balakian, author of *Black Dog of Fate*, Vahakn Dadrian, Director of Genocide Research for the Zoryan Institute, Elizabeth Frierson of Princeton University, Samantha Power, author of *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*, and Israel Charny, President, International Association of Genocide Scholars.

The Armenian Genocide accurately discusses the Armenians' basic desire for equality, social and political, in the Ottoman Empire. The background material on the Armenians in the 19th century is a critical element in elucidating the antecedents of the Genocide. The Armenians, ruled by the Ottoman Turks for several hundred years, had a status of second-class citizens within a discriminatory system.

The documentary also discussed the Hamidian massacres of 1895-1896, which Suny characterized as repressive violence—a weak government exploiting its own population, leading to a culture of violence in which violence becomes justified.

Sociologists Taner Akçam of the University of Minnesota and Fatma Müge Göçek of the University of Michigan give interesting perspectives from the point of view of Turkish academics, who argue that the Genocide is a historical fact.

Fikret Adanir, Professor of His-

tory, Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany, Tessa Hoffman, Ajarian University, Armenia, and historian Ara Sarafian of the Gomidas Institute, London, provide additional commentary on many issues.

The beginning of World War I was the opportunity for the execution of the plan of Genocide by the Ottoman Turks. Disarming the Armenian soldiers, arresting the Armenian leadership of Constantinople on April 14, 1915, and then the deportation, via railroad and on foot, of the general population, leads to the final destruction of the Armenian people on their historic homeland.

Use of never before seen photos and video excerpts adds visual interest to the documentary, as do discussions with Kurdish and Turkish citizens in modern-day Turkey, who speak openly about the stories told to them by their parents and grandparents.

Documentation is provided through reports from the *New York Times*. American consuls Jessie Benjamin Jackson, Oscar Heizer, and Leslie Davis also described the scenes of horror in their dispatches to U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, Henry Morgenthau.

Vahakn Dadrian discusses the Turkish government denial and the 1919 military war crimes trials, a significant event in Turkish history. The military court scrupulously investigated the charges and concluded that the Committee of Union and Progress was responsible for the organization, conception, and execution of the crime of Genocide.

In what is a puzzling attempt at “balance,” the official Turkish

“point of view” (denial of the Armenian Genocide) is expressed by Gunduz Aktan, a former Turkish diplomat.

Turkish historian Halil Berktaş concludes the documentary with a statement that when the question [of the Genocide] can be debated or discussed in Turkey, without it being called betrayal, then that will be the solution.

The Armenian Genocide presents an unequivocal position confirming the events of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. It is a welcome addition to the growing body of work, both in film and in book form, which is exploring the Armenian Genocide.

Two Cats Productions is a documentary production company in New York City led by Andrew Goldberg. His television credits include PBS, ABC News, E!, CNN, and countless others. Goldberg and Two Cats' recent documentary productions include, *A Yiddish World Remembered* for PBS which won an Emmy in 2002, and *The Armenians, A Story of Survival*, which aired on PBS stations nationally in 2002 and was awarded the CINE Golden Eagle.

Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) is a major provider of programs for the PBS national primetime schedule and American Public Television (APT), producing a variety of freestanding documentary specials and series. The OPB Web site is opb.org.

Major underwriters of The Armenian Genocide were: John and Judy Bedrosian, The Lincy Foundation, The Avanesians Family Foundation, and The Manoogian-Simone Foundation.

Poetry

Lee Mirigian, a California State University, Fresno alumnus, who currently resides in Orange County, has submitted a poem that was written by his grandfather, Mesrob K. Mirigian, during his early youth. He composed the poem shortly after the 1915 Genocide occurred, while still in high school. The poem was awarded 'first prize' in his high school English class contest. (Ed. Note.)

Ravished Armenia

By Mesrob K. Mirigian
(Circa 1915)

Far away in Asia Minor,
Underneath those azure skies,
The nightingales have ceased their singing —
Saddened by Armenia's cries.

Ancient hills of raped Armenia,
Echo back the exiles' cry;
As from homes and dear ones sundered,
They are driven out to die.

Given but a few hours notice,
They must needs leave all behind;
Starting out, they know not whither,
Driven to a fate unkind.

Husbands torn from wives and children,
Sent long distances apart;
Without hope of a reunion,
Travel on with breaking heart.

Foot-sore, weary, hungry, fainting,
Weak ones drop out one by one;
Left to perish by the wayside,
'Neath a hot and burning sun.

Girls and mothers are dishonored,
By a fate far worse than death;
Babies are born but to be strangled,
'Ere they scarce have drawn a breath.

Oh! You poor Armenian exiles,
Tortured by the cruel Turk;
Are there none to fight your battles?
Shall all men their duty shirk?

Hundreds, thousands, driven like cattle,
Tortured, dying in distress;
For the wrongs that you have suffered,
Are there none to seek redress?

Hye Sharzhoom is on the Web

armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/hye_sharzhoom/index.htm

Read back issues of *Hye Sharzhoom*
at the Armenian Studies Program home page.

OSHER, FROM PAGE 1

as students were able to ask questions throughout and afterwards. At the conclusion of the three-week course, class members, guided by Professor Der Mugrdchian, toured “Old Armenian Town.” At the end of the tour, students were hosted for a delicious Armenian lunch at the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church.

Students were very interested in learning about Armenian history, from the once-gargantuan Armenian empire under Tigran the Great, to modern Armenia, its politics, and its social life. The “Famous

Fresno Armenians” portion of the class was mainly concentrated on William Saroyan. Professor Der Mugrdchian also discussed the lives and accolades of among others: Kirk Kirkorian, Cher, Jerry Tarkanian, Leon Peters, Walter Karabian, and Roger Tatarian.

Osher members all enjoyed the class as well as the *paklava* served after the final class. Armenians have played a major role in the history of Fresno, and their contribution to our city was well covered by Professor Der Mugrdchian.

Saroyan Drawings and Books Donated to ASP



William Saroyan, Fresno, Sunday, September 30, 1973 2PM “Red is Forever.”

STAFF REPORT

A collection of William Saroyan memorabilia was donated to the Armenian Studies Program by Susan Saroyan Vail and Allyn Saroyan, from the estate of her father, Ralph Saroyan, and his brother, Ruben Saroyan. The Saroyan brothers grew up together, along with their second cousin William, in Fresno.

The collection includes several drawings by William Saroyan, as well as many books, pamphlets, and manuscripts by Saroyan. The books are autographed.

Canada Recognizes the Armenian Genocide

APRIL 22, 2004

On April 21, 2004, the House of Commons of the Canadian Parliament adopted 153-68 a motion recognizing the Armenian Genocide. Since the Senate had already passed a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide (June 13, 2002), the adoption of the Bill M-380 finalizes a complete acknowledgement by Canada’s legislature of the fact of the Armenian Genocide.

Bill M-380, introduced by Mrs.

Madeleine Dalphond-Guiral (M.P. Laval Center) and seconded by Mr. Sarkis Assadourian (M.P. Brampton-Center), Mr. Jason Kenney (M.P. Calgary-South-East) and Mrs. Alexa McDonough (M.P. Halifax) reads “That this House acknowledges the Armenian genocide of 1915 and condemns this act as a crime against humanity.”

Prior to the April 21 vote, there were two debates on the motion, on February 25 and again on April 20. During both readings, the overwhelming majority of MPs spoke in

favor of the Resolution. Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs has been firmly opposed and even obstructive to the passing of this resolution. Nonetheless, despite that and threats emanating from the Turkish Embassy in Ottawa, the majority of opposition MPs and even many of individual members of the ruling Liberal party voted in favor of the Resolution.

The passing of the Bill M-380 is the result of decades of hard work and dedication on the part of the Armenian community of Canada. Efforts of many influential individuals, community leaders and organizations made it possible for Canadian legislature to adopt the resolution. Clearly formulated position of the government of the Republic of Armenia on this issue has also contributed to Canada’s recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

On Thursday, April 22, Armenia welcomed Canadian Parliament’s recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

“The parliamentary resolution recognizes the genocide of Armenians and condemns (it as) a crime against humanity,” said Hamlet Gasparian, spokesman for the Armenian Foreign Ministry. “In doing so, Canada pays tribute to millions of Armenians who suffered genocide under the Ottoman Empire,” he added.

The Armenian Language
by Vahan Tekeyan

(translated by Diana Der Hovanessian)

The Armenian language is an orchard where I walk
Under green trees growing in the shadow of the past.
The words are clustered fruit I pick one by one.

My Armenian language is a garden I love, that grows
beside a ruined palace; heavy boughs
alive with the flow of sap and sun.

I walk the shade of fruit trees and admire
their arching branches, their wide roots
amazed how they weathered the storms
that felled the vast countryside.

I hold rounded words, fruits both tart
And sweet with juices uncounted suns made ripe;
Words that anoint the lips, bless the palate
And give comfort to the heart.

ARTINIAN, FROM PAGE 1

dent Film Festival. Her latest work is destined for similar success, based on the reaction of the audience.

Artinian began her journey by exploring her father’s obsession with being Armenian and the obsession of preserving his culture through his actions, as well as his family’s. In preserving the Armenian culture her father had preached that Artinian and her younger sister could only marry Armenians and not *odars* (non-Armenians). Her findings left her discontented, so she dug deeper.

Ultimately, her fascination with her father and her own boundaries in dating men lead her to the Armenian Genocide. After learning about the Genocide, and everything it encompasses, she too becomes obsessed with the Armenian Genocide, the event itself, its ramifica-

tion for the Armenians today, as well as the dishonorable actions of the modern Turkish government.

Her film documents her initial curiosity all the way to her going incognito into modern Turkey and historic Armenia, where she secretly filmed the perceptions of inhabitants of the land, as well as modern day Turks. The imminent danger of getting caught is very apparent in the film as she pretends to be a young girl simply touring Turkey. She secretly tapes a Turkish tour guide as he tells the history of some former Armenian provinces. It becomes apparent that some of the information the tour guide is providing is inaccurate, as the other tourists begin asking questions that the tour guide, nor the Turkish government for that matter, are prepared to answer with any honesty.

I think the film is great for the

reason that it is not simply a gloomy Genocide tale. The events that took place during the Genocide speak for themselves, and are utterly painful when discussed by the survivors. However, this film has more to it. Artinian does a great job of relating her family, her social life, and other issues to the Genocide. The audience gets to know her. Her fun demeanor provided the audience with several moments of humorous solace. Her mere presence in the film adds a very friendly and comforting ambience.

The Genocide in Me is a co-production of Information Films Inc. and Araz Artinian Productions. The film had the financial support of SODEC, and the Canada Council for the Arts. It is a very well made film that has seized the attention of our generation, and is bound to be discussed by future ones.

Armenians on the Internet

WINDY DUNBAR
STAFF WRITER

20 Voices

www.20voices.com

Main Categories:

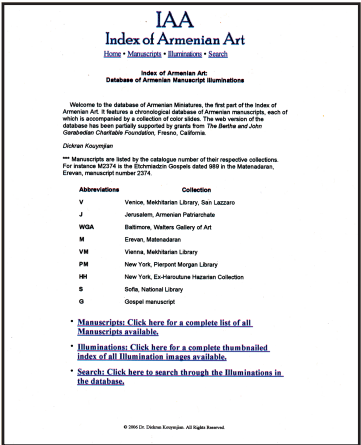
The Events, The Survivors/Provinces, Ellis Island, The Museum, The Movie/The Filmmaker, Donate.

Brief Summary:

This website was established by Araz Artinian, a filmmaker from Canada, who recently showcased her documentary, “The Genocide in Me,” containing footage from interviews with twenty Genocide survivors. The website contains extra footage and more extensive information about the twenty survivors. There is a map of Ottoman Turkey that allows you to select a historic Armenian province and hear a survivor’s story. The site then displays a survivor’s face and voice revealing incredible details about personal disasters during the Genocide. Artinian also provides a video about Genocide survivors passing through Ellis Island, as well as information about a project that will showcase a collection of photographs and history of pre-1915 Armenian objects. It will become a virtual museum available on the website as an interactive exhibit.

Armenian Studies Website Undergoes Changes

www.armenianstudies.csufresno.edu



STAFF REPORT

The Armenian Studies Program website has undergone some major changes recently. New webmaster Ara Nalbandian has put his expertise into improving the accessibility of several of the web site pages.

In particular, the Index of Armenian Art (IAA) Armenian Miniatures page has been redesigned in a way which has made it user friendly. The IAA now has a database which can be used to search for any manuscript illumination in the files.

The database of Armenian Miniatures is the first part of the Index of Armenian Art. It features a chronological database of Armenian

manuscripts, each of which is accompanied by a collection of color slides. The web version of the database has been partially supported by grants from *The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation*, Fresno, California.

Thus manuscript illuminations (miniatures), from as early as the 6th century, are now accessible throughout the world. They can be searched by date of execution and scene depicted, thereby allowing for a comparative study of the images.

The IAA brings together manuscript illuminations from the major repositories in the world: the Matenadaran, the Mekhitarist library in Venice, the St. James monastery in Jerusalem, and other major collections.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian developed the Index of Armenian Art-Armenian Miniatures, part I of which, provides information on the formative period in the development of Armenian manuscript painting.

The newly designed web page will provide scholars with easy access to the images that they need to conduct research. The easy to use database, with its search function, is the major addition to the website.

Thank You Annual Fund Donors

Friend Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Chahmirian	Madeleine Kemanjian Ellen M. Ohan
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Flowers are placed at the base of the Genocide monument in the Free Speech Area, in memory of the victims of 1915. The commemoration event took place at noon on April 24.



Kristine Pogosyan

GENOCIDE, FROM PAGE 1

the Genocide were held by members of the ASO. Solemn sounds of the *duduk* could be heard around various parts of campus, as ASO members distributed red ribbons to those present, symbolizing support, remembrance, and eternal respect.

The event officially began when ASO President Kristine Pogosyan spoke briefly about the significance of the yearly commemoration and presented reasons why April 24 was chosen as day of remembrance.

This speech was followed by Gary Krboyan's reading of the ASI resolution that he will be presenting to the Associated Students Senate at Fresno State. The resolution asks for official acceptance of the Armenian Genocide and designation of April 23-29 as the week of remembrance of the atrocities committed by the Turkish government. Krboyan also read a statement by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. Krboyan's speech was followed by readings of a survivor's testimonial and a moving poem en-



Barlow Der Mugrdechian



Gary Krboyan

titled "The Armenian Spirit" by Gayane Frnzyan, Vice-President of ASO. This concluded the student presentations and speeches.

Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program, serving as the keynote speaker, delivered a thought-provoking speech calling upon the students and community members to get involved and to be active community participants. He emphasized that no matter how hectic our daily lives may get, we will continue to gather in the Free Speech Area every year paying our respects to the Armenian martyrs.

The event concluded with the traditional placing of flowers on a replica of the Martyrs Monument standing in Yerevan, Armenia. The sounds of the *duduk* could again be heard in the background as each student made their way to the



Gayane Frnzyan

monument. Students lined up to silently place a single carnation on the Monument and take a moment to think about the events that occurred 91 years ago.

The tradition of commemorating the Armenian Genocide has been part of Fresno State for over forty years. This tradition will continue every year with the support and participation of students and community members.

Armenian Alumni & Friends (AAF)

of Fresno State

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

Free Event! Free Parking in Lot V!

Interested in joining the Armenian Alumni & Friends (AAF)?

Email at armenian.alumni@gmail.com

**For more information on the Fresno State Alumni Association visit their web site at
www.fresnostatealumni.com
or call 278-2586**

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