

# HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

# 29<sup>th</sup> Year

May 2008

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Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

## April 24th-Armenian Genocide Commemorated in Ceremony



Students and faculty gathered at the Free Speech area at Fresno State.

Photo: Rosie Bedrosian

JENNIFER TOROSIAN  
STAFF WRITER

April 24 marked the 93rd commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, and while Armenians all over the world came together to remember the past, students of Fresno State's Armenian Students Organization held their own memorial on campus. Both Armenian and non-Armenian students from Fresno State came together in the Free Speech area, not only to remember and reflect on the past, but to look at the future. Photographs and information about the Arme-

nian Genocide were placed in the Free Speech area, as well as a small-scale replica of the Armenian Genocide Monument in Yerevan, Armenia.

With the tranquil sound of *duduk* music playing in the background, people filled the Free Speech area to remember, reflect, and learn about the systematic killing of nearly an entire people, the Armenians, by the Ottoman Turkish government.

Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian gave a brief intro-

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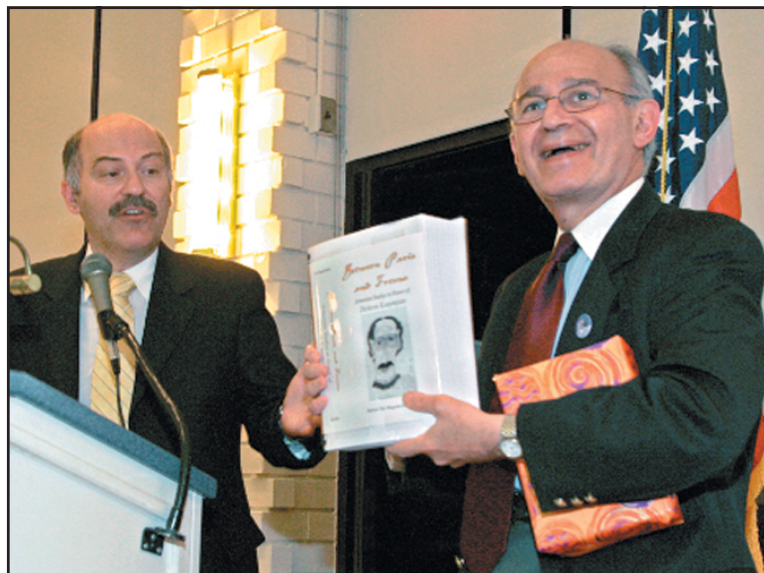
## ASP Twentieth Annual Banquet "An Evening With Dr. Dickran Kouymjian" Honors ASP Director

STAFF REPORT

"An Evening with Dr. Dickran Kouymjian" was celebrated on Saturday, April 5, with more than 200 community members, students, faculty, and staff in attendance at the Residence Dining Hall on the Fresno State campus. They had come to be part of the Armenian Studies Program Twentieth Annual Banquet, this year marking Dr. Kouymjian's thirty-first year as a Professor at Fresno State and his twentieth year as Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies.

The evening brought together former students and friends to reminisce about Prof. Kouymjian's distinguished career as a teacher and scholar. A display of dozens of his publications were on view for guests as they entered the hall, who had the opportunity to greet Dr. Kouymjian before enjoying a delicious table filled with samplings of Armenian hors d'oeuvres.

Paul Chaderjian, West Coast editor of the *Armenian Reporter* newspaper, served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. A former student of Dr. Kouymjian's and a family friend, Chaderjian introduced many of the family and friends who had gathered to honor Dr. Kouymjian.



Barlow Der Mugrdechian, left, presenting Dr. Dickran Kouymjian with the newly published Festschrift, *Between Paris and Fresno*.

Photo: Randy Vaughn-Dotta

Fresno State President Dr. John Welty greeted guests and then praised Dr. Kouymjian's contributions to the University and his outreach to the Armenian community, building the Program to its current national and international prominence. "Tonight is a special night in the history of the University," said Dr. Welty. "Dr. Kouymjian is one of those people who is admired for the expectations he sets for students and for others... He is one of the university's intellectual giants."

Dr. Welty thanked the audience for supporting the Armenian Studies Program, and said that it would

be important to continue the success of the Program. "Dr. Kouymjian laid the foundation for the Program, challenging students to learn about the Armenian culture, and as the University will soon celebrate its centennial, it will be important to continue the support for the Program," concluded Dr. Welty.

Speaking on behalf of the Armenian community, with which Dr. Kouymjian had built close ties, was Dr. Arnold Gazarian, who together with his wife Dianne, were the

SEE ASP BANQUET PAGE 8

## Turkish Author Kemal Yalçın Presents New Book

GINA JELLADIAN  
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, March 15, Turkish author Kemal Yalçın visited Fresno State as part of a nationwide book tour, accompanied by his London publisher Ara Sarafian. Yalçın was on a speaking tour in conjunction with the English translation of his book, *You Rejoice My Heart*. Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program welcomed the audience and spoke about the importance of the lecture, which was part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring 2008 Lecture Series. This was an historic occasion, as it was the first time that a Turkish author has spoken as part of the Lecture Series on campus.

Prof. Der Mugrdechian then introduced Sarafian, who gave a general background about Armenian-Turkish relations, and made brief comments about the significance of *You Rejoice My Heart*. Sarafian



Author Kemal Yalçın (left) and translator Kutay Kugay.

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

then invited Yalçın to speak, and he eloquently and movingly discussed his work.

Kemal Yalçın was born in Honaz, Turkey and over the years worked as a philosophy teacher, a Turkish instructor in Germany, and as a journalist. Among his many

publications is his autobiography, *Passion For Knowledge*, that is among many of his works that have been recognized with awards. Through the assistance and sponsorship of the Tekeyan Cultural

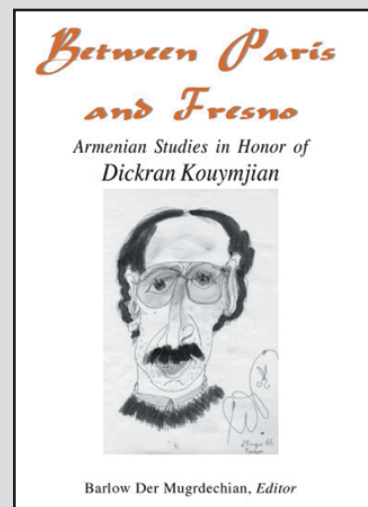
SEE YALÇIN PAGE 6

## Festschrift in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian

STAFF REPORT

Mazda Publishers of Costa Mesa, California announces the April 2008 publication of *Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian*, which pays tribute to the distinguished academic career of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. Edited by Barlow Der Mugrdechian, a long-time colleague of Kouymjian's in the Armenian Studies Program, the articles included in the 816 page *Festschrift* underline the broad spectrum of Kouymjian's interests in Armenian, Islamic, Classical, and Byzantine history and art, the humanities, literature, film, genocide, and Saroyan studies.

The official languages of *Between Paris and Fresno* are English and French, with thirty-seven articles in English and nine in



French. The forty-six contributors are from such diverse countries as Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United States.

The contributors, who are among the top scholars in the world, include: Rouben Adalian, Joseph

SEE FESTSCHRIFT PAGE 8



Armenian Studies Program  
Book/Video/CD/Archival Gifts

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and the Armenian Studies Program would like to thank the donors, authors, and publishers for the following books, periodicals, videos, and archival gifts either offered personally or to the Program.

- Davit Muradyan**, *Zharangutyun Iravunk* (Yerevan: 2005). Gift of the author.
- Samvel Karapetyan**, *William Saroyan* (Los Angeles: 2002). Gift of the author.
- Herand Markarian**, ed., *Contemporary Armenian Drama* (Yerevan: Writers Union of Armenia, 2006). Gift of Davit Muradyan.
- Diana Der Hovanessian**, ed., *Contemporary Armenian Poetry*, (Yerevan: Writers Union of Armenia, 2006). Gift of Davit Muradyan.
- Agop J. Hacikyan**, ed., *Contemporary Armenian Prose*, (Yerevan: Writers Union of Armenia, 2006). Gift of Davit Muradyan.
- Setrak Baghdoyan**, *When Paradise Became Hell: Seven Years of Horror*, (Glendale, CA: Abril Publishing, 2007). Gift of the author.
- Fr. Hovsep Hagopian**, *Ov-E-Marde* (CD), (Los Angeles: 2008). Gift of the composer.
- Vicken K. Poochikian**, M.D., *The Caravan of Hope, The Journey of An Orphan of The Armenian Genocide*, (Toronto: 2007). Gift of the author.

38th Annual Summer Games  
in Clovis, CA, June 20-22

STAFF REPORT

The 38th Annual Armenian Summer Games are looking for you! Are you of Armenian descent and do you like sports? Then keep the weekend of June 20-22 open and join us at the spacious sports facilities of Buchanan High School in Clovis, CA for a weekend of great competition and fellowship. Sports this year include track and field, tennis, and men’s and women’s basketball. The men’s basketball will have junior high, high school, and open men divisions. First, second, and third place winners will receive beautiful Armenian Summer Games medallions. All participants will receive a souvenir t-shirt and a complimentary ticket to the traditional post meet picnic. Basketball will open on Friday evening, June 20 and continue throughout the weekend. The track

and field competition will take place on Saturday, June 21, with tennis also starting that same morning. Both of these sports will be contested in age groupings. Basketball championship games will be on Sunday, June 22. Since its debut in 1969, the Armenian Summer Games has provided 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 that you are the spouse of someone of Armenian descent. So bring your family and friends along, as all of the sports events are free of charge to spectators. Downloadable registration forms, photos and results are available on the website at [armeniansummernames.com](http://armeniansummernames.com). Contact Van at [armeniansports@aol.com](mailto:armeniansports@aol.com) or by calling 559-298-2372.

Journey/to Dickran  
by Jimi Baloian

Years drift like ships  
in a wind they cannot control  
Our last meeting pulses from the shallows of a  
darkened room  
balances on the tip  
of my tongue

My feet look for a way back  
into that world where we began  
slowly among childhood’s  
to measure how close our lives  
haunted the same streets in different cities  
our alphabets and dreams rooted  
in the whitened wrinkles of Ararat  
or traced into the dust of the San Joaquin

where we stopped the hands of the clock  
at sunset and rolled out of our shadows  
awakening the lost voices  
of ancestors in a land that was not ours to  
understand

Here among vineyards of green wisdom we  
found their forgotten names

one by one  
becoming our own

California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2008 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
<b>General Education</b>				
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Area C2</b>				
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia (Class #76427)	3	8:00A-9:15A	TTh	Staff
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia (Class #72510)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TTh	B Der Mugrdechian
• Arm 1A Elementary Armenian (Class #72508)	4	10:30A-11:35A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Area D</b>				
• ArmS 10 Intro Armenian Studies (Class #72509)	3	9:00A-9:50A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
• ArmS 108A Arm History I (Class #72511)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TTh	B Der Mugrdechian

For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit our offices in the Peters Business Building, Room 384. Get a Minor in Armenian Studies. Check on requirements for the Minor in Armenian Studies in the 2008-2009 catalog: <http://www.csufresno.edu/catoffice/current/armstudhd.html>

Fresno State’s  
Armenian Radio Show

“Hye Oozh”

Every Saturday morning from 9:00AM-noon  
KFSR 90.7 FM. On the internet at [www.kfsr.org](http://www.kfsr.org)!

Fresno State students interested in volunteering may contact station manager Joe Moore at 278-2598.

Do you know someone who would enjoy reading Hye Sharzhoom?

Contact us to add your name to our mailing list.

Back issues of Hye Sharzhoom are archived at: [armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/hye\\_sharzhoom.index.htm](http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/hye_sharzhoom.index.htm)

HYE SHARZHOOM  
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Hye Sharzhoom is an ethnic supplement of The Collegian and is the newspaper of the Fresno State Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program and is funded by the Associated Students. Articles may be reprinted provided Hye Sharzhoom is acknowledged. Hye Sharzhoom welcomes prose, poetry, articles and other material from its student readers. For further information concerning the newspaper or the Armenian Studies Program contact us at:  
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## Ninth Annual Armenian Film Festival Features Documentary on Charles Garry

MARINEH KRIOGHLIAN  
STAFF WRITER

The crowd eagerly gathered in their seats, Friday evening, March 7, to watch films which connected them, but affected them in very different ways. Some were there trying to get in touch with their Armenian heritage, while others were open to listening to any opinion given through the art of film. As the night progressed, the crowd's comfort level grew, leading to a great discussion after every film.

The 9th Annual Armenian Film Festival was sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization, and funded by the Diversity Awareness Program of the University Student Union.

The first feature, *From Need to Greed*, was a short film written by Inga Zarafyan and produced by Manuk Hergnyan of Vem Media Arts in Yerevan. This twenty-minute documentary exposed the audience to the problem of illegal logging and deforestation in Armenia. Educating an audience and bringing awareness to this problem is the first step in helping to restore the forests of Armenia. The film was funded by Armenian Forests



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

Directors Christopher Sheklian, left, and Hrag Yedalian.

NGO, the Armenia Tree Project, and the World Wildlife Fund Caucasus Office. [The Armenia tree project has summer internships open to those interested.]

The next feature, *Road Full of Apricots*, had a title that immediately captivated the crowd, due to its presumed agricultural nature. To the surprise of some, the film had little to do with apricots. The story followed a young woman as she rekindled her history and found herself in deep appreciation of her cultural identity. Nostalgia filled the screen as the woman traveled

from her hardly forgotten past to her ever-changing present. Nigol Bezjian wrote, produced, and directed this thirty-five minute documentary, tied closely to his personal experiences.

The quality of the films seemed to increase as the evening continued. *Sacred Difference*, a fifteen minute film and class assignment, became an instant hit to the appreciative crowd. Christopher Sheklian, a student at the University of California, Berkeley, assisted by fellow anthropology classmates Rebecca Rabvosky and Burcu

Tung, created this film based on his Armenian identity and ties to the Armenian Apostolic Church. Sheklian, the very charismatic director of this film, was a special guest at the Festival, leading the discussion after the screening of his film.

The night of interesting topics and educating films peaked with *The People's Advocate: The Life & Times of Charles Garry*. Director, producer, and editor Hrag Yedalian introduced one of the most interesting and influential criminal defense attorneys during the 1960s, who was unknown, for the most part, to the college students in the audience. Born Charles Garabedian, the Fresno-Armenian became the legal defendant of many revolutionary political icons of the Black Panther Party, such as Huey Newton. The hour-long film was the most enlightening of the evening, leaving each audience member stunned and interested in acquiring more knowledge about this captivating figure. During the question and answer period following the film, Yedalian revealed that his decision to select Charles Garry as a subject was because he "wanted to share his story with others" – a decision the majority of

the audience was thankful for.

For many students, the presence of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program, was one of the reasons to attend. His knowledgeable comments on the films were quickly embraced by the audience, who began commenting back with their own, sometimes, opposing opinions.

Encouraged by his current and former Armenian Studies students, "Dr. K" developed an intellectual standard that was met by the audience. Eagerly, these young adults awaited the end of each film, just to hear what "Dr. K" had to say. Each discussion became a catalyst, enhancing the viewer's opinion of each film.

The feeling of freedom to express ones analysis filled the room, which I believe is the essence of a successful Film Festival. These evenings are not just about viewing the latest documentary, learning about new topics and developing opinions about them, but also about hearing your neighbor's thoughts, while expressing your own.

We hope to hear your thoughts next year at the 10th Annual Armenian Film Festival!

## Poet Djanikian Reads from New Book-So I Will till the Ground



Gregory Djanikian

Photo: Drew Tudman

PAUL MAGARITY  
STAFF WRITER

It was with great pleasure and interest that I attended Gregory Djanikian's poetry reading at Fresno State, on Wednesday, March 12. The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State sponsored the reading, in cooperation with the English Department.

Djanikian was born in Alexandria, Egypt, of Armenian parentage, and came to the United States when he was eight years old. He currently directs the creative writing program at the University of Pennsylvania.

As both a poet and an Armenian, it was an enlightening experience to observe someone who deals with Armenian issues on such a superb literary platform. Djanikian gave an incredibly moving reading from his latest book of poems, *So I Will Till the Ground*. Much ground is covered in his book, detailing his view of Armenian history, his experiences growing up as an Armenian in Egypt, and finally adapting to a new beginning in America.

The book bravely confronts the Armenian genocide in all its brutal honesty while also commenting on issues such as Armenian assimilation into America and societal native towards Armenians.

The Armenian Genocide is a topic that is so rarely addressed in society that there are surely many Americans who do not even know what an Armenian is, let alone know about the atrocities of 1915 that swallowed a whole country and forever scarred its deeply rooted heritage.

"It seems that the only discussions of the Armenian genocide are within the Armenian community. To be able to deal with such a fragile subject matter requires close care and consideration of audience," said Djanikian.

Djanikian began his reading by stating that he intended to target non-Armenians to encompass the horrors of 1915. Exposing the horrors experienced by Armenians in 1915 is something he does almost too well. Each poem he read on the subject was totally absorbing and resonant. In his first poem, "The

Aestheticians of Genocide," he writes of Turks throwing children half-alive into a well, men bound to posts with their eye gouged out, a woman giving birth while Turkish soldiers slice her belly open, then shoving the baby back in, and the thousands of hungry deportees at the starvation camps, desperate for a piece of bread.

One line reads:  
The trick is to avoid excesses  
of horror so as not to scorch the mind  
and strike it dumb, though grief  
may yowl  
in the dirt and the villages burn.

Djanikian is cognizant of the fact that the Genocide is often unknown among non-Armenians, thus his next poem "History Test," was aimed at bringing knowledge of it to a non-Armenian audience. The poem opens with the epitaph, "The Armenian genocide is the 'forgotten genocide,' remembered mainly by Armenians," Leo Kuper, *Genocide*.

Once again drenched in detail, the poem ends:  
*But in 1915?*  
A million dead and counting

*In 1915?*  
And no one to stop it, no one to say  
This is the beginning of our century.

This was one of the most powerful lines for me because the Armenian Genocide did pave way for the horrors that would come later in the twentieth century; specifically the Jewish holocaust, where Hitler was aware of the indifference the world had shown towards the Armenians.

Poems like, "In the New Church" and "Whenever I had American Friends Over," discuss

how much of Armenian culture is sacrificed when trying to keep up appearances in a new and often alien environment. He speaks of how he was part of the only Armenian family in his community in Pennsylvania when he moved there with his family, and how difficult it was being part of the group at school, forced to go to a non-Armenian church, and making all the changes necessary to "fit in," including changing the identity of Armenian things into American.

Overall, there is much to be learned and studied in *So I Will Till the Ground*. It is important to get some idea of the atrocities of 1915 so that Armenians can achieve national recognition of the Genocide, and that the world may learn from mistakes of the past. Gregory Djanikian is a genius in offering us these poems for us to interpret and feel what the Armenians felt, and the get a better understanding of what should not have happened.

## Genocide Memorial Dedicated at Baird School Peace Garden



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

On Monday, April 21, an Armenian Genocide Memorial was dedicated at the Baird Middle School in Fresno. Journalist Mark Arax was the keynote speaker at the event, which drew a large audience of Fresno leaders and members of the community.



# Congratulations Armenian Studies Program Minors and Grads

**Name: Windy Dunbar**

**Major: International Business**

**Why did you pursue an Armenian Studies Minor?**

I took Armenian Studies courses to learn more about my culture in a disciplined setting and to have access to instructor knowledge.

**What Armenian Studies class or classes influenced you the most and why?**

Armenian film-especially the documentary on Charles Garry. His desire and dedication for justice and human rights is something paramount even in this era. Also, the language course helped me realize how difficult it really is to properly learn another language and that native speakers should really be grateful and pursue proficiency.

**How has taking Armenian Studies courses shaped your college education?**

It has exposed me to things and people I may not have been exposed to without them. I feel more rounded in terms of cultural history and therefore more connected.

**What was your favorite college experience?**

After watching the Charles Garry documentary Dr. Kouymjian remarked that he felt sorry for our generation who has nothing to fight for and would rather exist in our banal complacency. It was very rewarding to hear that from such a worldly professor and in the context it was given.

**What are your plans after graduation?**

I plan to work for the Federal Government and hopefully maneuver my way to the East Coast. My dream would be to work at an American consulate abroad and eventually receive my M.A. in Women's Studies.



**What are your plans after graduation?**

I am planning on earning my Master's degree in International Relations. Beyond that, I'll just have to wait and see. My long-term goal is to work in the government doing something neat, so I plan on spending the next few years building up my credentials for that.

**Name: Gor Krboyan**

**Major: Philosophy-Pre-Law Option**

**Minor: Armenian Studies**

**Why did you pursue an Armenian Studies Minor?**

Initially I took a course in Armenian Studies 10 and I was really fascinated. It opened my eyes and it showed me that I knew nothing of my culture and our history except how to speak Armenian. I then decided to take additional courses where I learned about our great writers, myths, heroes, and the struggles our people have faced.

**What Armenian Studies class or classes influenced you the most and why?**

It would definitely have to be Armenian History 108B.

I knew of the Armenian genocide and what happened to our people during the early part of the 20th century but the course gave us an in depth look at the years prior and after. I also was able to learn more about dates and locations, and positions the United States and other countries held and it was really a shocking experience.

**How has taking Armenian Studies courses shaped your college education?**

Taking Armenian Studies courses has helped me become a more complete person. Through these Armenian Studies classes I have attended many concerts, lectures, and joined the Armenian Students Organization. All of these things together have combined to make a great college experience.

**What was your favorite college experience?**

My favorite college experience would be hanging out with friends before and after class at the pub. Once you come into college it seems like everyone goes their separate ways because we all have different majors. It was great that we had a place to meet on campus to keep in touch with old friends.

**What are your plans after graduation?**

I plan to attend law school and become an attorney. I want to stay in the Fresno area, so I plan on going to San Joaquin Law School and then serving the Fresno community.



**Name: Gayane Frnzyan**

**Major: Criminology-Pre-law**

**Minor: Armenian Studies**

**Why did you pursue an Armenian Studies Minor?**

I decided to pursue an Armenian Studies Minor to find out more about my culture, ethnicity, and language.

**What Armenian Studies class or classes influenced you the most and why?**

The Armenian Studies classes that influenced me the most were the Armenian language classes. Although I was born in Armenia and know how to speak Armenian fluently, until I took this class I did not know how to read or write in Armenian. Being able to read and write in Armenian brings me closer to my culture and ethnicity and I would not want to change that for anything else in the world.

**How has taking Armenian Studies courses shaped your college education?**

Taking Armenian Studies courses shaped my college education, due to the fact it broadened my perspectives. I think that it is distressing when students at our university do not take different ethnic studies classes. A criminology major needs to understand and be associated with different ethnic backgrounds to be successful and this is what the Armenian Studies courses have taught me.

**What was your favorite college experience?**

My favorite college experience was being part of the Armenian Students Organization (ASO). I have been in this organization for the past three years and I enjoyed every aspect of it. If it were not for the organization and Professor Barlow, I would not have had any academic knowledge on Armenian history.

**What are your plans after graduation?**

As a child, I have always had the passion to become an attorney. I remember when I was 9 years old, I sat at my toy desk that my parents had bought for me that Christmas and I would stand up my from my seat and say "your honor can I approach your desk?" This passion of mine became a reality in 2006 when I decided to pursue a major in criminology. After graduation I am going to pursue a Master's degree in criminology. Although this is a 2-year program, I will complete it in 1 year. After completing my Master's degree I will apply to law school; three years later I will have a license to practice law in California. I am interested in practicing criminal defense law.

**Name: Marissa Mariam Kalashian**

**Major: Business-International**

**Minor(s): Armenian Studies & Spanish**

**Why did you pursue an Armenian Studies Minor?**

The Armenian Studies Minor was part of why I chose to attend Fresno State. I am half Armenian and have always wanted to learn more about the culture and the Armenian Studies Program provided me with this opportunity.

**What Armenian Studies class or classes influenced you the most and why?**

I was very fortunate that during my time at Fresno State three semesters of Armenian language courses were offered and I took them all. I may not be fluent, but I love being able to recognize written and spoken Armenian when I come across it.

**How has taking Armenian Studies courses shaped your college education?**

Taking the Armenian Studies courses provided a relief from the business courses I had to take for my major. I also minored in Spanish and it was interesting to study multiple languages and compare the different literatures.

**What was your favorite college experience?**

I can't think of one particular experience as my favorite but the overall time I have spent at Fresno State has been great. I have made good friends and had some good times while earning a college degree.



**Name: Marine Krdanyan**

**Major: Bachelor of Arts in Social Work-Certification in Cross Cultural Competency**

**Why did you pursue an Armenian Studies Minor?**

As an Armenian student I feel extremely honored to have had the opportunity to pursue an Armenian Studies Minor. It has been a privilege to sit in a classroom filled with students who share my same heritage and together receive knowledge regarding our Armenian culture, history, and language. I strongly believe that it is one's responsibility to be educated about their culture's history, traditions, and language as much as possible.

**What Armenian Studies class or classes influenced you the most? How has taking Armenian Studies courses shaped your college education?**

*Masterpieces of Armenian Culture* has been the most memorable Armenian studies course for me. This course allowed me to better understand the origins of the Armenian people, the development of the Armenian alphabet, and the evolution of Armenian literature. Not only does the Armenian Studies Program offer courses that educate students about the Armenian culture but also presents countless opportunities for students to engage in activities outside the classroom and in the Armenian community. The combination of classroom lectures and community activities has shaped my college education in that it has given me the opportunity for personal growth.

**What was your favorite college experience?**

I have had many wonderful experiences attending Fresno State. The one experience that stands out from the rest is my employment with the Education Opportunity Program on campus. As an academic peer advisor I not only gained knowledge regarding the school system and academics, but learned a great deal about human relationships.

**What are your plans after graduation?**

Immediately after graduation I will continue with my education and work towards receiving a Masters Degree in Social Work and the Pupil Personnel Services Credential. Ultimately, I hope to be a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist at my own practice.

**Name: Grigor Gokor Kyutunyan**

**Major: Business Administration-Real Estate and Urban Land Economics Option**

**Minor: Armenian Studies**

**Why did you pursue an Armenian Studies Minor?**

I pursued an Armenian Studies Minor because I am an Armenian and secondly, I wanted to expand my knowledge and have a better understanding of Armenian culture, history, arts, language and much more. Over the years, I have learned many new things and experienced various areas of Armenian culture, traditions, history and the arts, which at the beginning I had very little or no background knowledge, but after taking





almost of the classes, I have learned so much that it makes me feel great about myself and the path I decided to take at Fresno State.

**What Armenian Studies class or classes influenced you the most and why?**

I would have to say Armenian History 108, Arts of Armenia 20, and the Armenian Studies 120T course taught by the Kazan visiting professor, Dr. Chookaszian, from Yerevan, Armenia, who taught about Armenian paintings and painters, who are very well respected and recognized in Armenia and in the Diaspora. I have learned so much and studied a wide range of areas that better help and shape who I am, where I am from, and what culture and history I belong to. I think this kind of feeling and expression is very strong and has a deep understanding in shaping who I am in this world.

**How has taking Armenian Studies courses shaped your college education?**

It has provided me with a wide base of knowledge and understanding of Armenian history, arts, language, and culture. It has offered me the skills to think outside the box and in colorful pictures rather than just black and white. I now feel very confident to discuss various aspects of Armenian related topics with many people.

**What was your favorite college experience?**

I have several, but one is being part and involved with the Armenian Students Organization (ASO), where I had the opportunity to meet my fellow Armenians, starting from being a member to being the Treasurer, and finally as President during the 2006-2007 academic year. The Armenian Genocide Commemorations on April 24th were very symbolic and important to me as an Armenian; many other events and experiences were interesting, fun, exciting and memorable including the telethon, picnics, banquets, lectures, festivals and more. Throughout the academic year, I have met many new people from students to faculty and staff, great networking, business events, meetings and an actual internship of my choice during the summer of 2007, which turned into a permanent job. During my college years, I have experienced difficulty, hardships and challenges that I was able to overcome and succeed in with my wide range of knowledge, skills, abilities and support. I believe that everything is possible in life with hard work, effort, hope and skill.

**What are your plans after graduation?**

My plans after graduation are to visit Armenia during the summer and then continue working full-time, with the intent of starting my own company in the future. I would like go into various other related areas, such as contracts, financing, and management in order to examine, grasp, and have the best possible knowledge, understanding, and the proper skills in becoming a successful business person. I would like to come back to Fresno State for my MBA which will open great doors in the future and I believe that a higher education is the key to success.

**Name: Paul Magarity**  
**Major: English**

**Why did you pursue an Armenian Studies Minor?**

I pursued Armenian Studies out of my own personal necessity to better understand and appreciate my Armenian identity.

**What Armenian Studies class or classes influenced you the most and why?**

All Armenian Studies classes influenced me in one way or another. Before I took Armenian Studies, I had always wanted to learn how to speak or at least understand Armenian, so perhaps the class that had the most effect on me was the language class. The language is something that is genuinely unique and important to the culture and its history. It is something every Armenian should be proud of. It is hard for me to see myself having not learned at least the basics.

**How has taking Armenian Studies courses shaped your college education?**

Taking Armenian Studies courses didn't necessarily shape my education. I didn't take these classes until I had already finished the bulk of my coursework towards my major. It was a personal goal and journey for me to experience the Armenian language and learn of Armenia's rich, extraordinary history (plus it satisfied my language class requirements towards gaining my degree.)

**What was your favorite college experience?**

There were so many enjoyable aspects of college, especially in the Armenian Studies Program, but my absolute favorite college experience was taking a beginning acting course with Professor Myers. Acting is something I'll probably never pursue again, but it was tons of fun to get into different characters and definitely a memorable experience.

**What are your plans after graduation?**

My plans after graduation are to teach high school English while simultaneously working on my writing. I hope to be able to eventually enter the Master of Fine Arts program at Fresno State in Creative Writing, and possibly teach Creative Writing at a college level about ten years down the line. For now it's time to save, save, save and prepare for the rest of my life!



**Name: Azniv Orinakyan**  
**Major: Liberal Studies**  
**Minor: Armenian Studies**

**Why did you pursue an Armenian Studies Minor?**

I pursued an Armenian Studies Minor because I feel as an Armenian student it is very important to better understand my Armenian culture, history, and language. Taking Armenian Studies courses has allowed me to have a better understanding of my Armenian heritage. Being knowledgeable in the many aspects of the Armenian culture, history, and language has given me the competence to better inform non-Armenian students about the Armenian culture.

**What Armenian Studies class or classes influenced you the most and why?**  
The Armenian Studies courses which have influ-

enced me the most have been Arts of Armenia and Armenian Architecture. Having been born and raised in Armenia I have had the opportunity to explore the numerous unique sites and sceneries, such as the Armenian churches, of Armenia. Taking Arts of Armenia and Armenian Architecture classes allowed me to learn about the history, about the structures, and many numerous facts that I was not aware of even though I had seen and visited the sites in Armenia. Taking Armenian Studies courses brought back wonderful memories from my time in living in Armenia. Furthermore, learning about my cultural heritage in a classroom filled with other Armenian students has made my college experience extremely unforgettable.

**What was your favorite college experience?**

I cannot recall one favorite college experience because my overall college experience has been great. Even though college is challenging, having the opportunity to gain knowledge in numerous subjects has overridden the stressful experiences that go along with receiving a degree.

**What are your plans after graduation?**

My plans after graduation are to take some time off and spend time with my family and later come back to Fresno State where I will pursue a degree in teaching.

**Name: Kristine Pogosyan**  
**Major: Criminology**

**Why did you pursue an Armenian Studies Minor?**

I have chosen to complete an Armenian Studies Minor because I feel that I have duties to fulfill as an Armenian by keeping my heritage going and my own ethnic identity alive.

**What Armenian Studies class or classes influenced you the most and why?**

The Armenian Studies class that influenced me the most was Armenian Studies 10 because it was the introduction to Armenian studies; it briefly educated me in Armenian politics, the Genocide, cultural heritage, immigration, etc. It was a very influential course.

**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 my own culture I now have additional knowledge about my Armenian heritage that I could never acquire anywhere else.

**What was your favorite college experience?**

My favorite college experience was being the president of the Armenian Students Organization. It gave me a chance to address my ideas to the rest of the executive members and actually make a change for the organization. Also being a member of the Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity gave me the opportunity to experience a whole different concept of a club. This club opened my eyes to new things in the field of law and prepared me for the law application process, life as a law student, as well as the contemporary job market.

**What are your plans after graduation?**

After graduation I plan on moving to Los Angeles sometime in June and starting law school at Chapman University School of Law for the fall 2008 semester. My main focus as a future defense attorney is going to be an emphasis in either criminal or entertainment law, since over the years I have noticed that they are the most significant and interesting fields of law.



**Name: Jennifer Alece Torosian**  
**Major: Business-Marketing**  
**Minor: Armenian Studies**

**Why did you pursue an Armenian Studies Minor?**

I was and am very interested in learning about my culture. It is something that is a very important part of my life and I enjoyed learning everything that the classes had to offer.

**What Armenian Studies class or classes influenced you the most and why?**

The Armenian Studies classes that I enjoyed the most were the language and church classes. I think that these are two subjects that help make Armenians unique. There is so much amazing history behind the Armenian Church-it was fascinating to me. The language is something that I have spent my whole life trying to learn so that I can hopefully pass it on one day.

**How has taking Armenian Studies courses shaped your college education?**

Taking Armenian Studies courses made my college experience fun and interesting. The Armenian classes were the ones that I looked forward to every day. It was nice to take a break from business classes and learn about something completely different.

**What was your favorite college experience?**

There were many favorite college experiences, but the two that shaped me the most were joining Delta Gamma and being part of the Armenian Studies Program. In Delta Gamma I learned so much about myself and made many wonderful friends. The Armenian Studies Program taught me so much about my ancestry, so that I can preserve my culture.

**What are your plans after graduation?**

After graduation I plan on going into my family business and hope to achieve many great things, both personally and professionally.

*Photos: Randy-Vaughn-Dotta and Barlow Der Mugrdechian*

**THIS PAGE WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SUPPORT  
OF THE KNIGHTS OF VARTAN, YEPRAD LODGE,  
CENTRAL VALLEY**



## “Saroyan at 100” Symposium Draws Five Scholars From Across the United States



**Seated, left to right, Micah Jendian, Harry Keyishian, and Debashis Bandyopadhyay. Standing, left to right, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Michael Kovacs, Dickran Kouymjian, and Aram Veerer.**

*Photo: Howard K. Watkins*

### STAFF REPORT

The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and William Saroyan Society presented “William Saroyan at 100,” a symposium dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of the author on Saturday, April 5, in the University Business Center on the Fresno State campus.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program opened the symposium and emphasized the importance of holding such scholarly events. William Saroyan Society President John Kallenberg then welcomed guests.

The symposium was organized

how the critics treated Saroyan and how Saroyan reacted to those charges. Harry Keyishian discusses Saroyan as a cultural icon in America, and how there were differing opinions of his reputation.

Following a coffee break, Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program chaired the second panel that included presentations by Michael Kovacs (Gavilan College), presenting on “Saroyan One Hundred Years Later: Let’s Nibble at Some Sweet Saroyan” and H. Aram Veerer (The City College of New York) speaking on “Saroyan’s ‘Late Style.’”

Kovacs paper examined Saroyan’s writing in the context of the Beat Generation movement, upon which Saroyan had much influence. Aram Veerer compared Saroyan’s work with that of Beethoven, finding interesting similarities in their approach to music and literature.

Each speaker presented a differing perspective on Saroyan, whose centennial of his birth is being celebrated in the year 2008 with a variety of activities. The many theoretical and analytical papers reflected the fact that there is a need for more in-depth study of the great American writer.

The opportunity for the scholars to gather provided an excellent forum to reassess some views on Saroyan’s writings. The symposium was organized by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

## Director Carla Garapedian Introduces “Screamers” to Enthusiastic Fresno Audience

**JENNIFER TOROSIAN**  
*STAFF WRITER*

The Fresno community filled the seats of the Leon and Pete Peters Educational Center Wednesday night, April 16, to watch the screening of the movie “Screamers,” which takes a look into Genocide and focuses more specifically on the Armenian Genocide. The film follows lead singer Serj Tankian, of the popular American band, “System of a Down,” and his

award winning “Beneath the Veil,” she documented the story of the life of women in Afghanistan (<http://www.screamersmovie.com/new/indexcastandpodcarla.htm>).

“She really has a passion for her work,” said Alice Bedrosian, “It is apparent in the way that she speaks about her films.” After the screening Garapedian signed posters and spoke with the people that watched the film.

“Screamers” features music and interviews with members of the



**Director Carla Garapedian with Dr. Dickran Kouymjian**

*Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian*

quest to create awareness and promote the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, not only by the United States Government, but by the rest of the world and Turkey. The film follows the band members all the way to the nation’s capital in their quest to get the Genocide Recognition Resolution on to the floor of the House of Representatives for discussion.

“Screamers” provides evidence of the Genocide in Ottoman Turkey by showing testimonies of survivors of the Genocide, as well as many sad and truth telling photos. The Armenian Genocide was the first genocide of the 20th century and was even known by Hitler, who said, “Who remembers the annihilation of the Armenians?” prior to invading Poland in 1939. The film ends with the harsh realities of genocide in today’s world, showing footage of genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, and Darfur. It is something that is still occurring. Genocide must stop, that is the message.

The viewers also had the wonderful opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts with the director of the film, Carla Garapedian, an Emmy award winning director and producer who also anchored the BBC world news. Garapedian has produced many documentaries, going undercover to bring viewers hard-hitting facts. In “Children of a Secret State,” she documented starvation and cannibalism, among other things, in North Korea, and in the Emmy

band “System of a Down.” This heavy metal group, consisting of four members, is known for their strong views on controversial topics. Many of their lyrics have to deal with hypocrisy, democracy, and the Armenian Genocide. The band has a very large fan base consisting of both Armenian and non-Armenian fans. As seen in the film, “System of a Down” concerts have created awareness of the Armenian people and the Armenian Genocide.

“Their lyrics are very powerful,” said Jennifer Hamamjian, “It is amazing to think that all of their fans sing these songs about the Armenian Genocide and are aware of what they are referring to.” The members of “System of a Down” are very proud of their cultural background and they let it show.

The Armenian Students Organization worked hard to make this event successful. They sent out mailers and handed out flyers on campus as well as notifying local high school organizations and clubs. They also sold black wristbands that read NEVER AGAIN 1915 as a club fundraiser. It was a goal to get as many people as possible to view the movie, not only because we had the privilege of having the director come but also to publicize the campus Armenian Genocide Commemoration on April 24th.

Thank you to every one who came to support us for this special event.

### YALÇIN, FROM PAGE 1

Association, Yalçin was able to travel to America for the first time four years ago. Yalçin, speaking in Turkish, through his translator Kutay Kugay, expressed his gratitude and excitement about the distribution of his book.

*You Rejoice My Heart* is a collection of memoirs about Armenian families living in various regions of Turkey. It was written in memory of one brave Armenian, Hrant Dink, who stood up to the Turkish authorities and suffered the ultimate punishment—death. Yalçin had come to learn about Armenians from an Armenian woman, Meline, who was his Turkish teacher in Germany. She inspired Yalçin to begin his journey of discovery.

Yalçin’s voyage took him throughout many villages and towns of historic Armenia. One man he discovered was Haji Ibrahim, who lived in a Kurdish village, as one of two Armenian families. Because living as an Armenian was so difficult, Haji Ibrahim never knew he was Armenian until age nine. His family acted as Muslims in order to avoid oppression or even annihilation. As a child, Haji Ibrahim relished the war stories told by his elders. He grew up with hatred toward Christians, or infidels, and yearned for the day he could take their lives. When he expressed this deep hatred to his older sister, she explained to him that he, in fact, was an Armenian, an infidel and he and his family only acted as Muslims to



*Photo: Armenian Studies Program archive*

**L. to R.: Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Kemal Yalçin, Dr. Vahram Shemmassian, and Kutay Kugay.**

save their lives. Because of stories such as these, it is difficult to know the true number of Muslims living within Turkey.

The Turkish government denial of the Armenian Genocide, of the centuries of abuse inflicted on Armenians, continues to raise tensions today. Many people believe that negative Turkish-Armenian relations are a part of history only; unfortunately that is untrue. Yalçin’s book describes the numerous families that are affected by these relations in the present day.

Over the years, the truth has been silenced and there has been no progress because of it. Yalçin’s wish, like that of many, is for the Turkish government to come to terms with the past, so people can move on. The ultimate goal would

be for Armenians and Turks to be able to hold a dialogue and not restrict their discussion or feelings because of their ethnic or ancestral backgrounds.

Traditionally, Turkish Nationalism would not allow literature such as Yalçin’s to even be published. As he travels from location to location promoting his book, patrons have questioned his nationality – “Are you sure you’re not Armenian?” The answer is yes. Yalçin’s roots are indeed Turkish and his family’s religion is Sunni Muslim. Although he is fearful of the Turkish government because of book that he has published, he claimed “the power of truth is greater than fear, and it must be written.” And that is precisely what he has done.

**Send us your opinions**

**Write a letter to Hye Sharzhoom  
c/o Armenian Studies Program  
5245 N Backer Ave. PB4  
Fresno, CA 93740-8001**



Armenian Genocide Weekend Class Held April 11 and 12 at Fresno State

ANOUSH EKPARIAN  
STAFF WRITER

Two weeks before Armenian Martyrs Day, students gathered on April 11-12 for an intensive course study on the Armenian Genocide, in the Science II building at California State University Fresno.

Armenian Studies professor Barlow Der Mugerdechian asked students to bring in five questions concerning anything about the Armenian Genocide, as a catalyst for discussion. Questions that aroused student interest were both broad and specific: “How many persons perished during the genocide? How can Armenians work hand in hand with Turkish people to get recognition? How do oral histories help the cause of the Armenian people?” Many students, like Tamar Der Kevorkian, sophomore studying Business Administration, commented that they “wanted to know the details and reasoning behind the Armenian Genocide.”

Genocide is multifaceted and intense; and to understand the general definition of it in accordance with International Law can only provide a sterile footnote to the barbaric stories of those who have lived and died through it. Simply put, according to the United Nations General Assembly Genocide Convention, formulated in 1948, Genocide is defined as “acts committed with an intent to destroy, in



Photo: Barlow Der Mugerdechian

Seated, left to right: Mary Madoyan, Windy Dunbar, Ani Simonyan, Tamar Der Kevorkian, Anoush Ekparian, and Sarkis Manavazian. Standing, left to right: Stephanie Stockdale, Ghaith Saggaf, Sevag Jierian, Jaime Cardenas, Anait Kaptryan, Jamie Mackechnie, Taline Kasparian, and Allison Garabedian. The students studied various aspects of the Genocide.

whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.” Mass murders, as students found out, occurred much earlier than 1915 in the Ottoman Empire in order to subordinate the non-Turkish masses. Historical timelines, provided by Der Mugerdechian, invited students to take a step by step look at the systematic annihilation of Armenians and other minority groups (such as the Assyrians, Greeks, and Jews).

Student discussions were prompted by important viewings of movies such as *The Hidden Holo-*

*caust* (produced by BBC), *The Great War* (produced by PBS), *The Genocide in Me* (produced by Araz Artinian), and important oral histories documenting survivors found on the website [www.twentyvoices.com](http://www.twentyvoices.com).

Many students commented positively after watching the hotly contested, scarcely viewed PBS debate (hosted by Scott Simon) on the use of the word Genocide between Turkish historian and professors Justin McCarthy and Omer Turan and Armenian poet and pro-

fessor Peter Balakian and Turkish historian and sociologist Taner Akçam. The Turkish perspective, in this debate, showed how historically inaccurate and misleading the Turkish Government has been in regards of the 1915-1923 deportations and Genocide.

Taline Kasparian, a sophomore studying Health Science, boldly stated, “I think the Turkish perspective is very childish. They are guilty for the first genocide of the 21st century.” Regardless of what many Armenian organizations may have said in order to stop the viewing of this debate, the discussion will continue until both sides have been represented fairly in order to let the world decide.

“I am not Armenian [and] I was appalled,” stated Jamie Mackechnie, a sophomore studying Dietics, “that Turkey can’t or won’t admit that what they did was actually a Genocide. I admire the pride that Armenians have.”

Another issue discussed was possible ramifications towards the United States from Turkey when the U.S. finally does recognize the atrocities of 1915-1918 as Genocide. Examples of other countries, such as France and Italy recognizing the Armenian Genocide, should prove to legislators in the United States that the Turkish Government needs the U.S., just as they need other countries that have already recognized it and have moved on,

in order to stay afloat in the global network. However, to this day the House and Senate Genocide recognition resolutions get denied year after year.

The debate itself leads many observers to the conclusion that, yes, both sides have to be heard and that people can assess the facts and make the right decision. Prof. Der Mugerdechian provided ample materials to complex issues concerning both sides of the Genocide and did not sway from exposing students to the Turkish perspective. Discussion, analysis, and the introduction of materials (print, video, and web) to conduct further research on this topic were the most important issues in the framework of the class.

To be able to discuss the Armenian Genocide at a scholarly level is important. If students are not able to understand and analyze the different perspectives: historical, social, psychological and personal, the relevance of the event will continue to be put on the back burner and the issue of recognition will be at a standstill. Further study is required on many different levels and Prof. Der Mugerdechian encouraged students to continue research and analysis.

Prof. Der Mugerdechian’s invitation to examine both sides of this controversial issue in the local, national, and global levels was refreshing and welcoming.

GENOCIDE, FROM PAGE 1

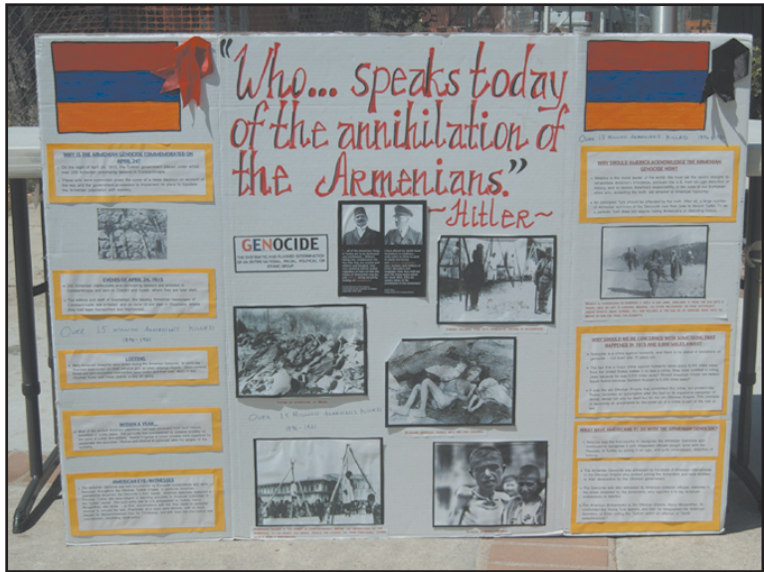
duction and closing remarks, while the keynote speaker was Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, who spoke briefly about the Armenian Genocide and the issues of recognition on a world-wide level and by the Turkish government. While the focus of the day was the Armenian Genocide, Dr. Kouymjian broadened the topic to take a look at genocides that have occurred and are occurring today in the world, referring to Darfur where an estimated 400,000 people have lost their lives already and an estimated two million more lives will be lost in the years to come. The commemoration ended with students and community members placing red, pink, and white carnations on the Genocide Memorial, an act that is done at the memorial in Yerevan Armenia each year on April 24.

While last year the students wore black t-shirts that read “They Live in Us,” the theme of this year’s Genocide commemoration was “Never Again.” The Armenian Students Organization sold black wristbands that read, “Never Again 1915.” This was the message that the students wanted to get across — never again for the Armenians and never again should genocide anywhere in the world go unrecognized.

Genocide Photo Captions:

Top: Dr. Dickran Kouymjian addressing students and faculty at Free Speech Area. Middle: Placing flowers at the model of the Armenian Genocide Monument. Bottom: Genocide poster at the April 24th commemoration.

Photos: Yiefun Tan



Poster with photos of Genocide survivors.

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**BANQUET, FROM PAGE 1****ASP Benefactor Dr. Arnold Gazarian.**

founding donors of the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies (named in honor of Dianne's parents) in 1988. Dr. Gazarian discussed the efforts that went into the establishment of the Endowed Chair, and praised Dr. Kouymjian's enthusiasm. He and his wife were impressed by the transformation that had taken place in the Program in the early years, leading to its recognition as the preeminent undergraduate Armenian Studies Program in the United States. "It is a result of Dr. Kouymjian's leadership and vision that today the Armenian Studies Program offers a wide variety of classes in Armenian, offers scholarships to students enrolled in Armenian Studies, and continues its leading academic role... Under his tenure, the Kazan Visiting Professorship was established, conferences have been organized, and the Lecture Series was developed. It is due to Prof. Kouymjian that the Program has flourished... There is no way to adequately thank you for your contributions, so let me simply say, Dickran and Angèle, thank

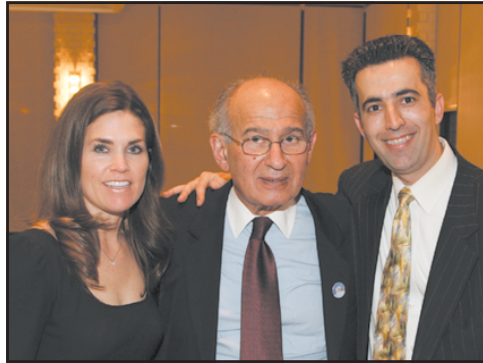
you for sharing over three decades of your lives with us. This Program will remain a testament to your vision, leadership, and hard work. The University and the Armenian community are indebted to you for your great service. We wish you good health and much happiness in the next chapters of your life."

Poet Jimi Baloian wrote two original poems for the occasion, "To Uncle Willy in Heaven" dedicated to William Saroyan and "Journey" dedicated to Dr. Kouymjian. Baloian is a long-time friend of the family, and his poems were read by Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program.

Arakel Arisian, a 2001 Fresno State graduate and President's medalist, succinctly summed up Dr. Kouymjian's impact as a teacher on generations of students. Arisian

**Alumni and Friends President Arakel Arisian presenting framed cover of the Festschrift in honor of Dickran Kouymjian.***Photos: Randy Vaughn-Dotta*

spoke on behalf of the Armenian Alumni and Friends and the thousands of Dr. Kouymjian's students who had the opportunity to take his classes. Dr. Kouymjian's ability to engage students was one of the major reasons that Arisian chose to study at Fresno State. "Throughout his career he has made a bal-

**L. to R.: Kristi Peyvandi, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Ali Peyvandi.**

ance between scholarship and teaching," said Arisian. "Dr. Kouymjian is one of the most knowledgeable and intelligent professors that I have had. He respected and treated his students well... He was a mentor to many — giving advice and guidance to those who listened," stated Arisian, "On behalf of your former students, I would like to thank you for all that you have done. Thank you for being our professor, for being a mentor, and most importantly for being our friend."

Professor Der

Mugrdechian then paid his own tribute to Dr. Kouymjian, who he had first met thirty years earlier as a student. Der Mugrdechian has been a colleague of Dr. Kouymjian over the past twenty-three years in the Armenian Studies Program. He spoke of Dr. Kouymjian's efforts in developing the Program and his leadership.

Der Mugrdechian then presented Dr. Kouymjian with a newly published work, *Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian*, which Der Mugrdechian had edited. Some forty-six scholars contributed articles to the Festschrift, dedicated to Prof. Kouymjian's distinguished career in Armenian Studies. The articles are on topics that have been the focus of Dr. Kouymjian's research — history, art, Genocide, William Saroyan.

A special video presentation, prepared by Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Ali Peyvandi, and Drew Tudman, gave a visual and musical look of Dr. Kouymjian's tenure at Fresno State, and his interaction with digni-

taries and guests, as well as with the community and students. The photographs brought back memories for many in the audience.

Following the video, Paul Chaderjian introduced Dr. Kouymjian, who gave his farewell speech. He recounted many of the lasting friendships that he had made over the years, and spoke about those people who had made a special impact in his life. He then spoke about what his vision had been for the Armenian Studies Program, where he had sought to make Armenian Studies an integral part of the offerings at the University. He also spoke of his desire to see the Armenian Studies Program continue to prosper and grow in the future.

It was a night to remember for all those who had come to honor Dr. Dickran Kouymjian for his many years of service to the University, to his profession, and to the community.

**Dickran Kouymjian and cousin Flora Dunaian.****FESTSCHRIFT, FROM PAGE 1**

Alexanian, Sebouh Aslanian, Artsvi Bakhchinyan, Peter Balakian, George Bournoutian, Azat Bozoyan, Marco Brambilla, Helmut Buschhausen, David Calonne, Levon Chookaszian, James Clackson, Peter Cowe, Claude Cox, Yolande Crowe, Gérard Dédeyan, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Roberta Ervine, Eric Hamp, Richard Hovannisian, Micah Jendian, Harry Keyishian, Michael Kovacs, Henning Lehmann, Christina Maranci, Marielle Martiniani-Reber, Vartan Matiossian, Barbara Merguerian, Claude Mutaftian, Mikaël Nchanian, Hilary Richardson,

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The idea of preparing a *Festschrift* was formulated in late 2003 and a first announcement and solicitation for articles began early in 2004, coinciding with several significant milestones in Dr. Kouymjian's life: his seventieth birthday (1934-2004); his forty-fifth year as a university teacher (1959-2004); and his fifteenth year as holder of the Haig and Isabel

Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies (1989-2004).

In addition to serving as Coordinator-Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, for the last thirty-one years, Professor Kouymjian has, since 1989, been the holder of the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies.

*Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian* will be a lasting tribute to Dr. Kouymjian.

The Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund (New York) provided a generous subvention, which made publication of this *Festschrift* possible.

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Susan Kouyomjian Gordone	College Station, TX
John & Barbara Mesrobian	Sanger
<i>In honor of Pete &amp; Margaret Giragosian's</i>	
<i>65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary</i>	
Basil & Kathy Perch	Visalia
Gladys Peters	Fresno
Leo & Marlene Pilibosian	Fresno
Chuck & Debbie Poochigian	Fresno
Jo Rambaud	Bakersfield
<i>In honor of Genese Phillips' Birthday</i>	
John & Linda Shahbazian	Parlier