

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

**31<sup>st</sup>**  
**Year**

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Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

## **Der Mugrdechian-25th Year in Armenian Studies Program**

**PATEEL  
MEKHITARIAN**  
*EDITOR*

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian was recruited from France to restart the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State in 1977. Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian was a freshman at Fresno State in 1974, and was present to experience the beginning of the new program.

Der Mugrdechian was very involved in Armenian related events during his college career, taking a one-month trip to Armenia sponsored by the Armenian Church Youth Organization (ACYO) in 1978, and also taking a course in Armenian Art with Dr. Kouymjian. Der Mugrdechian was eager to expand his knowledge of the Armenian culture. He recalls how the Armenian Students Organization was reorganized and the beginning of the Armenian student newspaper, *Hye Sharzhoom/Armenian Action*, in 1979.



**Barlow Der Mugrdechian**

*Photo: Ali Peyvandi*

“Dr. Kouymjian inspired me to continue my studies in Armenian Studies after I graduated from Fresno State in 1979. I was accepted to UCLA in the fall of 1980, and spent five years completing my Masters Degree and Candidate in Philosophy degrees,” said Der Mugrdechian. After completing his degrees in fall of 1985, he was invited by Dr. Kouymjian to return to Fresno State and teach courses in Armenian language and culture. Since then, he has been happily teaching, becoming the Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program and the Director of the Center

SEE **DER MUGRDECHIAN** PAGE 7

## **Keyan Armenian School Begins New Year With Positive Changes**



*Photo: Tamar Karkazian*

**Principal Sophie Mekhitarian**

**TAMAR KARKAZIAN**  
*STAFF WRITER*

For over 30 years Armenian children from all over the Valley have been attending the Armenian Community School of Fresno. In the past couple of years the Armenian Community School has undergone numerous changes, ranging from a change in location to introduction of after-school programs.

Some of the more obvious changes are of the name and location. Over a year ago the Armenian Community School moved to its

current location at 108 N. Villa Ave, in Clovis. In that time they have made it their home, bringing Armenian culture into the walls of the buildings. Along with the move, the Armenian Community School of Fresno was renamed the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School (CKACS), to honor Charlie Keyan, whose donation allowed the school to purchase the new grounds.

This fall, Sophie Mekhitarian joined the staff as principal. Within the first few months of her tenure, she has sparked a new “can do” attitude. Her goal is to not only get all of the children on and above grade level but also to help each child find their “niche in life.”

Ms. Mekhitarian has been involved in education all of her life, working both as a teacher and administrator in the Clovis District. “Sophie is helping the school reach a new level with her positive energy,” stated Hagop Kelejian, co-Chair of the Board of Education, “Good things are happening.”

Ms. Mekhitarian has already started incorporating some new programs in the school day to help the students grow. An after-school

SEE **ARMENIAN SCHOOL** PAGE 7

## **Pianist Nareh Arghamanyan Gives Outstanding Concert in Philip Lorenz Keyboard Series**

**EVELYN K. DEMIRCHIAN**  
*STAFF WRITER*

Twenty-year-old piano prodigy Nareh Arghamanyan graced a packed auditorium on September 18th at the Fresno State Concert Hall. Arghamanyan’s electrifying performance was at once elegant, moving, and worthy of the international praise she has received as one of the youngest professional concert pianists. Playing a two-hour set, Arghamanyan exuded energy with her performance, not often seen in classical piano. Beginning her set with Mendelssohn’s *Variations sérieuses*, Op. 54, Arghamanyan played with a masterful touch, showing off her skills taking on Schuman’s *Carnaval*, a lively rendition of Op. 9, Tchaikovsky’s *Concert Suite* from “The Nutcracker” and finally a beautiful take on Rachmaninoff and his *Sonata in B-flat Minor*, Op. 36. The concert was part of the Philip



*Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian*

**Philip Lorenz Keyboard Concert director Andreas Werz with pianist Nareh Arghamanyan at Keyboard Concert, Sept. 18.**

Lorenz Keyboard concert Series at Fresno State and co-sponsored with the Armenian Studies Program.

Arghamanyan’s concert elicited a cheerful round of applause from the audience and delighted the many that came out that night to see her.

The vigor and energy that pours out from her performance ignited excitement in those who were witness to her masterful command of the keyboard. Coming out onto the

SEE **ARGHAMANYAN** PAGE 6

## **Rosalie Mahakian Bequest of \$50,000 to ASP**

**STAFF REPORT**

Castro Valley resident Rosalie Mahakian has bequeathed the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno \$50,000 for general Program purposes. She passed away in Castro Valley on February 10, 2007.

Rosalie Hagopian Mahakian, born in Fresno, California July 7, 1922, was one of five children in the family of Ovagim and Eliza-

beth Hagopian. Her childhood was that of a typical farming family: picking grapes, stacking trays when it rained, or drying raisins. Living conditions were Spartan, but parental love was overflowing.

Mahakian received her bachelor’s degree from the University of California at Berkeley and was an educator for 32 years in the same San Leandro school during which time she developed a passion for traveling—mostly done on

a shoestring. She developed an insatiable passion for the arts that took her to the major museums of the world. She traveled extensively to Europe (including a trip to Armenia), South America, and Africa where she flew over Victoria Falls. She took shorter trips to the Ozarks, Hawaii, Cape Cod, Washington, D. C., the Rockies and many other places.

SEE **MAHAKIAN** PAGE 7

## **Eleventh Annual Armenian Film Festival**

**Spring 2010  
(Date to be Announced)**

**Sponsored by the Armenian  
Students Organization  
Armenian Studies Program**

**Partially funded by the  
Diversity Awareness Program  
of the University Student Union**

**First Call for Entries**

Entries are being sought for the 11th Annual Armenian Film Festival to be held on the California State University, Fresno campus. Films made by Armenian directors/writers, or films with an Ar-

SEE **FILM FESTIVAL** PAGE 2

## **La Porta Starts New Semester at Fresno State With Enthusiasm**

**HAGOP OHANESSIAN**  
*STAFF WRITER*

Dr. Sergio La Porta was appointed as Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State and joined the faculty this Fall semester as an Associate Professor of Armenian Studies.

Dr. La Porta’s father immigrated from Sicily in 1960 and his mother, whose parents were English and Dutch, was born in New York. Dr. La Porta is a native of Elmhurst, Queens, New York City and received his undergraduate degree from Columbia University in New York where he studied Indology and Middle Eastern Studies. Dur-



**Dr. Sergio La Porta**

*Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian*

ing his junior year at Columbia, he studied abroad at Oxford University where he studied Sanskrit, Pali, and Tibetan. After graduating, he attended Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University

SEE **LA PORTA** PAGE 6



**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.

**Antonia Arslan and Paolo Zaninoni** for the gift of the book *La Strada di Smirne* [The Road From Smyrna] (Milan, R.C.S. Libri SpA; 2009), authored by Antonia Arslan.

**Serge Avedikian**, Paris, for a copy of his movie, “We Drank the Same Water.” [French, English, Armenian].

**Dr. George Bournoutian**, Iona University, for his gift of the book *Armenians in Australia and New Zealand*, by Fr. Aramais Mirzaian (Sydney, Australia, 1966).

**Dr. Bill Erysian**, Fresno, for the gift of his dissertation, *Economic Challenges and Solutions in the Future Development of Agricultural Management in the Republic of Armenia*, (Armenian State Agrarian University, Yerevan, 2008). 174 pp.

**Richard Kloian**, Richmond, California, for a gift of the newly restored and edited 24 minute segment of the historic motion picture, *Ravished Armenia*, produced in 1919. The newly remastered video (2009) was produced by the Armenian Genocide Resource Center of Northern California. It includes a music score, an introduction, 125 sub-titles, and slideshow of production stills.

**Col. Carl Mahakian**, Palm Desert, for the gift of the following books: William Saroyan’s *The Time of Your Life* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1939); *Ataturk: A Biography of Mustafa Kemal, Father of Modern Turkey*, by Lord Kinross (New York: William Morrow and Company, 1965); *Journeys Between Wars* by John Dos Passos (Harcourt: New York, 1922); *Early Highland Peoples of Anatolia* by Seton Lloyd (McGraw-Hill: New York, 1967); and *The Saturday Evening Post Stories: 1957* (Random House: New York, 1957).

**Hideharu Nakajima**, for the gift of his book, *All About Armenia in 65 Chapters* (Akshi Shoten Co., Japan: May 2009), in Japanese. In 1984 Nakajim founded the Japanese Institute of Armenia, later renamed the Japan Armenia Friendship Association. The purpose of JAFA is to promote mutual understanding between the Japanese and Armenian peoples. Nakajima’s previous book, *The Armenian Genocide: The History and Culture of the Armenian People*, was published in 2007.

**Haig Sarajian**, for the gift of his book, *The Silent Generation* (Oradell, NJ: 2009).

**Lucille Gochigian-Sarkissian**, for thirty-four copies of her father’s memoirs, *My Father’s Journal: A Soliloquy*, by Toros Aris Gochigian, edited by Lucille Gochigian-Sarkissian (Delmar, New York: Linden Printing Services, 2001).

**Dr. John Shields**, for copies of *A History of the Armenian People, Volumes I and II*, by George Bournoutian (Costa Mesa: Mazda Publishers, 1993 and 1994).

**Dr. Abraham Terian**, for a copy of his book *Macarius of Jerusalem: Letter to the Armenians, AD 335* (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2008). The book is a translation from the Armenian, with a detailed commentary on the significance of this earliest reference to Armenian Christianity.

**Martin Tourigian**, Drexel Hills, Pennsylvania, for a gift of his music books with original musical compositions of Armenian songs.

**Dr. Ruben Vanian**, Visalia, California, for a gift of the books, *The Bride Escapes* (Wheaton, IL, 1985), by Donith Dyer and *Brother of the Bride* (Wheaton, IL, 1985), by Donith Dyer. *The Bride Escapes* was dedicated to the donor’s father, Vaughn Charles Vanian, and concerns his Ruben Vanian’s uncle and grandfather. *The Bride Escapes* is about Ruben Vanian’s aunt Pearl, who survived the Genocide and moved to the United States.

**FILM FESTIVAL, FROM PAGE 1**

menian 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.

Please send the video/DVD to:  
**Armenian Film Festival**  
c/o Armenian Studies Program  
5245 N Backer Ave. PB4  
Fresno, CA 93740-8001

**Deadline for entries to be received is January 15, 2010.**

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 Festival. Entrants will be contacted by email with the decisions.

California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program				
Spring 2010 Schedule of Courses				
Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
<b>General Education</b>				
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Area C1</b>				
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia (Class #33057)	3	9:30A-10:45P	TuTh	B Der Mugrdechian
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Area C2</b>				
• Arm 1B Elementary Armenian (Class #32265)	3	10:30A-11:35A	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
• Hum 10 Hum Antqty/Ren (Class #32430)	3	11:00A-12:15A	TuTh	S LaPorta
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities, Area IC</b>				
• Arm 148 Masterp. Arm Culture (Class #37261)	3	11:00A-11:50A	MWF	S LaPorta
<b>Upper Division Armenian Studies Courses</b>				
• ArmS 108B Arm History II (Class #31010)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	S LaPorta
• ArmS 120 Armenia Today (Class #36818)	1	5:00-8:50P 9:00A-5:00P	Fri Sa	B Der Mugrdechian
<i>Meets Friday, Feb. 19 and Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010</i>				
• ArmS 120 Arm Lit and Genocide (Class #37276)	3	12:30P-1:45P	TuTh	Kazan Visiting
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: <a href="http://www.csufresno.edu/catoffice/current/armstudhd.html">http://www.csufresno.edu/catoffice/current/armstudhd.html</a>				

# HYE SHARZHOOM

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## Kouymjian Elected to National Armenian Academy of Sciences



Armenological and Social Sciences section of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, April 2009. Dr. Kouymjian, far left.

### STAFF REPORT

In November 2007 Professor Dickran Kouymjian was elected a foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, the section devoted to Armenian Studies and Social Sciences. He was invited to the General Assembly of the Academy's five sections held on April 20-22, 2009 in Yerevan. On April 22 he presented his inaugural

address in Armenian to the Academy entitled "The Decoration of Armenian Manuscript Bindings."

The Plenary session closed with a grand banquet for all the academicians, new and old, hosted by the President of the Academy and former Rector of the Yerevan State University, Radik Martirosyan, who was joined by the Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan and other members of the government.

## Author Bobelian Presents New Book on Genocide

ARMEN MELIDONIAN  
STAFF WRITER

The Fig Garden Branch of the Fresno Public Library hosted author Michael Bobelian at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 1, for a book signing and to discuss his newly released *Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and the Century-Long Struggle for Justice*. This was Bobelian's last stop in California for a series of public book readings before returning to New York. The novel delves into various efforts by Armenians to seek recognition and justice on the Armenian Genocide, decades after the event, and how the denial and silence that followed affected them.

Bobelian began by reading the prologue of the book, which introduces Gourgen Yanikian, a seventy-seven year old Armenian who decides to avenge the crimes of the Armenian Genocide by killing two Turkish consuls living in Southern California in the late 1970s. The narrative shifts to the late 1800s when Yanikian was born and discusses the 1895-1896 pogroms throughout the Ottoman Empire, then jumps to the year 1915 when Yanikian witnesses the aftermath of the massacres in his hometown.

Bobelian presented news articles that covered the pogroms and the 1915 Armenian Genocide. News events were researched and brought up in the novel's narrative, some of which he discussed in his presentation. Scans and excerpts from several *New York Times* articles were presented, and Bobelian demon-

strated that "the event was widely known at the time," but was forgotten and ignored decades later.

Bobelian also noted that the victims of the Genocide inspired the first international aid program and that the Armenians were the first recipients of such a campaign. America was at the forefront of the aid programs, with campaigns raising funds for relief efforts, American-style posters promoting the cause, and involvement of prominent American celebrities, businessmen, and philanthropists, including Chaplin, Rockefeller, and Fitzgerald.

Bobelian then contrasted a quote from Herbert Hoover, "probably Armenia was known to the school child in 1919 only a little less than England...", with a quote from Hitler a week before the German invasion of Poland, "who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

Although America had championed relief programs for Armenians



Michael Bobelian

Photo: Erica Magarian

## Sarafian on "Remembering Adana"

HEIDI LEA  
STAFF WRITER

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State hosted historian Ara Sarafian on Monday, October 12 to give a presentation commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Adana Massacres of 1909. Sarafian is an archival historian specializing in late Ottoman history. He is director of the London based Gomidas Institute, which is a research and publication center for modern Armenian history.

Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian introduced Sarafian who has been a frequent guest speaker in Fresno. This lecture focused on the events that took place in the eastern regions of the Ottoman Empire during the month of April, 1909. Armenians living in the city of Adana were victims of unexpected, horrific mass killings, committed by Turkish mobs. This violence quickly spread to other Armenian villages in the region of Cilicia, and a total of between 20,000 and 30,000 Armenians were massacred.

Sarafian detailed this event with many new pictures, taken by German Ernst Jäckh, that captured the agricultural city of Adana and what it looked like before the massacres. Jäckh worked for German interests in the Ottoman Empire and was a Turcophile. The pictures documented some of the cotton farming and other type of work that was done seasonally in Adana, mostly by Armenian migrant workers who came to the city in early spring for the harvest season. Armenians made up approximately 10,000-15,000 of the city's 45,000 people. The next pictures showed the complete destruction of the city's Armenian sections, caused by both looting and fires, and the horrific fate of the innocent Armenian people.

Sarafian also discussed and read passages from Hagop Terzian's book, *Cilicia, 1909: The Massacre of Armenians* (Gomidas Institute,

during the Genocide, by the mid-1940s, America, which Turkey considers to be its strongest ally, sided with Turkey in its opposition to the Soviet Union. Bobelian summarizes the subsequent situation as an issue of recognition and remembrance of the event in the news and around the world. "The reason why the Armenian Genocide became the forgotten genocide was because the world moved on." This was contrasted to remembrance of the Holocaust. Books, films, museums, and monuments would help serve as strong reminders of the event, but for the Armenian Genocide, serious, successful efforts were not realized until the mid-1960s. In 1965, the 50th anniversary of the Genocide, there was a "resurrection." Armenians around the world held demonstrations, including in Soviet Armenia, where the largest gatherings occurred in Yerevan.

Two major hurdles to recognition of the Genocide by the United States were discussed. The first was that the world had moved on and wasn't interested in covering events related to remembrance of the

2009). This included graphic firsthand accounts by Terzian of how members of the Armenian community were brutally tortured and killed by the mobs. One passage described that it was nearly impossible for Armenians to escape. Those that fled to nearby villages were killed when the massacres reached those villages. It was difficult for Turks or foreigners in these areas to save or hide the Armenians as the mobs savagely raided the cities. Sarafian explained that the importance of Terzian's book is that it proved the massacres were not isolated events and it provided strong evidence and proof of the Armenians' account while simultaneously showing the permanent divide that occurred between the Young Turk government and the Armenian population after the Adana massacres. This divide would lead to the Armenian Geno-

ings and planned violence against Muslim neighbors spread throughout the Ottoman Empire. Immediately following the massacres, the bodies were burned or dumped in the river and the Ottoman government began discrediting the numerical figures of how many Armenians were killed. Sarafian argued that all of these factors are strong proof that the government played a lead role in orchestrating this atrocious event.

The 100th anniversary of the Adana Massacres is a reminder of the devastating last years of the Ottoman Empire and the fate that many Armenians suffered, both in 1909 and throughout the Genocide. In addition to lecturing about Adana, Sarafian is organizing a conference on the subject of Adana that will be held later this year in Istanbul, Turkey. This conference will include both Armenian and

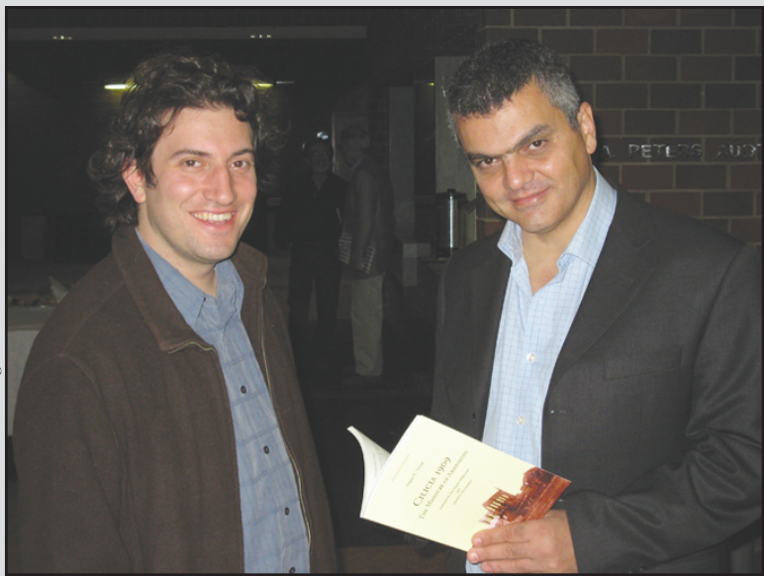


Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

Archival historian Ara Sarafian (right) with Arno Yeretizian.

cide that took place six years later in 1915.

Sarafian discussed the role of the Young Turk government in these mass killings. The Adana massacres were sanctioned by the Ottoman government and occurred in the form of large mobs of Turkish Muslims whose goal it was to destroy any Armenian they encountered during this swift, organized effort. Leading up to April of 1909, false rumors of Armenian upris-

Genocide. The second issue, an important one covered in the novel, is that Turkish denial and pressure was being put on the media and on academics. The Armenian Diaspora called for legislation by various governments. Not until the 1980s did the Armenians in the United States have a leader in Washington pushing for a Genocide Resolution — Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas). The Senator recognized the Genocide, and his Resolution in 1990 sparked months of debate in Congress. Supporters of the effort included Senators and Armenian advocates, who had a \$1 million budget. Opponents to the Resolution included Turkey and eight lobbyist firms with a \$3 million budget. Many in the government, such as the President and State Department, and Senate Appropriations Chairman Robert Byrd (D-West Virginia) opposed the resolution. Dole called the struggle a "David versus Goliath" situation.

The cover of the novel shows a family photo from 1908. The man with his leg crossed in the photo had purchased life insurance from

Turkish historians who want to discuss this event and give them an opportunity to come together to discuss some of these periods of history within the Ottoman Empire.

Audience members asked numerous questions at the conclusion of the lecture. Then, Arno Yeretizian of Abril Bookstore in Glendale, displayed a large variety of Armenian-related books for the audience to enjoy.

New York Life and given it to his sister, Elizabeth, who stands behind him in the photo. The whole family died in the Genocide except for Elizabeth. She tried to collect on the insurance policy, but was refused by the insurance company. Her grandson inherited the policy and is continuing that effort today. Bobelian discussed how this is one prominent example of "ghosts of the past" calling for recognition.

The novel features three narratives about the people who are fighting for recognition of the Armenian Genocide: a man avenging the death of his family and people into his old age; a lawyer trying to get a class-action lawsuit against New York Life for life insurance policies that were denied to their recipients; and the efforts to get a Genocide resolution passed in the United States government supported by Senator Bob Dole.

*Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and the Century-Long Struggle for Justice* was published in September 2009 and is now available in local bookstores and from online vendors.



# Armenian Students Organization Starts New Year



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdachian

L. to R.: Hagop Ohanessian, Faten Myaznih, Tamar Karkazian, Vartoush Mesropyan, and Karine Frnzyan.

**TAMAR KARKAZIAN**  
STAFF WRITER

**President: Hagop Ohanessian**  
**Major: Business Administration-Real Estate Urban Land Economic Option**  
**Minor: Armenian Studies and History**

**What do you hope to accomplish?**  
I hope to continue the traditions of ASO. I hope to meet new fellow Armenian students on campus and provide them with the best leadership. As President, I will work with the rest of my executives to make this year an exciting one for the students.

**What kind of response do you hope to get from the members? The Armenian community?**  
I want the members to feel that they are welcome and to provide them with a great experience in the club. I want members to be involved and work with the executives in making this year a success. I think the Armenian community has always had a positive response to ASO.

**What do you hope to accomplish in the future?**

I hope to continue on my education in graduate school with a goal of getting a Ph.D. In the future I want to become a Professor of Armenian Studies/History. I have also always been interested in Real Estate. I also will continue to be involved in the Armenian community such as church and other cultural organizations.

**Favorite quote:**  
“I’ve always known where I wanted to go in life. I’ve never let anything deter me. This is my purpose. It will unfold.” – Tiger Woods

**Vice President: Karine Frnzyan**  
**Major: Psychology**

**What do you hope to accomplish?**  
I wanted to become more involved in the Armenian Student Organization, as well as the Armenian Community in Fresno. I hope to make a difference in the Armenian Community.

**What kind of response do you hope to get from the members? The Armenian community?**

I hope to get positive response from both the ASO members as well as the Armenian community.

**What do you hope to accomplish in the future?**

I want to be a rehabilitation counselor as well as an applied behaviorist.

**Favorite quote:**  
“But in this world nothing can be certain, except death and taxes.” – Benjamin Franklin

**Treasurer: Faten Myaznih**  
**Major: Nursing**  
**Minor: Child Development/Vocal Performance**

**What do you hope to accomplish?**  
I want to try and get many sponsors to sponsor ASO so that we can do much more. I hope to come up with awesome events with the other great executive members and share them with other students in our school and the Armenian community. Last but not least, I definitely hope to get more Armenian students involved in our club.

**What kind of response do you hope to get from the members? The Armenian Community?**

I hope to get Happiness, Excitement & Smiles! More Ideas, more Greatness! Ideas on how to make ASO the best it could be! I hope to get the Armenian community involved as well. We all need to come together as one and to let everyone know what wonderful things are going on in our community brought to them by our club!

**What do you hope to accomplish in the future?**

I hope to accomplish many great things in life. I hope to become a Pediatric or Surgical Nurse. Helping people has always been my passion. I hope to be the best that I can be and be strong with everything I face.

**Favorite quote:**

“If in our daily life we can smile, if we can be peaceful and happy, not only we, but everyone will profit from it. This is the most basic kind of peace work.” – Thich Nhat Hanh

**Secretary: Vartoush Mesropyan**  
**Major: Nursing**

**What do you hope to accomplish?**  
I have always been interested getting involved with Armenians and have one hope and belief to make a difference and bring in new ideas to the organization.

sis is unheard, and prayers are no more answered. Go ahead, destroy Armenia. See if you can do it. Send them into the desert without bread or water. Burn their homes and churches. Then see if they will not laugh again, sing and pray again. For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a new Armenia.” – William Saroyan

**Public Relations: Tamar Karkazian**  
**Major: Business Administration, Option in Sports Marketing**  
**Minor: Armenian and Coaching**

**What do you hope to accomplish?**



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdachian

Armenian Students Organization members at meeting.

**What kind of response do you hope to get from the members? The Armenian community?**

Growing up in Armenian family and community I have always believed there was something so unique about Armenians; the culture and heritage is one of a kind. I hope the Armenian community realizes how much hard work we put into our objectives to an effective team and gain appreciation.

**What do you hope to accomplish in the future?**

I hope to become a registered nurse because I enjoy helping and comforting people in need, especially the elderly. I am also hoping to reach out to the Armenian community more often and set an example to younger Armenian children.

**Favorite quote:**  
“I should like to see any power of the world destroy this race, this small tribe of unimportant people, whose wars have all been fought and lost, whose structures have crumbled, literature is unread, mu-

I hope to get a lot more people to participate in the ASO and in the Armenian Community. Also, I hope that we, the ASO, can organize many various activities this year that everyone will enjoy.

**What kind of response do you hope to get from the members? The Armenian community?**

I hope that we can get both members from the community and ASO to participate in not only ASO events but other community events as well. I hope that we can get a response of enthusiasm from the ASO members and support from the community.

**What do you hope to accomplish in the future?**

I see myself in the sports world; running things for a huge corporation, like the NBA. I plan on continuing my involvement in the Armenian Community wherever I go.

**Favorite quote:**  
“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

## ASO Fall Semester Activities

**TAMAR KARKAZIAN**  
STAFF WRITER

The start of September marked the beginning the new ASO year. The 2009-2010 Armenian Students Organization term began on September 2 with its first ASO meeting. This meeting was followed by bi-monthly meetings on Wednesday nights.

An executive committee was selected, with Hagop Ohanessian, who will graduate this Fall, as president. Karine Frnzyan, who wants to be a rehabilitation counselor in the future, was selected as vice president. Selected for treasurer was Faten Myaznih, who’s a nursing major. Vartoush Mesropyan, who is also part of the Armenian Radio Hour at Fresno State, was selected as secretary. Tamar Karkazian was elected Public Relations officer.

The Executive Committee has already met numerous times to discuss their goals and plans for the year. Their goal — bring as many Armenians together as possible. They plan on accomplishing this with many social activities such as parties and picnics. Also on the agenda is fundraising.

Their first fundraising event was a car wash, held on Saturday, October 10. It took place at Viktoriya’s



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdachian

ASO at car wash/fund raiser held Saturday, October 10.

Restaurant, at the corner of Herndon and Ingram. The car wash was a great success, with much of the success due to the hardworking members of ASO who came out to help and also to the generous owners of Viktoriya’s. The workers ended the day with a trip to Jamba Juice to cool off.

The ASO has put together an activities committee. Headed by the executives, the job of the activities committee is to help run and plan the ASO activities. So far this committee of eight has come together to help prepare and run the car wash.

The ASO has started a third committee — the Armenian Genocide Week Committee. This committee consists of thirteen people who will organize events throughout the week of April 24. They will plan and coordinate, along with the executive and activities committees, events to help commemorate the 1.5 million Armenians lost in the Genocide.

The ASO is planning a very productive year, with plenty of activities. If all goes well we should be looking at a successful year.



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdachian

Many cars were cleaned at ASO car wash.

**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)!**



# Armenian Community of Kuwait

HAGOP OHANESSIAN  
STAFF WRITER

Kuwait is a small sovereign Arab emirate bordered by Saudi Arabia to the south, Iraq to the north and west, and the Persian Gulf to the east. Kuwait is one the richest countries in the world, per capita, and is known for its large oil reserves. Kuwait is extremely hot in the summer, reaching high temperatures of 125 to 130 degrees. Kuwait also has the highest currency exchange rates in comparison to the rest of world. For example, one Kuwaiti Dinar is about \$3.50. The largest bill is only 20 Dinars, about \$90.

The population of Kuwait is three million and there are about three thousand Armenians that live there. The Armenians are well respected by the Kuwaiti government and the community has preserved the Armenian culture through the church, school, and the many cultural organizations. All of the Armenians live in Kuwait City, which is the capital. I have an aunt and uncle in Kuwait and this summer I had the opportunity to travel to Kuwait to see my family as well as to explore the Armenian community. I was in Kuwait for about two months beginning May 28 and returning on July 25.

Armenians and other “foreigners” who live in Kuwait are not allowed citizenship rights. Every Armenian has what we would call a “Green Card” or temporary residence in the country, which must



Photo: Hagop Ohanessian

Skyline of Kuwait City, capital of Kuwait.

be renewed once a year. Foreigners are also not allowed to own private property so Armenians have to rent their homes and businesses. Only Kuwaitis are allowed ownership of property. Church services are on Friday mornings because that is when the Arabs also attend the mosque. A Friday is like our Sun-

day here in the United States and that is when most places are closed. In midst of all of these rules and regulations, Armenians have still managed to keep their identity.

Kuwait is interesting because the Armenian community is not very old. Armenians settled in Kuwait in the early 1950s, coming from Syria and Lebanon. Armenians who went to Kuwait in the 1950s primarily went to look for work. The Armenians are skilled workers in different fields such as: body shop, mechanics, and electricians. There are also teachers, doctors, and those involved in business.

My aunt’s family was one of the first Armenian families to travel to Kuwait in 1952. My aunt’s mother, Marie Emrazian and her husband, went to Kuwait in 1952 from Syria to look for a new opportunity in a different country. Mrs. Emrazian explained to me how she was one of the original founders of a Sunday school in Kuwait in 1952. In Syria, Marie Emrazian was a Sunday school teacher as well as a school teacher. During that time there were only eight Armenian families in Kuwait and there was no church or school to support the growing Armenian community. She founded a Sunday school where she invited local Armenian students to attend. These Armenian chil-

dren were attending Arab schools and did not have the opportunity to learn about Christianity.

In 1962 Mrs. Emrazian said the Armenian population of Kuwait grew and they needed a church and a priest to lead the Armenian community. The Armenian Catholicosate of Antelias sent Fr. Barouyr Sarkisian, who became the first pastor in Kuwait. With a few volunteers and the help of the Catholicos, an Armenian school was opened and a church was also established for the Armenian community. Fr. Sarkisian arrived in February, which in Armenian history is dedicated to St. Vartan, so they named the church St. Vartan. For two years, Mrs. Emrazian volunteered in the Sunday school and taught the students the Armenian alphabet, Armenian history, and the Bible.

As the years passed, with the help of the local government and founded and was involved in doing a lot of fund raising for the Armenian Church and school as well as training young athletes for numerous athletic events.

Unfortunately, the Persian Gulf War of 1991 caused about 1,000 Armenians to leave the country in fear, with many returning to Syria and Lebanon. Others emigrated to the United States and Canada.

Kuwait has had four primates in its history: Archbishop Oshagan, Archbishop Sebouh, Archbishop Yeprem, and currently, Archbishop Gorion Babian. The current pastor is Fr. Ardak who is a native of Syria.

The Armenian community of Kuwait is strong and Armenians take pride in their rich culture. The young Armenians are active in their community and are involved with the church and Homenetmen. Every Armenian child knows how to speak at least three languages: Ar-



Photo: Hagop Ohanessian

Front entrance to the St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church of Kuwait City.

## Saroyan Honored in His Second Century With Washing Ceremony



Ed Lanfranco at Saroyan’s grave in the Ararat cemetery.

STAFF REPORT

Photo: Bill Erysian

Ed Lanfranco is a native of Fresno who lived and worked in China for two decades, including the last eight years as a Beijing-based correspondent for United Press International.

Lanfranco, an expert on the city of Beijing and well-versed in Chinese history and culture, said he was motivated by two of China’s celebrations for the dead: Qingming and the Hungry Ghost Festival to come clean William Saroyan’s

tombstone on the author’s 101st birthday.

Qingming, meaning “Clear and Bright,” is a rare (for China) solar calendar determined event falling on either April 4, 5 or 6. It is a family-oriented time to sweep clean and make offerings at the graves of one’s ancestors. The Hungry Ghost Festival takes place during the seventh month of the lunar calendar, usually during September on the Gregorian Calendar.

## Eeench ga Chga

KNAR MEKHITARIAN -STAFF WRITER

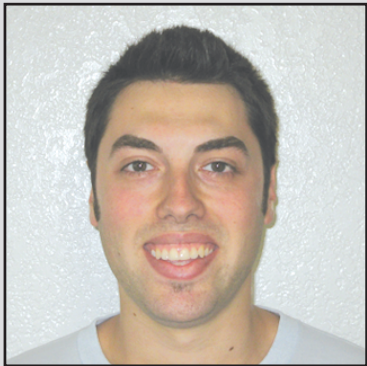
### How have the budget cuts affected you this semester?

Talene Karkazian

“The budget cuts at Fresno State have significantly affected me, as well as other students, in our attempt to graduate! Because Fresno State is no longer issuing students



permission numbers to add a class that is already full, it really affected my chances of graduating because I couldn’t get into the last class I needed! Luckily, the counselors and professors of each department are making exceptions in order to help seniors graduate in time.”



Janik Oganessian

“The budget cuts have caused me a great deal of stress because of the difficulty in getting into my classes this semester. Fees also went up a great deal and have caused me to work more hours, cutting time from my studying. Fresno State seems to be in a HUGE mess right now. Some of my professors are saying that the situation will be worse next semester—great!”

Taline Kasparian

“The budget cut has drastically effected many students. I was stuck with the classes I initially signed up for and could not add new classes because the capacity for each classroom was lowered. It was difficult to add another class. I didn’t even add one. Every class was already full.”



Photos: Barlow Der Mugerdechian



## La Porta Teaches Armenian History Course

HAGOP OHANESSIAN  
STAFF WRITER

Armenian Studies/History 108A, a survey of ancient and medieval Armenian history, is one of the Armenian courses offered this semester at Fresno State. A diverse group of students who are interested in learning about Armenian history have enrolled in the course, part of a two semester survey of Armenian history offered through the Armenian Studies Program. According to the catalog description this course examines, "The History of Armenia and Armenians from prehistoric times to the beginning of the modern era." This semester Dr. Sergio La Porta, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, is teaching the course.

A *Concise History of the Armenian People* by Dr. George Bournoutian is the textbook. I had the opportunity to sit in on Professor La Porta's class as he introduced his students to the different aspects of Armenian history, specifically about Armenia and her neighbors who were often major powers.

This course fulfills one of the requirements for the Armenian Studies Minor. There is a open atmosphere in the class, where there is always an opportunity for each student to learn something new. As I surveyed the class, some students were planning on pursuing an Ar-



Dr. Sergio La Porta teaching Armenian history course.

menian Studies Minor, while others were just curious and wanted to learn about Armenians.

Shawn Stephens, a senior majoring in Mathematics stated, "I am interested in learning the histories of other cultures," especially since he had studied other cultures. It is truly great to be able to see the excitement in students who are eager to learn. Stephens is also interested in more contemporary topics such as Armenian-Turkish relations and the Armenian Genocide.

Knar Mekhitarian, a senior majoring in Business Accounting and minoring in Armenian Studies said, "I especially enjoy the pre-Christian era of Armenian history and the influence of other nations on Armenia." This is interesting be-

cause prior to accepting Christianity, Armenia was Zoroastrian.

Andrew Antaramian, a senior majoring in International Business stated, "I have enjoyed learning about the reign of Tigran the Great and his contributions to Armenia." Armenia during Tigran's reign achieved its largest geographical area, stretching from sea to sea.

Students have definitely become interested in the class. The many different questions asked by students is an indication of how engaged they are in the course.

Armenian Studies 108B/History 108B will be offered next semester so be on the lookout when planning your classes for the Spring 2010 semester.

### ARGHAMANYAN, FROM PAGE 1

stage one wouldn't suspect that this young artist would employ such dynamism and take charge of such legendary composers as Tchaikovsky or Mendelssohn. Yet as young as she is, she certainly lives up to her hype and well beyond, solidifying her as an important artist to watch.

Those who have never heard of Nareh Arghamanyan would be shocked to realize that she has gained more accolades in her short twenty years than many do in their entire lifetimes. Arghamanyan began her piano studies at age 5, practicing long hours before entering the Tchaikovsky Music School for Talented Children in Yerevan at the age of 8, studying with Alexander Gurgenov and Armen Babakhanian. At the age of 15, she became the youngest student to be admitted into the University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Austria and studied under Heinz Medjimorec until her graduation in 2008 with highest honors.

In 2008, Arghamanyan won top prize in the Montreal International Music Competition where she also received the Audience Choice Award. In 2007 she won First Prize at the Piano Campus International Competition in Pontoise, France. Arghamanyan will make her New York City debut this fall at the Frick Collection. Her first album,

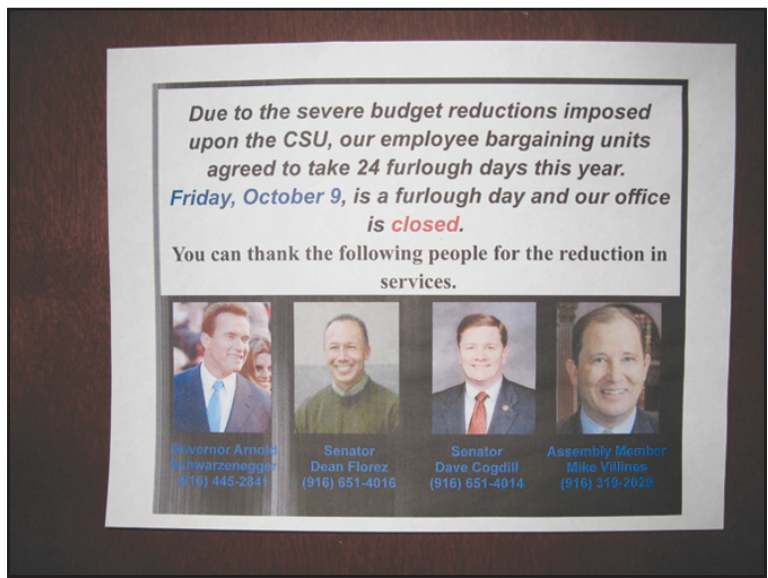


Nareh Arghamanyan

Photo: Erica Magarian

featuring the works of Liszt and Rachmaninoff, was released this last May to great acclaim under the Analekta label. She is currently finishing her master's degree and residing with her family in Vienna.

## Budget Cuts Affect Students at Fresno State-Class Sections Cut



Furlough notice on Fresno State department office door. Administrative offices are closed two Fridays a month.

KNAR MEKHITARIAN  
STAFF WRITER

The budget cuts at Fresno State and across the California State University system have been one of the most talked about issues on campus this year. It has affected both students and faculty on and off campus, and sadly will continue to do so.

Thanks to the cuts in the California state budget, many students were out of luck this semester when trying to add necessary classes for the Fall 2009 semester. Hundreds of classes were cut from the schedule, as students rushed to register for their classes. Students who had their classes cut were notified via e-mail, and had short notice to replace the class with another, if permitted.

Approximately 1,200 class sec-

tions were cut and the budget plan brought about many consequences. Class sizes were increased, part-time faculty was laid off, and furloughs were implemented. Fresno State employees face a 10 percent reduction in pay with the mandatory furloughs. Each University staff member is required to have twenty-four furlough days without pay throughout the year, with faculty having eighteen furlough days a year.

Armenian Studies minor Talene Karkazian is very frustrated with the budget cuts. "The budget cuts at Fresno State have affected my chances of graduating because I couldn't get into the last class I needed!"

The California State University Board of Trustees voted 17 to 1 to increase the fees for the current academic school year. This vote raised the student fees by 20 per-

### LA PORTA, FROM PAGE 1

of Jerusalem, Israel, in order to study Second Temple Judaism and early Christianity.

Dr. James Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University, suggested that La Porta study Armenian with Michael Stone and Roberta Ervin while in Jerusalem. Dr. La Porta stated, "I fell in love with *grabar* (Classical Armenian) and then applied to work with James Russell for a doctorate at Harvard University." His research included Grigor Tat'ewac'i (Krikor Datevatsi) and wrote his thesis on the third volume of his Book of Questions. He received his Doctoral Degree in 2001 and returned to teach at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His main area of research in Armenian Studies includes: medieval intellectual history; monasticism; spirituality and mysticism; apocalypticism; philology and codicology.

Dr. La Porta was attracted to Fresno State and the Armenian Studies Program for many different reasons. "I have always been impressed by the tremendous activity of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. It is a wonderful feeling to be part of a program that is involved both with the University and with the local and regional Armenian community. It

cent, adding on to an earlier 10 percent increase in May. Unfortunately, fees are expected to increase again for the upcoming semester.

Partially because of the cancellation of the hundreds of class sections, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of students enrolled in Armenian courses this semester. Fortunately, the Armenian Studies Program itself has not yet been significantly affected by

is also exciting to be working with undergraduates, to feel as though you can really make a difference in the intellectual direction of their lives." It has now been over a month that Professor La Porta is in Fresno and it seems that he enjoys the city as well as the campus. "I have really enjoyed my first month here in Fresno. Everyone from the students, to my colleagues, to members of the Armenian community has been very welcoming and friendly," said Dr. La Porta.

Even though Dr. La Porta has fit right in at Fresno State, he is still trying to adjust to having over one hundred students. "One of the more challenging aspects for me has been the sheer number of classes and students. I have had to get used to teaching five days a week with more than 150 students in four sections; the week is fairly intense." In spite of all this Professor La Porta has enjoyed the different amenities of Fresno such as KFSR radio 90.7, the many Armenian restaurants, the national parks in the near vicinity, and especially the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School where his daughter Lucine attends.

Dr. La Porta taught at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Armenian Studies Program for eight years. "The program there, founded by Michael Stone, is 40 years old and offered both under-

the campus budget cuts, although state support has decreased.

Some predict that Fresno State will face more budget cuts in the near future, as the CSU system will have a \$584 million budget reduction for the 2009-10 school year. Over the next few years, the CSU system will admit 40,000 fewer students due to the state funding. And for the first time, Fresno State will freeze its admissions for the up-

graduate and graduate courses. My colleagues at the University were very supportive of me personally, of my research, and of the program. We had a great relationship with the Armenian community in Jerusalem, who were like a surrogate family for us and just to be surrounded with the history of Jerusalem was an amazing educational experience." He then compared his students at Hebrew University with those at Fresno State. "The students, generally speaking, were older than those at Fresno and they usually had completed military service by the time they entered the University; I also taught many graduate classes. One of the advantages of the younger student population at Fresno, however, is that they may be more open and excited about what they are learning."

Dr. La Porta is looking forward to getting better acquainted with the Armenian community, to working more with colleagues in other departments, and to working with Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian to continue to build upon and expand the solid program that is here now. Together with his family, wife Malina, daughter Lucine, and son Zaven, he also looks forward to exploring more of Fresno and the San Joaquin valley.

coming spring 2010 semester.

"We will continue to work to maintain quality higher education for our students. However, serious measures – major spending cuts, possible employees furloughs, reducing enrollment and, now, eliminating classes – have been undertaken to ensure we preserve the institution so vital to our region," said University President John D. Welty.



Armenian Studies Program 21st Annual Banquet Donors

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MAHAKIAN, FROM PAGE 1

A highlight in her life was being accepted in a renowned *cappella* choir which broadened her horizons beyond Dinuba and offered a lasting love for music. She was an accomplished artist, taking art classes, painting landscapes, animals, and abstracts. She even had a few showings where she sold some of her paintings.

Church became a focal part of her life supplementing Sunday golf

after her beloved husband, Gregory Mahakian, died in 1965. He left her a loving legacy with his daughters, Wendy Merrill, Marissa Potter, son, Greg, their children and six grandchildren. Mahakian was a very active participant at St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church, serving on the Parish Council, Women’s Executive Board and was Maintenance Chairperson. If electrical, painting, or anything needed work at the church, she was

in charge of contacting the right people and getting the best price.

Rosalie Mahakian is survived and will be dearly missed by three siblings, Dick Hagopian, Deron Hagopian, and Blanche Hagopian. She had many nieces and nephews including Patty Sadoian, her oldest sister’s daughter. She had a large extended family of friends including Paul Mickle, her longtime close friend and companion.

Photo: Hye Sharzhoom Archive

Charles S. Poochigian Sworn in as Justice of California Court of Appeal, Fifth District



Justice Charles Poochigian, center, being sworn into office by Chief Justice Ronald M. George with his wife, Fresno County Supervisor Debbie Poochigian witnessing the event.

STAFF REPORT

Former California State Senator Charles Suren Poochigian was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to serve as an Associate Justice for the California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District. The Fifth Appellate District Court is located in Fresno, California, with a jurisdiction that includes the following nine central California Counties: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne.

On Thursday, September 24, 2009, the Commission on Judicial Appointments convened in San Francisco to consider the appointment.

With over 120 Poochigian family members and friends in attendance, the two and one-half hour hearing concluded with the announcement of a unanimous vote in favor of confirmation. Chief Justice George administered the oath of office to Justice Poochigian. Following six years of service on the senior staffs of Governors George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson and 12 years of distinguished service as a legislative leader in the California State Assembly and Senate, Poochigian returned to Fresno to practice law with the Dowling, Aaron & Keeler firm. He immediately began his duties as the newest member of California’s appellate judiciary.

2010-2011 Armenian Studies Scholarship Applications Now Available On-Line  
<https://scholarship.csufresno.edu>  
Make sure to apply-deadline Feb. 28, 2010

DER MUGRDECHIAN, FROM PAGE 1

for Armenian Studies in fall of 2008.

After visiting Armenia for the first time, Der Mugrdechian was encouraged to start leading student groups from Fresno State, educating them on Armenian culture. When asked about his experiences as a group leader, Der Mugrdechian replied, “I first took students to Armenia in 1988, and since then have led groups in 1990, 2001, 2005, and 2007, as well as leading a group of students to Jerusalem in 1986. Students can put together all that they have learned in the classroom, and see the places they have read about, and also meet the people of Armenia.” Der Mugrdechian sincerely enjoys educating and interacting with students and allowing them to experience the country first-hand.

The Armenian Studies Program has grown significantly over the past twenty-five years. There is a wide variety of students in all of the Armenian Studies courses, both Armenians and non-Armenians, however they are all interested in learning about the Armenian culture. Der Mugrdechian adds, “I think anyone who takes a course is showing they are interested and it is encouraging for me to see students grow in their interest of Armenian culture and language.” The Program averages 150 students per semester in all of the courses. The Program offers classes that are part of the Fresno State General Education requirements, which has led many non-Armenians to take Armenian Studies courses. For example, this semester there are seven non-Armenians, in a class of twenty-six, taking the beginning

Armenian language course.

Every year, the Armenian Studies Program invites a Kazan Visiting professor to teach for one semester at Fresno State. These professors are internationally recognized scholars in contemporary Armenian affairs, and they bring an educationally beneficial experience to the students. In 2008, Dr. George Bournoutian taught a course in Armenian history. The Armenian Studies Program is very thankful and fortunate to have broad support in the community.

Every year eight to ten students graduate with a Minor in Armenian Studies. These students are leaders on campus and they pass on the culture and language to others. It has been a great accomplishment for Prof. Der Mugrdechian and the faculty to successfully attract students to the Program and to educate them with a thorough curriculum in Armenian Studies. When asked about significance of the Minor for students who graduate from Fresno State, Der Mugrdechian said, “Our vision has been that informed students give back to the community, participating in the various organizations, passing on their knowledge and experiences. Many of our graduates have gone on to leadership positions in a variety of groups.”

Fresno State students are very fortunate to have the opportunity for such an educational experience. Learning about the language, art, music, history, and literature in Armenian culture is a unique opportunity.

“I am very pleased to be heading the Armenian Studies Program, as I have been involved in every aspect of the program for 25 years. We

teach, do research, conduct community outreach, do fund raising, advise students and a variety of other activities,” Der Mugrdechian said. He also stated how appreciative he was for the positive influence Dr. Kouymjian has had on him and the program. “Dr. Kouymjian was a great colleague, always open to discussing a variety of issues. His broad knowledge of Armenian Studies also broadened my interests. He also introduced me to many of the leading figures in the field. I owe him a debt of gratitude for all he has done for me and also for the Program that he lead for thirty-one years.”

The Armenian Studies Program has greatly strengthened and expanded over the past decades. When asked where he sees the Program in the future, Der Mugrdechian responded, “We have a strong Program and with the addition of Dr. Sergio La Porta, we look to further growth. We would like to establish a Masters Degree in Armenian Studies at Fresno State, increase student support, and widen our research interest. The program will continue to be a leader in the community.”

Due to the support and efforts of Prof. Der Mugrdechian, the Armenian Studies Program has flourished. His commitment towards teaching courses, organizing special lectures, advising students in the production of *Hye Sharzhoom*, working with leaders of the Armenian Students Organization, and managing other aspects of the program, are immeasurable. We are very thankful for the devotion and dedication Prof. Der Mugrdechian exerts on a daily basis.



First and second grade students of the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School in Clovis.

Photo: Tamar Karkazian

COMMUNITY SCHOOL, FROM PAGE 1

program allows students the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics, such as Armenian dance, soccer, and photography. CKACS has begun to take on a different learning approach, with special guest speakers and a “curriculum based evening.”

Ms. Mekhitarian is also looking to get the community involved — she is looking for high school and college students to tutor individual students during the day or after school. “We can’t forget anybody,” she explained “It’s important that we help all the kids from kindergarten to sixth grade.” Another change that will soon send the school to the next level is the Heritage Room that brings the heritage and history of Armenian culture to life. The school is in the process of transforming one of the classrooms into a room that will house priceless Armenian artifacts. “There will be dolls representing different Ar-

menian regions and lots of artifacts will be displayed,” stated Principal Mekhitarian.

Throughout the years, the Armenian Community School has had its ups and downs. But through numerous changes there has been a constant factor — something that has allowed the school to not only survive but also flourish — and that is the Armenian culture. It is the reason parents send their children to CKACS. “For us there was no other choice. Where else can you get Armenian culture and language every day?” explains parent Vahe Nishanian. His daughters, Gabriella and Brianna, “Love going to school everyday.” Not only are they surrounded by Armenian culture, but they also get the benefit of dedicated teachers and parents.

“We’ve been blessed with such a supportive staff and Board. Whatever we ask to be done, is done,” said Ms. Mekhitarian.



California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program & Dept. of Music present



“Armenian Lullabies  
and Songs of Longing  
with Hasmik  
Harutyunyan of  
Yerevan’s Shoghaken  
Ensemble”

**Sunday • November 8 • 8:00PM**

The Concert Hall  
Fresno State Campus

Tickets: \$18 presale general admission, \$15 presale  
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510-444-0323 • <http://www.kitka.org/>

One of Armenia’s leading folk singers, Hasmik Harutyunyan is world-renowned for her work with Yerevan’s Shoghaken Folk Ensemble and for her mellifluous renditions of Armenian lullabies, one of the most ancient and evocative genres in Armenian music.

Kitka, meaning “bouquet” in Bulgarian and Macedonian, is now celebrating its 30th anniversary season. Kitka began as a grassroots group of singers from diverse ethnic and musical backgrounds who shared a passion for the stunning dissonances, asymmetric rhythms, intricate ornamentation, lush harmonies, and resonant strength of Eastern European women’s vocal traditions.

California State University Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program and the Henry Madden Library  
cordially invite you to the opening reception of  
“Légion Arménienne: The Armenian Legion and  
Its Heroism in the Middle East”



Legionnaires from the United States training in Cyprus, with the tattered American flag they refused to give up.

Légion Arménienne: The Armenian Legion and Its Heroism in the Middle East” is a traveling exhibit developed and prepared by the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) in honor of the Legionnaires and their devotion to their nation and to the cause of liberty during World War I. The exhibit will open in late October and run through the end of November in the Henry Madden Library on campus. The exhibit explores the formation, training, military action, and postwar activities of this all-volunteer force through photographs and narratives.

ALMA commissioned this traveling exhibit, incorporating the community spirit of the original into an informative historic, literary, and artistic presentation.

The traveling exhibit was made possible by a grant from K. George and Carolann S. Najarian, M.D. Foundation with additional support provided by The Armenian-American Veterans of Milford, Mass., Inc.

**Sunday, November 1, 2009  
3:00-5:00PM**

**Opening Reception**

**Second Floor, Henry Madden  
Library, Fresno State**

**Free admission. Free parking.**

California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program  
presents

“Armenia at the Edge: The Apocalyptic  
Imagination in the Armenian Tradition”

by

**Dr. Sergio La Porta**

From the oral, epic traditions of Armenia’s pre-Christian past to contemporary Armenian cinema, Armenians have speculated about the end of the world for over two millennia. In this lecture Dr. La Porta will highlight some of the more dramatic and effective visions of the end in the Armenian tradition from the beginning of Armenian literature through the middle ages.

**Thursday • November 12 • 7:30PM**

**University Business Center, Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191  
Parking in UBC Lot.**

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**L. to R.: Evelyn Demirchian, Armen Melidonian, Editor Pateel Mekhitarian, Hagop Ohanessian, Heidi Lea, and Tamar Karkazian.**

*Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian*

*The Hye Sharzhoom* staff meets every two weeks to plan and produce every edition of the newspaper.

This semester ten students are working on the newspaper under the direction of advisor Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

## Thank You Donors

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