

HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

30th Year

October 2008

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Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

Der Mugrdechian Appointed Coordinator of Armenian Studies



Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Photo: ASP Archive

STAFF REPORT

Barlow Der Mugrdechian was appointed Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program and Director of the Center for Armenian Studies at Fresno State and began his duties in the Fall semester, having responsibility to coordinate the Program's activities and to administer the Program's community outreach. He has been with the Program for the past twenty-four years, teaching a variety of courses in the areas of language, literature, art, culture, and history.

Der Mugrdechian received his M.A. and C. Philosophy degrees from UCLA, where he majored in Armenian Language and Literature through the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures.

Der Mugrdechian is the author

of the newly published *Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian* (Mazda Press, 2008), a Festschrift composed of forty-six articles from scholars throughout the world, dedicated to Dr. Kouymjian's more than forty year career in Armenian Studies.

In 1996 Der Mugrdechian received the 1995-1996 Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching and in December of 2000, he was honored with an honorary Doctorate Degree from Yerevan State University. YSU President Dr. Radik Martirosyan bestowed the honor on him in Yerevan, Armenia.

In the summers of 1988, 1990, 2001, 2005 and 2007 Der Mugrdechian led the "Armenia Summer Study Program," taking students to Armenia for an intensive series of coursework and classes, as well as interaction with students from Yerevan State University, and to travel to various parts of the country.

Der Mugrdechian has frequently traveled to Armenia and in 1991 he was instrumental in the establishment of a sister university link between Yerevan State University and California State University, Fresno.

SEE DER MUGRDECHIAN PAGE 7

Jendian Awarded "Provost's Award for Faculty Service"



Dr. Matthew Jendian with Provost Dr. Jeri Echeverria.

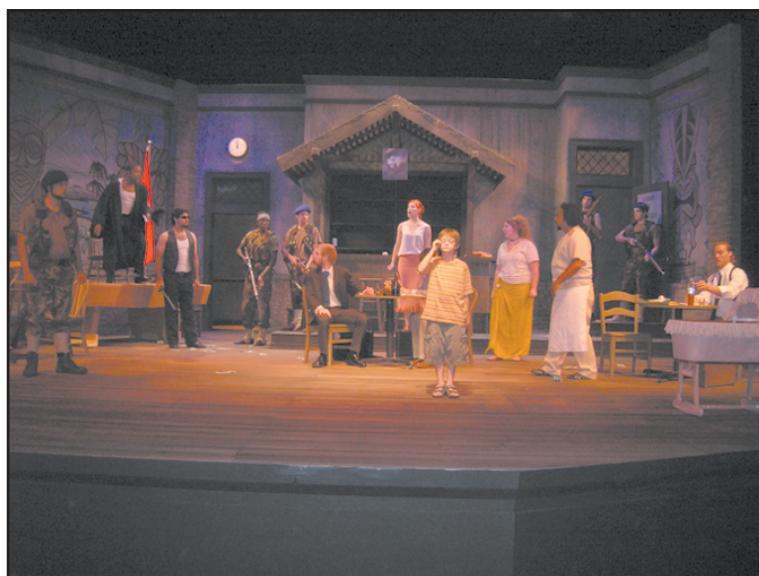
STAFF REPORT

This past May, Dr. Matthew A. Jendian was awarded the "Provost's Award for Faculty Service," one of five faculty awards presented by Dr. Jeronima Echeverria, Provost and Vice President for Academic

Affairs, to honor those faculty who set new standards of excellence at California State University, Fresno. In receiving this award, Dr. Jendian was recognized for his outstanding service to the university community and the community-at-large.

SEE JENDIAN PAGE 6

William Saroyan's "Slaughter of the Innocents" in West Coast Premiere at Fresno State Theatre



The cast of "Slaughter of the Innocents" preparing for their opening night performance on October 3.

Photo: Marissa Isquierdo

MARISSA ISQUIERDO STAFF WRITER

"We will be watching you." These were the words audience members were greeted to at the beginning of the play "Slaughter of the Innocents," which was performed at Fresno State in the John Wright Theater October 3-5, and 7-11. The play is about the horrific dealings that occur when government anarchy takes complete control of its citizen's lives. Fear, vio-

lence, death, loss of freedom, and the triumph over dictatorship are just a few of the themes expressed in this play.

The "Slaughter of the Innocents" was written in 1958 by famed literary figure and Fresno native William Saroyan as a reaction to the McCarthy trials and the Red scare of the 1940s and 1950s.

To help celebrate the centennial of Saroyan, the William Saroyan Centennial Committee approached the Fresno State Theatre Arts Department to put on a Saroyan production. Dr. Edward EmanuEl,

who has been with Fresno State for 40 years, seized the opportunity to direct a Saroyan play. Dr. EmanuEl chose "Slaughter of the Innocents" because it had never been performed before on the west coast and it was a challenge to portray all of the dramatic elements in the play. "Saroyan uses three different dramatic styles: realism, expression, and absurdism. It was a real challenge to take three different dramatic styles in one play," said Dr. EmanuEl.

In order to undertake such a task, the cast and crew spent four weeks of rehearsal. The challenge paid off because the "Slaughter of the Innocents" was superbly performed by a talented group of over 30 actors. The play takes place at Christmas, somewhere in the Caribbean, in Archie Crookshank's bar. Archie's bar has been seized by the government known as The Republic. The Republic turned Archie's bar into a Court of Justice where anything but justice takes place. In his bar, Archie's three tables are used for the attorneys and the bailiff. The pool table is turned into the judge's throne, which he sits on top of with a chair. A flag is placed on his left side and standing on either side of the pool table are

SEE SAROYAN PAGE 6

10th Annual Golden Raisin Film Festival

Spring 2009
(Date to be Announced)

Sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization
Armenian Studies Program
California State University, Fresno

First Call for Entries

Entries are being sought for the 10th Annual Golden Raisin Film Festival to be held on the California State University, Fresno campus. Films made by Armenian directors/writers, or films with an Armenian theme are being sought.

Films up to 1 hour in length. Films may be in any language, English preferred. Films may be on any topic, Armenian theme preferred. Film must be in video (NTSC)/DVD format.

SEE FILM FESTIVAL PAGE 8

Bournoutian Appointed Seventh Kazan Visiting Scholar for Spring



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Dr. George Bournoutian STAFF REPORT

Dr. George Bournoutian, Professor of History at Iona College in New York, has been appointed as the seventh Henry Khazadian Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies for the Spring 2009 semester.

Dr. Bournoutian is an internationally recognized teacher and scholar, who will be teaching a three-unit course on "The Armenian Diaspora and Genocide." The course will be offered Monday evenings from 6:00-8:50PM, begin-

ning February 23, and will concentrate on the Armenian experience after the loss of independence and the exile or immigration of Armenians to foreign lands. Special attention will be given to the Diaspora communities in Iran, Russia, Ottoman Empire/Turkey, India, the Arab World, France, Eastern Europe, and the United States. The fate of these communities in the 20th century will be examined in detail.

Dr. Bournoutian will also be presenting three public lectures under the general heading "The Armenian Church Under Foreign Rule: 16th-20th Centuries (Russia, South Asia, and Iran)."

Dr. Bournoutian has extensive teaching experience, having taught Eastern European and Middle Eastern history at Iona College since 1989. He has taught as a visiting professor at Columbia University, New York University, the University of Connecticut (Stamford,

SEE BOURNOUTIAN PAGE 7

Armenian Studies Program
Book/Video/CD/Archival Gifts

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian 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.

Carl Bardakian, for his gift of the books *Heroic Figures of A.D.L.* by Ara Aharonian (in both English [Los Angeles, 2006] and Spanish [Buenos Aires, 2008]).

Alexandre Beredjiklian, for his gift of the pamphlet *Arshile Gorky- La Creation du Nu* (Paris, 2007).

Edward Hale Bierstadt, *The Great Betrayal (Economic Imperialism & the Destruction of Christian Communities in Asia Minor)*, a gift of The Zoryan Institute of Canada, Inc., reprinted edition from 1924, with a new preface by George Shirinian.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate, Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, for his gift of the following books: *History of the Western Diocese, The Church of Armenia, The Armenian Church, Theology of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church, Studies in Armenian History V-XIII Century, History of Armenian Part II, Studies in Armenian Church, History of Ghevond, A History of the Armenian Church, New Testament* (Armenian language), and *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha*, all published by the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church.

Dr. Matthew A. Jendian, *Becoming American, Remaining Ethnic – The Case of Armenian-Americans in Central California* (El Paso, TX: LFB Scholarly Publishing, 2008). A gift of the author.

Markar Melkonian, *My Brother’s Road* (London and New York, NY: I. B. Tauris, 2007). A gift of the publisher.

Dr. Rubina Peroomian, *And Those Who Continued Living In Turkey After 1915 (The Metamorphosis of the Post-Genocide Armenian Identity as Reflected in Artistic Literature* (Yerevan, 2008). 2 copies. A gift of Dr. Hayk Demoyan of the Museum-Institute of the Armenian Genocide, Yerevan, Armenia and a gift by the author.

William Saroyan, *The Human Comedy*. A first addition (1943) signed copy. A gift of Col. Carl K. Mahakian.

Larry Shuklian, for his family gift of books pertaining to Armenia.

Martin Tourigian, for his gift of two watercolor paintings and one HASK journal.

Claudia Zarlenga, for her thesis, *Aspetti Del Teatro Di William Saroyan* (Rome, 1993-94) (in Italian). Donated by Frank and Doris Cirill in memory of Richard Elbrecht.

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia
Marie Yovanovitch Sworn In After
Lengthy Debate in U.S. Senate

STAFF REPORT

The U.S. Senate has confirmed Marie Yovanovitch as the new United States ambassador to Armenia. Her nomination was confirmed on July 29 by the United States Senate’s Foreign Relationships Commission, following extensive questioning led by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Joe Biden (D-DE), Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and several requests for clarification of the State Department’s position on the Armenian Genocide (President Bush’s previous nominee as U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, Richard Hoagland, was subject to two legislative holds by Sen. Menendez

and was ultimately withdrawn by the Administration in August of 2007, following the nominee’s statements denying the Armenian Genocide.)

Former ambassador John Evans was recalled in 2006 for stating his personal belief that the Armenian Genocide is an established fact.

Yovanovitch was officially sworn in at a September 2nd State Department ceremony during which the new Ambassador stressed her commitment to stronger U.S.-Armenia relations and working to ensure peace and stability in the Caucasus.

She served as ambassador to Kyrgyzstan since 2005. Before that she served as an aide to the deputy U.S. secretary of state.

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

Spring 2009 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education				
Arts & Humanities, Area C2				
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia (Class #33426)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TTh	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Area C1				
• Arm 1B Elementary Armenian (Class #32617)	4	10:30A-11:35A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Area IC				
• Arm 148 Masterp. Arm Culture (Class #32618)	3	9:00A-9:50A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
• ArmS 108A Arm History II (Class #31105)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TTh	B Der Mugrdechian
• ArmS 120 Arm Diasp & Genocide (Class #36789)	3	6:00P-8:50P	M	G Bournoutian

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 2009-2010 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!

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

HYE SHARZHOOM

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Saroyan Celebration in Iceland Features Life and Works of the Noted Author

INGIBJORG THORISDOTTIR
SPECIAL TO HYE SHARZHOOM

William Saroyan’s works have been translated into many languages and his centennial is being widely celebrated around the world in 2008. Iceland is no exception. On this little island in the North Atlantic, populated by 300,000 inhabitants, some of Saroyan’s works have been translated into Icelandic. The first translations are from the 1940s when Saroyan’s star shone the brightest. At least two Icelandic writers, Tómas Guðmundsson and Jónas Árnason, knew him personally even though he never visited the country.

The works that have been translated are *The Human Comedy*, *My Name is Aram*, and many of his short stories. Several plays have been translated as well and performed on national radio. The last translation of Saroyan’s work was *Madness in the Family* in 2004.

Saroyan’s centennial was celebrated by the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir’s Institute of Foreign Languages at the University of Iceland and the event was called “Armenian Culture Days.” It included a seminar about William Saroyan and a viewing of the docu-



Photo: Ingibjorg Thorisdottir

L. to R. Angèle Kouymjian, former President of Iceland Mrs. Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, and Dr. Dickran Koumjian.

mentary film about the Armenian genocide *De kaller meg mor* by Magnus Svärd Jörnheim. The film was shown at the Nordic House in Reykjavík with an introduction by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Berberian Professor Emeritus of Armenian Studies at Fresno State.

The seminar was held at the National Museum of Iceland in the heart of Reykjavík on Saturday, September 6. The main speaker on this event was Dr. Dickran Kouymjian who was invited specially to Reykjavík, along with his

wife Angèle.

Dr. Kouymjian talked about Saroyan’s life and works, including his dreams of film making. At the end of the seminar the audience saw the short film *The Good Job* by Saroyan.

Other speakers at this seminar were Ingibjorg Thorisdottir, who in a brief introduction talked about her experience with Armenians in Fresno and how she came to know about Saroyan’s work. A scene from Saroyan’s play *Beautiful People* was read and two Icelandic poets

read from their translations. Gyrdir Eliasson read the short story, *Old Country Advice to the American Traveller* from his translation of *My Name is Aram* and Oskar Arni Oskarsson read his translation of the short story *Snake* which is found

in a book of collected short stories translated by him. The seminar was well received by the audience and was followed by a reception for Dr. Kouymjian and his wife at the home of the former president of Iceland, Mrs. Vigdís Finnbogadóttir.

2009-2010 Academic Year Scholarships in Armenian Studies

2009-2010 Scholarship Applications
Now Available On-Line

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

Make sure to mark one of the areas pertaining to Armenian Studies on the application

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

The scholarship application for California State University, Fresno is only available online.

First-time freshman are encouraged to apply.

Priority Application Period:
October 1, 2008-February 28, 2009

For applications to be considered you must also complete the special Armenian Studies supplemental form which can be found at:

<http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/scholarships.htm>

Fill out the form and turn it in at the ASP office, Peters Business Building, Room 384.

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

Saroyan Centennial Celebration Held in Fresno August 28



Maestro Aram Gharabekian
Photo: ASP Archive

STAFF REPORT

The National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, under the direction of maestro Aram Gharabekian, performed in concert on Thursday, August 28, as part of the festivities celebrating the 100th birthday of author William Saroyan. The concert featured works by Aram Khachaturian, Komitas, Alan Hovhanness, and Johannes Brahms, among others.

The National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia (NCOA) was formed in 1997 under the direction of Gharabekian. All of the twenty-five members of the Orchestra are graduates of the Komitas Conservatory in Yerevan. The NCOA has toured extensively, throughout Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. This tour was their fifth to the United States, and included stops in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Aram Gharabekian has been a force while guest conducting in Europe, the former Soviet Union, and the United States. He graduated from the New England Conservatory in Boston, and continued his studies in Europe at Mainz University, Germany. He won praise

for his innovative programming while Music Director and Conductor of the Boston SinfoNova Orchestra, 1983-1991.

Mezzo-soprano Edna Garabedian performed several works. Garabedian is a native Fresnan and an acclaimed performer, who has sung in concerts all over the world. She is the artistic director of the California Opera, founded in May 2000.

Guest vocalist Rhonda Grove sang several pieces that had a connection to Saroyan, including “The Missouri Waltz, a piece from Saroyan’s *The Time of Your Life*. She also sang the famous Saroyan/Bagdasarian “Come on-a My House.” Grove currently resides in Fresno where she is a soloist who performs in a variety of venues.

Composer and radio producer Charles Amirkhanian read several excerpts from Saroyan’s works. Amirkhanian was born in Fresno and is widely recognized for his live and taped works utilizing speech elements in rhythmic patterns resembling percussion music. He has been Music Director of KPFA Radio in Berkeley and since 1997 has been Executive and Artistic Director of Other Minds, a San Francisco based new music organization.

The Fresno Choral Artists accompanied the National Chamber Orchestra in several pieces.

The concert celebrated Saroyan’s birthday in Fresno’s William Saroyan Theatre, which has recently undergone renovations that have resulted in large murals of Saroyan and Saroyan quotes decorating the walls.

The Saroyan Centennial Concert was organized by the William Saroyan Centennial Committee.

Hye Sharzhoom is 30!

If you worked on the staff of Hye Sharzhoom and have memories of your experiences, please send them to us.

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Special thanks to Greg Kohayan for preparing the mezza.

Thanks to Viktoriya’s Place restaurant for preparing the dessert.

Thanks to Mike Missakian for donating the table wine.

Thanks to Fran Ziegler for the decorations.

Thanks to Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Ali Peyvandi, and Drew Tudman for preparing the video for Dickran Kouymjian.

Thanks to Committee members Arakel Arisian, Bethany Baker, Randy Baloian, Flora Istanbouljian, Kati Litten, Ali Peyvandi, and Arlene Srabian.

New ASO Executive Assumes Office



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

L. to R: Hagop Ohanessian, Vice President; Stephanie Cassidy, Public Relations; Stepan Kyutunyan, President; Lena Koujaoghlanian, Secretary; and Karine Frnzyan, treasurer.

HAGOP OHANESSIAN
STAFF WRITER

The Armenian Students Organization (ASO) held its first meeting of the year on September 10. The first order of business on the agenda was to elect the new officers for the year. The officers were interviewed regarding why they wanted to join ASO and especially why they wanted to be executives. They also expressed what they would bring to the organization.

President: Stepan Kyutunyan
Major: Electrical Engineering
Minor: Mathematics-Senior

Why did you want to run for an executive position?

I have been an active member of ASO for several years, and feel that I can help foster a fellowship and establish a network of support systems for Armenians.

What do you plan to bring to ASO this year?

As President, my mission includes preserving, promoting, and sharing our rich heritage and culture. I feel that when students become active members of the organization, it brings them closer to the Armenian values and morals that we all share, which in turn helps us maintain our Armenian heritage and pride.

Vice-President:
Hagop Ohanessian
Major: Business Administration
Minor: Armenian Studies and History-Senior

Why did you want to run for an executive position?

Over the course of my college career, I have been an active member of ASO. This year, I felt that running for an executive position would help me to get acquainted with other fellow Armenian Students on campus and to provide a fun and exciting atmosphere for all members.

What do you plan to bring to ASO this year?

This organization has been in existence for more than forty years. As Vice President, I want to continue the long-lived traditions of ASO. It is my goal to help engage Armenian students on campus by organizing social, cultural, and educational events.

Armenian 1A Course Attracts Diverse Students

PATEEL MEKHITARIAN
EDITOR

Although the Armenian language is complex and can be difficult to learn, students at Fresno State are very eager to read, write, and speak the language. The course is taught every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian. He promptly enters the class each morning with a friendly greeting of *Parev* [Hello], and from that point on, the students are allowed to communicate only in Armenian. This learning style allows the class to learn to speak Armenian through engaging with their fellow classmates.

Armenian 1A is an elementary course in Armenian, which involves learning some grammar, basic greetings, and most importantly, the alphabet. *A Course in Modern Western Armenian* by Dr. Tom Samuelian is the textbook. This text aids the students in understanding the Armenian alphabet, learning both upper and lower cases of each letter. The Armenian alphabet was created by St. Mesrop Mashtots in 405 A.D. and has 38 letters, each with a specific sound and pronunciation.

Hazel, Armineh, Patrick, Jessica, Kyle, Stephanie, Jaime, Levon, James, Zaven, Heidi, Agavni, and Alene are all students enrolled in this course. More than half of them are planning on minor in Armenian Studies.

Levon Minassian is a freshman at Fresno State, majoring in Political Science. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, listening to music, and playing soccer. He already knows how to speak the language, however he wants to learn how to read and write the language also. Levon greatly enjoys the learning

environment Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian provides in the classroom. When asked what he has learned in the course, Levon responded, "The language has a rich history and it has gone through many changes."

Patrick Porché is currently a junior and is majoring in Music Composition. Patrick is most interested in writing music and singing during his time away from school.



Armenian 1A students enjoy learning the Armenian language in first semester elementary class. Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

When asked what attracted him to the Armenian language course, Patrick said, "I knew nothing about it. I thought of it as a challenge." Patrick approached the class as a great opportunity to learn a new language. Although he admitted the class was difficult, Patrick is still planning to minor in Armenian Studies.

Alene Istanboulian, a freshman, is majoring in Marketing. She says, "I wanted to take Armenian so I could refresh my Armenian skills and to make my grandparents happy!" Alene greatly enjoys seeing her fellow classmates, while learning Armenian, and also deeply

appreciates Prof. Der Mugrdechian and his teaching methods.

Jaime Cardenas, a junior, is also minoring in Armenian Studies. The Psychology major enjoys hiking, reading, and relaxing, during his free time. Jaime enjoys tracking his progress in learning the language, and especially enjoys knowing how he is increasing his abilities communicating in Armenian. Because he has many Armenian friends, he

Photo: ASP Archive

Treasurer: Karine Frnzyan
Major: Psychology-Senior

Why did you want to run for an executive position?

The main reason why I ran for treasurer is so that I can make positive changes and create new ideas for ASO.

What do you plan to bring to ASO this year?

The main reason why I joined is to learn about my culture and where I come from.

Secretary: Lena Koujaoghlanian
Major: Interior Design- Senior

Why did you want to run for an executive position?

I have been a member of the ASO since my freshman year. This year I wanted to become a more active member by becoming part of the executive committee and bringing new ideas to the organization.

What do you plan to bring to

Zoryan Sponsors Institute for Genocide Studies



GENOCIDE & HUMAN RIGHTS UNIVERSITY PROGRAM
TORONTO 2008

Participants in the International Institute for Genocide.

HAGOP OHANESSIAN
STAFF WRITER

It was an extraordinary experience for me to attend the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (a division of Zoryan Institute) because it gave me the opportunity to engage with others on topics of similar interest and to discuss the Armenian Genocide. It was interesting to learn about other examples of genocide that have occurred after the Armenian case. I had the opportunity to meet with individuals who witnessed and were survivors of the Rwandan Genocide. It was devastating to hear the stories they told. I felt the pain that they were in, especially when one of the individuals broke out in tears when explaining how people were being killed or left to starve.

The highlight of the seminar was my encounter with two Turks. One of them was completing a thesis on the Armenian Genocide in Holland. The other was a human rights lawyer who represents minorities in Turkey. They were kind and understood very well the events that took place in 1915. We became good friends and had lots to talk about over the course of two weeks.

Every year the International Institute for Genocide offers a two-week course on the study of genocide and human rights issues. This

ASO this year?

One of my top priorities for this year is to make students more aware of the large Armenian community on campus and welcoming students to become a part of ASO.

Public Relations: Stephanie Cassidy
Major: Pre-Pharmacy
Minor: Armenian Studies
Sophomore

Why did you want to run for an executive position?

I wanted to join to get more involved with my community. I am after all half Hye.

What do you plan to bring to ASO this year?

Through this club I have met many tremendous people. I hope to continue my journey with ASO and as the public relations officer throughout my college career. Any one interested please come out! Everyone is welcome.

year it took place July 28-August 8 in Toronto, Ontario on the St. George Campus of the University of Toronto. There is always a diverse group of students and scholars who participate from all over the world. This gives an opportunity to get involved in interesting discussions on the various topics.

There were a total of nine professors who each presented a case study on a different day: Dr. Joyce Apsel (New York University), Dr. Doris Bergen (University of Toronto), Dr. Maureen Hiebert (University of Calgary), Dr. Herbert Hirsch (University of Richmond, Virginia), Dr. Simon Payaslian (Boston University), Dr. William Schabas (National University of Ireland), Dr. Roger Smith (College of William and Mary in Virginia), Dr. Ervin Staub (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), and Dr. Scott Straus (University of Wisconsin).

A total of twenty-five students, both Armenian and non-Armenian, attended. There were Armenians from England, Mexico, Argentina, Canada, and the United States, and also there were Canadians, Americans, Rwandans, Turks, and Japanese.

We discussed major issues such as the development of Human

Artist Soars Past Tour de Force - Babayan Takes Music to Hearts of His Audience

GEORGE WARREN
THE FRESNO BEE

Pianist Sergei Babayan has nothing to prove to his fans in Fresno. He’s been here many times before and has shown extreme range of emotion, total command of the keyboard, and a musical vision that goes well beyond the idea of mere entertainment.

Babayan drew a full house to the Concert Hall at California State University, Fresno, Sunday to open the season of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert series. The CSUF Armenian Studies Program co-sponsored the recital.

Rather than putting on a tour-de-force of pianism as he has in the past, Babayan brought a program that focused on the spiritually expressive potential of his instrument. Opening with “Fur Alina” by Arvo Part is an unusual way to draw in an audience. This music is quiet and slow, and the harmony changes little throughout the brief span of the composition.

In the hands of Babayan, what might be just a few notes turns into a timeless experience of speechless beauty. Babayan was in no hurry to finish phrases or get on with the piece. He allowed space to breathe,

and he allowed time for notes to recede to silence. While the composition might not be groundbreaking in terms of harmony and rhythm, the singular feel of the music sets Part in his own camp of living composers.

As the last notes faded, the audience sat spellbound. There would be no applause here, the magic would have evaporated. After a moment of complete silence, Babayan began Liszt’s Ballade No. 2, the loudest and most dynamically expressive music on the program. Babayan demonstrated his understanding of the music by creating the wash of sound in the background and then bringing the themes out front.

His demeanor here was not filled with excitement and energy. Instead, he took the tone of presenting a sober moment of truth from Liszt’s oeuvre. This is no slouch of a piece of music, but the unfolding harmony sounds like something Moses might have written were he a composer.

Brahms’ Theme and Variations in D Minor, an arrangement from his String Sextet Op. 18, provided a brief diversion from the serious nature of the program, and Babayan seemed to enjoy the rolling chords



L. to R.: Tiroui Melkonian, Sergei Babayan, and Andreas Werz, Director of the Philip Lorenz Keyboard Concert Series.

and various treatments of the themes. He also delivered Liszt’s passionate setting of two Schubert songs with a clear eye on the meaning of the program.

The first half of the program ended with Schumann’s Variations on a Theme by Beethoven. The theme comes from Beethoven’s Seventh Symphony, and Schumann presents it unabridged the first time. Then Schumann’s imagination takes over, and while his development of the idea does not match

Beethoven’s in immediate appeal, the growth of the idea to the stunning and riveting summation transforms Beethoven’s more primitive musical constraints into seminal material for Arvo Part.

The end of the set matched the beginning, with Babayan unwinding Schumann’s melody and countermelody over an unchanging harmony. It took a few seconds after the end for the audience to realize that it was time to applaud.

The second half featured the

Suite in A Minor of Jean-Philippe Rameau, the great 17th-century theorist who wrote the book on tonal harmony and sealed the modal system into its churchyard grave. While Rameau the composer has achieved the following of Bach or Vivaldi, his music belongs in the same museum, as the other Baroque masters. After all, it was Rameau who put into words the argument for a functional tonal system.

How this fits into a program of highly emotional music is clear. Without the foundation of Rameau and the other Baroque composers, the music of Part, Brahms, and Schumann would not have been possible. Moreover in the hands of Babayan, this “intellectual” music of Rameau becomes as spiritually profound and expressive as the other music on the program. Maybe it’s not era or the style, maybe it’s that some compositions than others elevate the spirit of the listener.

Certainly, when Babayan is the pianist, the music is going to reach the heart of the audience.

George Warren, Ph.D., directs the music program at Hallmark Charter School. Reprinted from the Fresno Bee.

ZORYAN, FROM PAGE 4

Rights, introduction and theories to genocide, comparative genocide, the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, the Cambodian Genocide, the Rwandan Genocide, the Darfur Genocide, international law and how it pertains to genocide, genocide denial, genocide prevention, and reconciliation. On the last day, we had to present material about a topic of our choice that related to the discussions. I presented a brief history on the Armenian Genocide.

This seminar was a great experience because I had the opportunity to meet wonderful people. Each individual had something in com-

mon and that was the willingness to discuss important issues such as the prevention of genocide in the future, and the reconciliation process for coming to peace with one another. In addition, this seminar helped me to understand other cases of genocide and the difficulty of reconciliation. As Armenians in the Diaspora, this is an excellent way to educate ourselves and others about the horrific events of 1915, where 1.5 million Armenians were massacred.

For more information about the Zoryan Institute and of the seminar you can visit www.genocidestudies.org.

Is education a priority or a privilege?

LORI HAVATIAN
STAFF WRITER



“I think education is a priority. Everyone is educated is some way, not everyone can go to school. Not everyone needs to go to school to be educated. You can learn while walking down the street. Education needs to be a priority so people can get somewhere in life and know about what is going on in the world.”

Ally Hostetter (Freshman)



“Education should be a priority so people can better themselves and the world.”

David Tataryan (Freshman)



“To me education is a privilege that turns into a priority.”
Rita-Marie Costanian (Freshman)

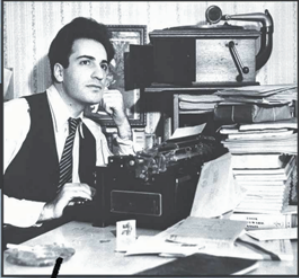
“I think that it’s both. It’s a privilege because education is not something everyone can have but it should be a top priority if you would like to succeed in life.” Tania Kasparian (Freshman)



“I think that education should be a priority because it provides students and individuals the opportunity to succeed in life.”
Mari Koshkakaryan (Freshman)



Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdchian



Collected for the first time...
some neglected gems:

“Follow”
and other early writings

by William Saroyan

edited by William Secrest Jr., with
an introduction by Dickran Kouymjian,
will be published November 2008.

William Saroyan


WILLIAM SAROYAN was an undiscovered author in the early 1930s—the years just before the Armenian-American writer from Fresno vaulted to fame with “The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze.” That 1934 short-story collection launched a dazzling literary career that later brought Saroyan a Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award.

Living in San Francisco in those early years, the writer labored in obscurity, sharpening his skills. Colorful characters, fresh ideas and bold stories flowed from his typewriter. But his stories attracted scant attention.

Collected for the first time are some of the unjustly neglected gems of Saroyan’s early work—including *Follow*, a gripping autobiographical novella published for the first time in 2008 by *The Fresno Bee* to mark the writer’s centennial year. In 13 chapters, it tells the story of a young man from Fresno who hungers for success as a writer in New York—but learns some bitter lessons.

The Press at California State University, Fresno, in collaboration with *The Bee* and Fresno County Public Library, has brought together in this book a range of works from Saroyan’s early years, including letters and unpublished short stories from the author’s archive at Stanford University. These will make fascinating reading for readers who remember Saroyan and appreciate his gift to American letters.

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Folk Tales of Musa Dagh Focus of Zeitlian Lecture



Mrs. Sona Zeitlian

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

LORI HAVATIAN
STAFF WRITER

Throughout the years “Musa Daghtsis,” the people who originated from the region of Musa Dagh (made famous for their defense of the Turks and from the famous book, *Forty Days of Musa Dagh* by Franz Werfel), have told folk tales to not only educate the young but also entertain all. Sona Zeitlian, a graduate from the American University of Cairo, spends most of her time collecting folk tales that once were enhanced by imagination and now have been left for the present generation to share with the rest of the world. The folk tales embody traditions that kept the spirit of Musa Dagh alive.

Mrs. Zeitlian was born in Cairo, Egypt, but political turmoil in the early 1960s forced her and her family to leave for Lebanon, and finally to California. She has held teaching posts in Cairo and Beirut.

During the early 1960’s Zeitlian recorded some of the tales for the first time. She collected about 300 tales that are retold now in Western Armenian. She has published them as *The Folktales of Musa Dagh*, based on the oral tradition that she

recorded for the first time in Anjar, Lebanon.

Story-tellers, mostly men, would open the minds of the listener to a new world full of adventure and morality. It was the best medicine for a cold winter’s night. Covering the windows would give the tales a more dramatic effect so the first light would not interrupt. It was believed that certain stories called “koushmas” could do the impossible, for example, they had the ability to comfort the sick and help cure people who had an evil spirit. This was be-

lieved to be true if the sick people were prayed over for seven days and seven nights, without interruption.

The Musa Dagh folk heroes resemble the heroes we as Americans grew up with. You have the occasional king or the heroic prince or even the damsel in distress represented by the princess. Most stories would feature a “zmranka” which was a magical bird who always seemed to know who was good and who was evil. Some characteristics of the heroes in the folk tales are: proud, daring, confident, risk takers, or simply a person on a quest for a gift.

Two stories that Mrs. Zeitlian related have remained in my mind. One was called “Three Temptations.” A man leaves his family due to work and years later finally comes home to see a younger man sleeping next to his wife. As the man ran to get his gun to shoot his promiscuous wife he remembers that it was his son who he has not seen for quite a while. The tale combined sensitivity and emotions such as love, hate, envy and greed.

The second story, which was my favorite, begins with a bride’s ability to see whether or not a deceased person will go to heaven or perish in hell. When the bride’s

father-in-law passes away she sees evil spirits. She put all her trust in the “koushmas” and wanted to recite them for seven days and seven nights. On the sixth night she was very tired so her husband took over for her. He fell asleep and was unable to complete the ritual so the father-in-law passed away. He felt very guilty and because of his uncontrollable emotions, stabbed his wife to death.

Adults can take these stories that have been passed down by generation to generation and examine the depth, emotion and, creativity that was put into each and every story. If you take apart, line by line, the memories, then images of the past will come pouring through. As a young woman with Musa Daghtsi roots I am speechless. Mrs. Zeitlian opened new doors for me. I for once am very interested in learning about where and how these folk traditions were communicated and what I can do to help them stay actively alive.

Mrs. Zeitlian stated that most Musa Daghtsis are now living in a cosmopolitan setting. I witnessed a lady about the age of my grandmother, who was born and raised in Lebanon, conversing on her cellular phone and wearing a pin that supported the American troops. Traditions are there to carry customs of what once was. To share them with the people that once did what they did. Stories are told to keep these traditions alive and we, as young Armenians should strive to keep every kind of Armenian tradition alive. We, the next generation of Armenian men and women will play an important role in the continuance of these traditions.

Mrs. Zeitlian ended the evening with a very interesting quote, “It is yesterday’s ember that will kindle tomorrow’s fire.” Shared traditions make not only the people of Musa Dagh, but also everyone else around have memories that will be carried on forever.

JENDIAN, FROM PAGE 1

He has been involved in a variety of service activities including exemplary contributions to his discipline, faculty governance and university committees, service learning pedagogy, community activities, and other similar achievements.

Community engagement is something that Dr. Jendian lives and breathes, and it is something he has learned from others, including his mentors and family members. His work developing and directing the American Humanics (AH) Certificate Program in Nonprofit Management and Leadership at Fresno State has helped form and sustain partnerships in the community and produced one of the nation’s leading AH programs.

“This award is important to me because of what it stands for—providing leadership in service for others,” commented Jendian, “This is the definition of humanics—‘educating the whole person in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others.’ As Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, ‘We are prone to judge success by the index of our salaries or the size of our automobiles, rather than by the quality of our service relationship to humanity.’ Being presented with an award like this reminds me and others of the importance of being involved in service.”

The high value Dr. Jendian places on community partnerships is at the heart of his teaching, research, and professional service. He effectively communicates with his students and shares his passion for community engagement. He is known for reminding students that

“knowledge is not power, merely potential power, and that knowledge becomes powerful when it’s acted upon.”

Dr. Jendian, a native of Fresno and a 1991 graduate of Fresno State who majored in Sociology and completed minor degrees in Psychology and Armenian Studies, earned his Master’s and Doctoral degrees in Sociology from the University of Southern California. He has been part of the sociology faculty at Fresno State since 1995 and earned tenure and promotion to associate professor in August 2007. He and his wife, Pamela, reside in Clovis with their two sons, Joshua and Nicholas.

In May 2006, Dr. Jendian was the recipient of two university-wide faculty awards at Fresno State—the “Spirit of Service Award,” presented by the Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning, and the “Outstanding Advisor Award,” presented by the Campus Advisors’ Network in acknowledgment of his role on campus as a “key to student success.” Dr. Jendian serves as a board member for several local nonprofit organizations, including the Fresno Nonprofit Advancement Council, Fresno Housing Alliance, and Relational Culture Institute. This year, he was elected chair of the national American Humanics Directors Association and serves on the National Board of Directors of American Humanics, Inc. Dr. Jendian is also the author of the recently published book, *Becoming American, Remaining Ethnic: The Case of Armenian-Americans in Central California* (NY: LFB Scholarly Publishing, 2008).

Send us your opinions.

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

SAROYAN, FROM PAGE 1

menacing looking soldiers with machine guns. The bar, once a place of recreation, becomes a place of doom.

Panic and fear are expressed by 39 people who are found guilty of committing such “heinous” acts as being unemployed or writing a bad review of a play. These people are then killed in thirty seconds in a form of hysteria with blue and red lights flickering on and off and gunshots constantly sounding off-stage.

In the center of these killings are Archie and Rose, whose characters come alive on stage through the extraordinarily talented Fresno State seniors, James Taylor and Ferin Petrelli. The fear, anger, and hopelessness these two characters experienced resonated with the audience members. Archie and Rose are just ordinary people who want their lives back, especially Archie, who wants his bar back. “Archie wants his routine back, his life back, but the government won’t give him that,” said Taylor.

Rose is an alcoholic teenager



James Taylor

who uses Archie as her surrogate father so the government cannot convict her of being an enemy of the state. Rose finds a way to overcome her own troubles by comforting those who are found guilty. “Rose matures throughout the play, at the beginning she was in a desperate state, but then she realizes there’s something more important than herself,” noted Ferin Petrelli, who this summer became a national finalist at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

One especially touching scene was when Rose handed a cigarette to Joseph, an accused man found

guilty by the court. All of the accused are issued a cigarette and a drink before they are murdered. Rose is so distraught, that the minute she hands him the cigarette, the cigarette drops to the floor. As she stoops down to pick up the cigarette, he goes down with her and puts his hand under her chin to bring her up. The moment he touches her face, the audience can feel the pain these two are experiencing.

Archie and Rose do not interfere with the proceedings of the corrupt court justice, as they do not want to become enemies of the state. At this time the accused man Joseph, who touched Rose’s chin, stands defiantly, with his head up and says, “Happy Birthday,” and “get born.” After he says this, he is taken by the soldiers and is shot outside of Archie’s bar.

The sayings “Happy Birthday” and “get born” have a religious connotation in this aspect because the play is set during Christmas. To set the play during Christmas was the Theatre Arts Department’s decision, as the original script was not set in a specific time of the year.

The climatic scene takes place when the court finds an eight-year-old boy guilty and sentences him to death. The boy’s crime is that he hates his parents and The Republic. The boy remains calm, but Archie remains calm no longer. As he attempts to take back control of his bar, all of a sudden, a new directive is issued to the courtroom that states that all court officials must change places with the accused and be tried as the accused.



Ferin Petrelli

Photo: Marissa Isquierdo

The system becomes topsy-turvy once more, but unlike the old court officials, the new court officials

find the accused “guilty of being alive!” Once again, the court officials change places with the accused, but before the judge can kill the little boy, Archie runs across the bar and breaks a bottle over the judge’s head. The court is adjourned and the little boy leaves with his father. As the rest of the people await their fate, they shed tears of relief and joy as Christmas music resonates in the background.

The play leaves one stunned and makes one think about their own life. The ultimate point of the play is that people are responsibility for preserving democracy, and if they do not, then the government “will be watching you.” “Slaughter of the Innocents” is a shocking play that holds true to its name.

The play, according to Dr. Emanuel, is not at all like William Saroyan. But, the point of the Saroyan Centennial is to show the many different sides of Saroyan’s work. “People will always be interested in Saroyan. He’s a great storyteller because he writes about the human condition.”

Thank You Annual Fund

(as of September 30, 2008)

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Lawyer and Photographer Richard Elbrecht Passes Away in Fresno



STAFF REPORT

Richard Elbrecht, a lawyer who photographed historic Armenian churches in Turkey, died May 26 in Fresno. He was in Fresno to meet with faculty of the Armenian Studies Program about creating a Web page for a photographic project when he died, at the age of 74, of a heart arrhythmia at his hotel.

He spent two decades with his wife Anne photographing historic Armenian churches and cathedrals in eastern Turkey (historic Armenia). During nine trips, they captured images of the rich heritage of a nation nearly destroyed by the Armenian Genocide. In December (see *Hye Sharzhoom*, Vol. 29, No. 2, page 1), Mr. and Mrs. Elbrecht agreed to donate their collection of 157 prints to the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

“This collection is an invaluable gift,” said Barlow Der Mugerdechian, coordinator of the

Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. “It will make the Program the foremost archive of these historic churches anywhere in the world and accessible to everyone on the Internet.”

During a vacation trip to Turkey in 1987, Mr. Elbrecht and his wife learned many Armenian churches had been abandoned since the 1915 genocide. The couple began a mission to document the ancient religious monuments, traveling back roads without guides to photograph churches built as early as the 7th century.

The images were widely exhibited at Armenian churches in California and during international conferences of scholars on historic Armenia at UCLA.

“Richard was an extroverted, super-high-energy person,” Anne Elbrecht said. “He wanted to start back into photography, and this was a project we decided to do. It was a way to help others.”

Elbrecht expressed his concern for others with a firm grasp of the law, a passion for preserving cultural treasures and tireless dedication. He championed the rights of consumers and small businesses as a lawyer, including 27 years heading the legal services unit at the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, 5245 N. Backer Ave., PB4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001.

DER MUGRDECHIAN, FROM PAGE 1

From 2001-2004 Der Mugerdechian was President of the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS), the international organization composed of scholars and teachers involved in the study of the Armenians. He also was the editor for the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, Volume 12. From 1997-2003, he was editor of the *SAS Newsletter*, published three

times a year. Currently he manages the SAS Secretariat, based in the Armenian Studies Program.

For the past twenty-four years he has been the advisor to the Armenian Students Organization on campus and advisor for the *Hye Sharzhoom/Armenian Action* newspaper, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

Community Activist Richard Darmanian Dies



STAFF REPORT

Richard Darmanian, a long-time educator and Armenian community activist died June 10, at the age of 81. Mr. Darmanian was a mem-

ber of the Armenian Studies Program Advisory Board and was actively involved in the Armenian Studies Program.

He was a principal at Hoover and Edison high schools and for many years was director of the Armenian National Committee in Central California. He retired from Fresno Unified in 1988.

Mr. Darmanian was born in Sacramento and moved to Caruthers as a boy with his family. He worked in his family’s vineyard and apricot orchard while attending Caruthers High School. Mr. Darmanian graduated from Caruthers High, then from Fresno State College, and earned a master’s degree there

in guidance and education. He married Armon Mamigonian in 1949. The Darmanians bought 20 acres in the Lone Star-Sunnyside area in 1959, built a home and farmed.

Mr. Darmanian was a past president of the Fresno Exchange Club, a member of the Armenian Town Redevelopment Plan and served on the Holy Trinity Armenian Church board. He was a founding member of the Armenian Community School of Fresno, and served six years as its Board of Education chairman. He also served as chairman of the Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley and on the April 24 Commemorative Committee.

Genocide Survivor Sam Kalfayan Passes Away

STAFF REPORT

Sam Sarkis Kalfayan, former chairman of the Armenian Studies Program Advisory Board, died Saturday, September 6, at the age of 97.

He was born Sarkis Papazian in Samson, Turkey, but escaped when he was 3 during Ottoman Turkish massacres that took the lives of his father, two brothers and two sisters. Young Mr. Kalfayan and his mother, Aghavni, fled to Cairo, Egypt, where they lived several years.

In Cairo and still a teenager, his

mother met another survivor of the Genocide. His wife and son had been killed, too. The two married, and young Mr. Kalfayan learned to speak French, Arabic, and Turkish.

He entered the United States at Ellis Island, N.Y., changed his first name to Sam and took the last name of his new stepfather, Barsam Kalfayan, in Wisconsin. The family moved to the Dinuba area in time for Mr. Kalfayan to enter grammar school. He graduated from Dinuba High School, caring for his polio-stricken father. He married his first wife, Serphouhi, but was called to serve in World War II in

his early 30s, where he served under General Patton. He returned home and found that the torment of war had left his wife mentally ill. She soon took her own life.

Mr. Kalfayan graduated from Fresno State College then earned master’s degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Southern California. He was married to his second wife, Meliné, whom he called the love of his life, for 48 years. After her death, he married a third time, to Khatoun Lena Kalfayan, who survives him.

Armenians on the Internet

PATEEL MEKHITARIAN-EDITOR

www.duduk.com

Music is an essential part of life for the Armenian people. Many traditional folk instruments have been played for centuries and are still played today. These include the *duduk*, *saz*, *kamanche*, *dumbeg*, *oud*, *kanun*, and many more. All of these instruments express rich rhythmic melodies and harmonies, which have all been greatly influenced by Komitas, an Armenian priest and famous composer. Komitas continually chose harmonies that would respect the modal nature of the Armenian melody. Latter composers of Armenian music referred to Komitas as a key source for determining which melodies coincide with the Armenian traditions.

The *duduk* is an instrument dating back 1,500 years. It is best described as a double wind instrument made of apricot wood with a sound that has a humanlike voice quality. The *duduk* has a cylindrical wooden pipe, with nine holes, equally spaced throughout the wood (8 for finger holes, and one for the thumb). The music that it produces is unique, with a warm, soft tone. The *duduk* is used for slow lyrical tunes, such as folk songs and also faster dance-tunes.

www.hyeetch.nareg.com.au

In addition to the *duduk*, the *kamanche* is a popular instrument among Armenians. The *kamanche* is a bowed spike fiddle and contains four metal strings. The body consists of a wooden hemisphere covered with thin sheepskin. The instrument bridge runs diagonally across this sheepskin membrane. *Kamamches* are most similar to the size of a viola and are played in the upright position, either by resting it on the knee when sitting, or held in front of the player when standing. This instrument also has a bow, made of horse-hair, known as the *doksar*.

The *kamanche* dates back to the 15th century Persia. This unique instrument is made ornately, often with mother of pearl, bone, or ivory. Similar to the *kanun*, there are variations of the *kamanche*, depending on the country. Tuning and structural alterations occur with cultural influences depending on the country. Other than Armenia, the *kamamche* is popular in the traditional music of Iran, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.

The instruments used in modern Armenian culture date back centuries, however are still valued and cherished today. For the Armenians, music is an approachable way to express its history, its people, and its current situation. For images or more information on numerous Armenian traditional instruments, visit http://www.face-music.ch/instrum/armenia_instrum_en.html.

BOURNOUTIAN, FROM PAGE 1

Storrs, Hartford), Rutgers University, Tufts University, and Ramapo College. He received his Ph.D. from UCLA with a thesis: *Eastern Armenia on the Eve of the Russian Conquest* (revised and published in book form in 1982).

Armenian, Persian, and Russian history are the major areas of Dr. Bournoutian’s research interests.

Dr. Bournoutian is the author of seventeen books, and dozens of

peer-reviewed articles in journals and encyclopedias, including the *Journal for Iranian Studies*, *Encyclopedia Iranica*, and the *Journal for the Society for Armenian Studies*. His latest books include *Tigranes II and Rome* (2007), *The Travel Accounts of Simeon of Poland* (2006), and *A Concise History of the Armenian People* (revised and enlarged 5th edition) (2006).

Dr. Bournoutian is a member of

the Middle East Studies Association, the Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, the Society for Armenian Studies, the Iranian Studies Association, and the Association internationale des études arméniennes.

The course will be open to regularly matriculating student and open to community members as well.

Contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669 for details.

Upcoming events:



Trees planted by the Armenia Tree Project at St. Trdat Church in Armenia.

“The Armenia Tree Project”

by
Jeff Masarjian

Executive Director, Armenia Tree Project

Tuesday, November 18
7:30 PM

Armenia Tree Project, a non-profit program based in Watertown and Yerevan, conducts vitally important environmental projects in Armenia’s impoverished and deforested zones and seeks support in advancing its reforestation mission. Since 1994, ATP has made enormous strides in combating desertification in the biologically diverse but threatened Caucasus region. Over 2,000,000 trees have been planted and restored, and hundreds of jobs have been created for Armenians in seasonal tree-regeneration programs.

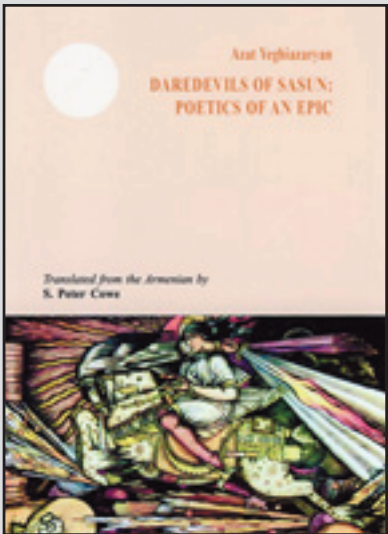
University Business Center,
A. Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191, Fresno State
Co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and
Armenian Students Organization

Free Admission.
Parking restrictions relaxed in
University Business Center and Lot J.

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
The John and Lucile Melkonian Memorial Lecture

“The Armenian Folk Epic
Daredevils of Sasun”

by
Dr. Azat Yeghiazaryan
Director, Abeghyan Literature Institute
Armenian Academy of Sciences, Yerevan, Armenia



Wednesday, November 5
7:30 PM

Daredevils of Sasun occupies a unique place in world epic heritage. It had been created in medieval centuries, but already there is a contradiction in this. Epics such as the Iliad were recorded at the beginning of its national history, while the Armenian epic takes its origin in the depths of history.

Daredevils of Sasun tells the tale of the life, loves, and heroic struggles of four generations of the House of Sasun to establish their patrimony and uphold the weal of their community against the onslaught of imperialist invaders.

Free Admission.
Student Recreation Center
Leon and Pete Peters Educational Center
Co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program
and Armenian Students Organization

Festschrift in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian

Between Paris and Fresno:
Armenian Studies in Honor of
Dickran Kouymjian

Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda Press, 2008.lxii + 730 pp., 6 x 9 inch.,
illus., bibl. ISBN: 13:978-1-56589-1681 (hardcover)

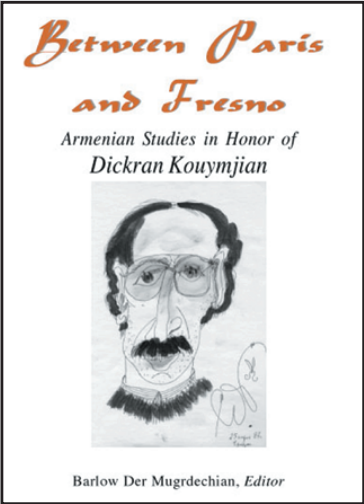
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FILM FESTIVAL,
FROM PAGE 1

Deadline for entries to be received
is January 15, 2009.

Please send the video/DVD to:

Armenian Film Festival
c/o Armenian Studies Program
5245 N Backer Ave. PB4
Fresno, CA 93740-8001

Entries should be accompanied by
a CV of the director/writer
and a synopsis of the film.

Telephone 559-278-2669
Email: barlowd@csufresno.edu

The Festival Committee will meet
to view and judge which
entries will be accepted for the Film
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