

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

31st
Year

December 2009

Vol. 31, No. 2 (108)

Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

Armenian Legion Exhibit Draws Many Viewers to Madden Library



Families of Armenian Legion volunteers in the Henry Madden Library for the Nov. 1 opening of the Armenian Legion Exhibit.

ARMEN MELIDONIAN
STAFF WRITER

Photo: Erica Magarian

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State and the Henry Madden Library hosted a special opening reception for a traveling exhibit called “Légion Arménienne: The Armenian Legion and Its Heroism in the Middle East” at 3:00 pm on Sunday, November 1. The exhibit was prepared by the Watertown, Massachusetts-based Armenian Library and Museum of America.

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program presented a brief history on the formation of the Armenian Legion, an all-volunteer military division compose mainly of Armenians and organized for “the sole purpose of liberating Cilicia from Turkish

rule.” The Legion had its beginnings in 1916 and was eventually disbanded in 1920, existing during several years of momentous change for the Armenians: the Armenian Genocide, the rise of communism in Russia, the first Armenian Republic, and World War I.

There were several members in
SEE **ARMENIAN LEGION** PAGE 7

UCLA Writers Conference Attracts International Participation



L. to R.: Dr. Alan Whitehorn, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and Dr. Peter Cowe at the UCLA Writers Conference.

STAFF REPORT

Thirty-four scholars and writers from throughout the world participated in the Third Annual Conference on Armenian Writers, held November 6-8, at the University of California, Los Angeles. The conference was organized by Dr. Peter Cowe, Naregatsi Chair of Armenian Studies at UCLA and by the Writers Union of Armenia, whose President Levon Ananyan, presented opening remarks. The pre-

City of Fresno Announces Establishment of Sister City Ties with City of Etchmiadzin, Armenia

EVELYN K. DEMIRCHIAN
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Ashley Swearingen joined with members of the Fresno-Armenia Sister City Committee and with representatives from the Armenian community at a press conference at Fresno City Hall on October 30, to announce the newly launched Fresno-Etchmiadzin Sister City relationship.

Mayor Swearingen stated, “I am proud of the efforts of the Fresno-Armenia Sister City Committee and I am excited to welcome the City of Etchmiadzin to our sister city family.” Fresno has existing sister city relationships with Kochi, Japan; Muenster, Germany; and Verona, Italy.

Fresno City Councilmember Andreas Borgeas, who founded and chaired the Fresno-Armenia Sister City Committee and incoming Chair of the Committee Vahagn Bznuni, also addressed the press. “Today is a great day of pride as we celebrate our City’s Armenian culture and identity by establishing this long-anticipated sister city re-



Front row, left to right: Vahagn Bznuni, Councilman Andreas Borgeas, Mayor Ashley Swearingen, Mary Alice Kaloostian, Yeghig Keshishian. Back row, left to right: Allan Jendian, Hygo Ohanessian, Nshan Derkalousdian, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

Photo: Howard K. Watkins

lationship with the City of Etchmiadzin,” stated Borgeas.

SEE **SISTER CITY** PAGE 8

La Porta Delivers Talk on Armenian Apocalyptic Literature

HAGOP OHANESSIAN
STAFF WRITER

The notion of the “End of Time,” as portrayed, for example, in the Book of Revelation is common to many other literary works in different cultures. This concept was not only a popular theme in western European society but also for the Armenians in ancient times, especially during the fifth through the thirteenth centuries. On Thursday November 12, Dr. Sergio La Porta, newly appointed Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State, gave a lecture on “Armenia at the Edge: The Apocalyptic Imagination in the Armenian Tradition” at 7:30PM in the University Business Center, Peters Auditorium.

Dr. La Porta distinguished the terms “eschatology” and “apocalypse,” noting that the former refers to conceptions about the end of the world, while the latter is a literary genre. As apocalyptic literature

is often concerned with events at the end of time, the two terms have become confused. In his lecture, Prof. La Porta discussed how an apocalyptic perspective is a prominent feature in the Armenian literary tradition. He explained that by an apocalyptic perspective or imagination he meant a perspective that “is contoured by a belief in an imminent end and informed by the apocalyptic literary tradition, that is, one that draws upon the mythic and symbolic language of apocalyptic texts.” He demonstrated the impact of this perspective in Armenian accounts of the conversion to Christianity, the Islamic and Seljuk invasions, and in the creation of a royal ideology for the Cilician kingdom. Dr. La Porta further speculated that this perspective may not have been limited to literary circles, but may reflect broader trends in Armenian thinking. For his research, he has relied upon manuscripts and printed materials.

SEE **LA PORTA** PAGE 6

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

Second 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

Photos: Armenian Studies Archives

SEE **UCLA** PAGE 7

Armenians on the Internet

ANDREW ANTARAMIAN, STAFF WRITER

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have always been great resources for disadvantaged and needy people. These organizations provide financial resources, support, and other outreach programs to people in need. Many people all over the world rely on NGOs for aid and help in their time of need. They are typically geared to one specific area. There are numerous organizations that help people fight poverty and then there are other organizations that act as an advocacy group for people that need representation. It is wonderful to explore and discover NGOs that are actively helping the Armenian community. These organizations are essential because they provide vital resources for Armenians of all ages and help them through troubling times.

Mer Doon
www.mer-doon.org

Mer Doon [Our Home] is an NGO that helps young Armenian women from disadvantaged backgrounds. Mer Doon is a vital organization because they help out numerous women who otherwise would be otherwise uncared for. Established in 2005, they opened their first home in 2006 in Etchmiadzin, Armenia. Mer Doon provides comfortable living facilities for women who have outgrown their orphanages and also provides care and aid for those who come from a disadvantaged environment. Residents of Mer Doon learn life skills, social skills, and even receive an education in foreign languages and a vocation. This institution benefits many and is essential for the community.

Armenia Tree Project
www.armeniatreeproject.com

The Armenia Tree Project's (ATP) mission is to create and implement programs that are geared towards the fight against deforestation and environmental loss. ATP also creates programs that are designed to revitalize urban and rural communities by planting trees at parks, public areas and other various sites throughout Armenia. There are many areas in Armenia that have been severely neglected and are in need of environmental revitalization. Many of Armenia's trees are harvested for heating purposes due to the inadequacy of alternative fuel resources. They also promote environmental education and advocacy by creating youth programs that help to better understand and appreciate a healthy ecosystem. ATP is a vital organization that provides a great service to Armenia in hopes of reversing a tragic trend. They recently celebrated their 15th anniversary.

Fund for Armenian Relief
www.farusa.com

The Fund For Armenian Relief (FAR), provides short-term emergency relief for Armenian families in need. FAR implements various programs that promote economic growth and social development for people in Armenia. Since its inception after the devastating earthquake in 1988, FAR has helped many people in all different age groups. FAR not only helps people in Armenia, but they also reach out to many Armenians all over the Diaspora. One of FAR's main goals is to provide hope and help, which will ensure a brighter future for Armenians all over the world. FAR also has the goal of preparing Armenian youth and professionals to one day lead and drive Armenia's democratic state. Its headquarters is in New York and they have three full-time offices in Armenia and Karabagh. One of FAR's recent projects is to provide safe drinking water to rural villages and provide irrigation resources to arid farmlands. Fund For Armenian Relief is a major asset in the Armenian community.

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

Spring 2010 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education				
Arts & Humanities, Area C1				
• ArmS 20 Arts of Armenia (Class #33057)	3	9:00A-9:50P	MWF	B Der Mugerdechian
Arts & Humanities, Area C2				
• Arm 1B Elementary Armenian (Class #32265)	4	10:30A-11:35A	MWF	B Der Mugerdechian
• Hum 10 Hum Antqty/Ren (Class #32430)	3	11:00A-12:15A	TuTh	S LaPorta
Arts & Humanities, Area IC				
• Arm 148 Masterp. Arm Culture (Class #37261)	3	11:00A-11:50A	MWF	S LaPorta
Upper Division Armenian Studies Courses				
• 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 Mugerdechian
<i>Meets Friday, Feb. 19 and Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010</i>				
• ArmS 120 Arm Lit and Genocide (Class #37276)	3	6:00-8:50P	Mon	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: <http://www.csufresno.edu/catoffice/current/armstudhd.html>

HYE SHARZHOOM

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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.

Do you receive duplicate copies of Hye Sharzhoom? Let us know.

Moving? Send us your new address and we will update our mailing list.

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Sergio La Porta, Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies

Dickran Kouymjian, Berberian Professor Emeritus of Armenian Studies

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

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Armenian Exchange Student Artak Grigoryan Attends Bullard High

EVELYN K. DEMIRCHIAN
STAFF WRITER

Sixteen-year-old Armenian exchange-student Artak Grigoryan came to the United States with several expectations. Never having visited the United States before, and only previously studying for a short time in France, Grigoryan says he expected the United States to be, “beautiful, interesting, and new for me.” Grigoryan is here through the World Heritage

students studying in the United States through the World Heritage program, in states such as California to Hawaii, and each student in the Program works very hard to do well, maintain good grades, as well as enrich their lives with the culture of their newly adopted families and cities.

Asked what he has enjoyed the most about his stay so far, Grigoryan replied, “Fortunately I have a very good host family and school. My favorite part of living in Fresno is

being with my host family and going to high school.” His host father is Fresno-Armenian Sister City Council Chair Vahagn Bznuni.

An interesting connection between the families is that Bznuni’s family was originally from the

Lake Sevan region and had left the country the same day Artak was born.

“It was really surprising,” said Bznuni, “and it makes an even deeper connection between us as Artak.”

Much of Artak’s time spent here has been with his host family, going out with his host brother, and the new friends he has made at Bullard. “I would recommend the Program to other students for sure, because it is a good chance to visit the United States and improve your English language, and to study about American culture,” concluded Grigoryan.



Exchange student Artak Grigoryan at Bullard High School, where he is studying for a year.

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

Foundation’s Student Exchange Program, and he has to submit regular projects and papers to maintain his scholarship. He is originally from the city of Sevan, in the Gegharkunik Province of Armenia, located near the shores of famous Lake Sevan.

Attending Bullard High School as a senior, Grigoryan has made many friends and has been enjoying what Fresno has to offer. Studying previously in the south of France, he says there are many differences and that Fresno “is much louder...everything is much newer and cleaner.”

There are about 40 Armenian

Author Mooradian Speaks to Students

MARI KOSHKAKARYAN
STAFF WRITER

Tom Mooradian, author of *The Repatriate: Love, Basketball, and the KGB*, was invited by the Armenian Studies Program to give a lecture to students at Fresno State on Friday, October 16.

During his senior year in Southwestern High School in Detroit, Tom Mooradian was recognized for his high academic achievements, his amazing basketball talents, and for his bright future. Upon graduating in 1947, Mooradian joined a group of repatriates and headed to Soviet Armenia, where he completed his Bachelors Degree at the Institute of Physical Culture and Sport and later shared his basketball talents as a coach. He was recognized as an incomparable basketball athlete in Soviet Armenia. Soon after arriving in Soviet Armenia, Mooradian felt the need to return back home to the United States. However, he soon discovered that returning was not going to be as easy as he had been made to believe.

When he joined the American repatriates, Mooradian was told he could easily return to his homeland as desired, but he felt no such freedom.

“They told me that if you don’t like it, you can go back. Not true. I couldn’t go back until 1960,” said Mooradian.

Mooradian continued to share and describe the lifestyle he lived in Soviet Armenia during the time of Soviet rule—the fear and lack of freedom that he was not accustomed to for someone that came from the US, a country known for its freedom. He described his stay in Batumi (a port in southern part of Georgia) as filthy, with no water and food. The conditions were unbearable and he was glad to have not spent more than one week there. He continued on to Yerevan, where he described his stay in apartments that were already falling apart. Everything was being destroyed under Soviet rule.

Mooradian was not the only United States resident that experienced that lifestyle during Soviet rule.



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

Author Tom Mooradian, center, with Fresno State students.

“Americans were upset,” said Mooradian.

He recalled a night in Yerevan when he woke up from screams and chaos happening outside his apartment and as he stared from the window he saw people being put behind trucks and taken away. He wanted to go down and see what was happening, but he was fortunate to have been stopped from one of his group members.

“My friend stopped me from going down. He said if I was lucky, they would kill me and if not, I would be put in a truck and would have disappeared,” said Mooradian.

Although he “felt that he was a coward” to not have stepped down and confronted the Soviet Union leaders, he did the right thing as his life would have been jeopardized. He described how people lived in fear—the fear from saying the wrong thing in public and being punished by the Soviet government. No one was allowed to speak against the Soviet government—if they did they would soon disappear.

He described how students were killed for speaking out during Soviet rule. He shared a story of his encounter with a friend, Svetlana, who was seen crying because she discovered that her classmates were no longer going to be joining her. She went to school one day and saw two empty chairs and her teacher said that her friends were not part of the country and that he wasted his time teaching them.

Unable to continue living in such a harsh and terrifying society,

Mooradian decided to write a petition to Moscow to at least let the poor children escape the horrible conditions of the Soviet Union. Having written the petition to the United States ambassador, it was approved. He was finally let go to freely return to his homeland.

Mooradian concluded his powerful, descriptive, and emotional lecture by stating that we should feel good for being American. Americans have the freedom to move from one place to another without the fear of being tortured or killed by the Soviet government.

“I love this country. Although I enjoyed the Soviet people, the government was something else,” said Mooradian.

Mooradian sent out the message through his lecture that the liberty and freedom that comes from being American and living in the United States should not be taken for granted.

Mooradian shares more in depth his experiences living in Soviet Armenia in his book *The Repatriate: Love, Basketball, and the KGB*. This book is not simply facts from history of how life was during Soviet rule, but is based on his true experiences—an American-Armenian who journeyed to Soviet Armenia, where what he hoped for turned into a nightmare and from where he could not easily escape.

Read
Hye Sharzhoom!

Scholars Present Papers at MESA- Society for Armenian Studies Meets in Boston

STAFF REPORT

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) held its 36th Annual Membership Meeting on November 21, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association held this year at the Marriott Copley Place Hotel in downtown Boston. The SAS represents more than 250 international scholars and teachers in the field of Armenian Studies.

President Richard Hovannisian of UCLA chaired the SAS meeting and reported on the major activities that the Society had organized in 2009. The highlight of the year was the Anniversary Conference held at UCLA in March, where dozens of scholars gathered for a series of panels on a variety of topics.

Journal of the Society for Arme-

nian Studies editor Dr. Joseph Kéchichian reported that Volume 18:1 of the JSAS was just released and the JSAS 18:2 is getting ready to go to press. Subscription information for the Journal is available at <http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/sas/JSAS18-1.htm>.

SAS members also participated during the year in various conferences, sponsored by other major scholarly organizations such as the American Historical Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

Immediately following the SAS meeting, the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) hosted a reception for SAS members and guests at their headquarters in Watertown, Massachusetts. Community members from the



Photo: Armenian Studies Archive

L. to R.: Muge Salmaner, Barlow Der Mugrdchian, Fatma Ulgen, Rubina Peroomian, and Marc Mamigonian.

Boston area had an opportunity to meet and interact with SAS members. Guests were given guided

tours of the various exhibits in the museum, including a new one on Armenian textiles.

Congratulations to Fall 2009 Armenian Minors and Graduates

Andrew Antaramian

**Major: Business Administration-
International Business**

Which course in Armenian Studies was the most influential and why?

The Armenian history course made me appreciate the troubles and obstacles the Armenians faced to maintain their identity. I really enjoyed learning about the ancient history of the Armenians because the course opened my eyes of the lives of our ancestors. The course showed me how the Armenians flourished over time, overcoming their troubles and difficulties. The course also made me appreciate, understand, and cherish the Armenian culture. I also really enjoyed and loved learning about the history of the Church.



How has being involved in Armenian Studies benefited your college experience?

I was able to share what I learned with other Armenian students and I made new friends and developed relationships with my fellow Armenian students. It also made me feel closer to the local Armenian community. I really enjoyed every activity I participated in and I am fortunate for the experience I had with the Program.

What has been your greatest accomplishment throughout your college career?

I would say being involved in Armenian Studies and the maturing process I experienced throughout my college career. I feel like I have learned so much and experienced so much since my first day of college. I also consider my upcoming graduation as a culmination of all of my academic accomplishments throughout my college career.

What are your plans for the future?

I will be attending law school in the Fall of 2010 and earning my Juris Doctorate. I am excited to take my next step in my academic career and eventually into my professional career. My goal is to graduate from Law School and enter into a following graduate school to earn a Masters in Business Administration.



Talene Karkazian

**Major: Family and Consumer Science-
Fashion Merchandising
Minor: Armenian Studies**

Why did you pursue an Armenian Studies Minor?

I pursued an Armenian Studies minor to learn more about my heritage as well as studying ways the Armenians have assimilated and adapted to American culture without losing their identity.

Which course in Armenian Studies was the most influential and why?

The most influential course I took in the Armenian Studies program was a three-week group trip to

Armenia! Studying and touring in Armenia enabled me to experience the true and real history of my ancestors. To actually step into ancient history is an indescribable experience I will never forget.

How has being involved in Armenian Studies benefited your college experience?

Being involved in the Armenian Studies Program has helped me stay connected to my roots as well as remaining involved in the Armenian community.

What has been your greatest accomplishment throughout your college career?

My greatest accomplishment has been the jewelry line, Tea-K, I started over four years ago. I love the fact that with jewelry one size fits all. Women can wear jewelry and feel nothing but joy in their hearts.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan on continuing my education by working towards a Masters degree in the fields of Art and Fashion Merchandising. I would then love to teach on the college level and try to be as influential as my professors have been to me.

Knar Mekhitarian

**Major: Business Administration-
Accountancy
Minor: Armenian Studies**

Why did you pursue an Armenian Studies Minor?

I am fortunate to say that I am a proud alumnus of the Armenian Community School. The Armenian language has always been spoken within my family. Although I knew how to read, write and speak Armenian, it was essential for me to take Armenian courses to strengthen and further my education in both language and history.

Which course in Armenian Studies was the most influential and why?

In the summer of 2007, I went on a seventeen-day journey to my homeland under the direction of Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian. Although it was not my first time to Armenia, it was still fascinating to experience the historic churches that I learned about in



detail in my Armenian Studies courses. I also loved to interact with the people and to learn the ways of life through the eyes of the Armenians in Armenia. The trip helped me grow not only as an individual, but also as an Armenian. I encountered countless new relationships and an in-depth knowledge of my faith, people, and language.

How has being involved in Armenian Studies benefited your college experience?

Entering Fresno State as a freshman in 2004, I was ecstatic to learn of the Armenian Studies Program. Realizing Fresno State had one of only three Armenian Programs on the West Coast, it was a personal priority to obtain a minor and take advantage of this educational opportunity. The Armenian Studies Minor has gifted my college experience with a cultural edge.

What has been your greatest accomplishment throughout your college career?

Being apart of the Armenian Students Organization (ASO) was a wonderful experience. As former President of ASO, I took part in many activities on and off campus, meeting new fellow Armenian colleagues, as well as interacting with the local Armenian community. One of my fondest memories of the ASO was raising money for an organization in Armenia called Mer Doon. Mer Doon is a non-profit organization that provides a family environment for disadvantaged youth who are transitioning from orphanages into the community.

What are your plans for the future?

After graduation, I will pursue my Masters in Accounting and eventually acquire a position in corporate banking. I will always remember how the Armenian Studies Program has benefited my college experience, therefore it will be a priority of mine to stay active and give back to the Armenian community.

Jonah Melikian

Major: Communication

How has being involved in Armenian Studies benefited your college experience?

It has allowed me to meet fellow Armenian students and work together with them. This motivated me to join the ASO, which has gotten me more involved in numerous activities that have connected me with the Armenian community.

What has been your greatest accomplishment throughout your college career?

I wanted to not only stay on track and graduate in a timely manner, but also do well in my classes and earn grades that I could be proud of. There can be several distractions along the way, however I remained focused on all of my classes to achieve my goal.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan to stay in Fresno and become involved in an organization where I can utilize my skills in order to best serve that business as well as the Fresno community.



Hagop Ohanessian

**Major: Business Administration-Real Estate
Minor: Honors Armenian Studies and History**

Why did you pursue an Armenian Studies Minor?

The Minors offered a variety of courses on Armenian culture and history. I have always been proud of my heritage and I am glad that I was able to take courses that provided me just that. I believe that knowing more about your heritage makes you a better person—one must never forget their history.

Which course in Armenian Studies was the most influential and why?

I truly believe all the Armenian Studies courses were influential but if I had to pick one, I would say

it was the Armenian History I course. I have always been interested in modern Armenian history and especially the topic of the Genocide. I also enjoyed “Masterpieces of Armenian Culture” that focused on the different writers in Armenia.

How has being involved in Armenian Studies benefited your college experience?

I enjoyed every aspect of the Program: the courses, being involved with Hye Sharzhoom, and being active in the ASO. All of this helped me grow as an individual. Working with Hye Sharzhoom, I improved my writing skills and learned a lot about writing for a newspaper. Being President and Vice-President of ASO helped me with my leadership skills as well as having the opportunity to meet fellow Armenian students.

What has been your greatest accomplishment throughout your college career?

Throughout my college career I had a lot of memorable times and accomplished a lot. Having the opportunity to travel to Armenia with Professor Barlow in 2007 was a fantastic opportunity for me. Also in 2008, I had the opportunity to study abroad in Hong Kong, which was awesome. The greatest accomplishment of all is graduating and having built the necessary knowledge and skill that will carry forth in graduate school and in life.

What are your plans for the future?

My plan after graduation is to continue my education in graduate school at the University of Michigan. I would like to get a Masters and eventually a Ph.D in History/Armenian Studies. I eventually would like to become a Professor and also to be involved in my other passion—real estate. Of course, I will also continue to be active in the Armenian community.

Photos: Randy Vaughn-Dotta

Concert Features Armenian Lullabies



Singer Hasmik Harutyunyan, left, and the Kitka Ensemble.

KNAR MEKHITARIAN
STAFF REPORTER

On Sunday, November 8, the internationally renowned Kitka Women’s Vocal Ensemble and singer Hasmik Harutyunyan from Yerevan’s Shoghaken Ensemble performed “Armenian Lullabies and Songs of Longing” at the Fresno State Concert Hall.

The Kitka Ensemble includes singers Caitlin Tabancay Austin, Leslie Bonnett, Briget Boyle, Shira Cion, Janet Kutulas, Elizabeth Setzer, and Lily Storm.

The concert was co-sponsored by the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program and the Department of Music.

The Concert was organized into various thematic sections: Work Songs, Lullabies, Songs of Childhood, Songs of Longing, and Wedding Songs. Inspired by the deep Armenian musical tradition, the songs presented examples from most of the regions of historical Armenia. Hasmik Harutyunyan was inspired by her grandmother Mafo, from the historic region of Moush, Armenia. Harutyunyan has carefully collected the various lulla-

bies from old women who had emigrated from historic Armenia following the Genocide and also from their descendants. Harutyunyan was in San Francisco to teach and give workshops on Armenian lullabies and other songs. She then taught Kitka some of the songs for the Concert.

The talented singers performed in traditional Armenian costumes that exemplified the preservation of ethnic traditions. The Horovel medley exemplified the simple but beautiful melodies sung during labor in the fields. The traditional lullabies represented various types of cradle songs sung by the women to their babies. Composer Komitas inspired various songs of childhood, including a version of *Hayr Mer* [The Lord’s Prayer] that has rarely been heard. The songs of longing reminded listeners of the long history of Armenian emigration and the emotions that immigrants felt about their family and homeland. The wedding songs concluded the concert, highlighting the traditions associated with weddings. In a beautifully recreated wedding scene, student Armen Melidonian was chosen to portray the groom

and participated in the scene. The beautiful costumes and songs transported listeners into a different world.

Hasmik Harutyunyan can be heard on the newly released “Shoghaken Ensemble from Armenia,” available at <http://www.traditionalcrossroads.com/>.

Kitka was founded in 1979 and is dedicated to producing concerts, recordings, and educational programs in the Eastern European vocal traditions. They are internationally renowned for their artistry and mastery of the traditional techniques of contemporary Balkan, Slavic, and Caucasian vocal styling.

Fans are also waiting for the upcoming release of Kitka’s Cradle Songs, their ninth CD and companion songbook, featuring the gentle rhythms, lilting melodies, and poetic texts of traditional lullabies. These melodies were gathered from gifted folk singing mentors, families and friends, and musical archives. Cradle Songs has eighteen tracks, includes musical transcriptions, English transliterations and translations, pronunciations guides, and maps.



Hasmik Harutyunyan, visiting from Yerevan, Armenia, was part of the Nov. 8 concert.

Armenian Students Enjoy Busy Fall Semester- Giving to the Community is the Theme for Fall

TAMAR KARKAZIAN
STAFF WRITER

“Hi, we are students from the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.” These words echoed throughout the halls of the California Armenian Old Age Home on a late Saturday afternoon. To get into the season of giving to the community, the ASO has planned several activities, one of which was volunteering at the Armenian Old Age Home.

Eight students visited the Home: Michael Retting, Faten Myaznih Kassabian, Vartush Mesropyan, Marine Vardanyan, Tamar Karkazian, Hagop Ohanessian, Jonah Melikian, and Armen

Melidonian. The students spent several hours at the home visiting with the residents. Activities ranged from

experience that she would like to work there.

The ASO’s volunteer spirit hasn’t ended there. The ASO is teaming up with AYP to help them with their annual toy drive. Together they are collecting toys for Armenian Christmas and send them to orphans in Armenia. The toy drive started in mid-November



Students at the California Armenian Home.

giving manicures, to playing bingo, or just chatting with residents. After their visit, all the students agreed that it was a great experience and that they enjoyed the time spent there. Senior Jonah Melikian said, “It felt good to give back and the man I was talking to was cool.” Vartush Mesropyan, who is a Certified Nursing Assistant, had such a good ex-

perience that she would like to work there.

and will continue through the end of December. There are numerous locations to drop off toys, one of which is the Armenian Studies office at Fresno State. Volunteering wasn’t the only focus ASO had for this semester, as they organized a Halloween party to bring the Armenian youth together. The party was held at the Asbarez Armenian Center on the Friday before Halloween and both college and high school students attended. Patil Karkazian declared “I was touched that ASO invited us, high school students, to their activity. It was fun.”



ASO Halloween Party, October 30.

Photos: Armenian Studies Archive

Yerevan State 90th Anniversary

STAFF REPORT

Yerevan State University (YSU), in Yerevan, Armenia is the premiere public university in Armenia and was established in May of 1919, during the period of the first Republic of Armenia. This year marked the 90th anniversary of YSU and a series of celebratory events was held October 1-4 in Yerevan. YSU Rector Dr. Aram Simonyan welcomed the many visitors to the University.

Guests and friends of YSU from throughout the world traveled to Armenia to participate in the events. Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program, attended representing the Armenian Studies Program and Fresno State. Fresno State and Yerevan State have had a long-standing cooperative agreement that provides for various educational exchanges and projects. Among the guests for the celebration were university presidents and scholars from throughout Europe, Russia, Lebanon, and the United States.

On the agenda for the anniversary celebrations was a two-day conference “University Education for the 21st Century,” which ran in conjunction with the other events. Prof. Der Mugrdechian presented a paper on “The Role of the University in the Community,” at the conference and also co-chaired a session on “Quality Assurance and University Management.” His paper discussed how the role of the University has changed in the United States, especially in relation to the local and regional community. He related this to how the role of the University is also changing in Armenia and the potential for growth in YSU’s mission.

YSU officials planned a full four days of activities, including excursions to the famous Geghard Mon-

astery and the pagan Temple of Garni. Participants also visited the Matenadaran (Armenia’s manuscript library) and the Erebuni Museum (a museum that has artifacts from the Urartian period) in Yerevan.

A highlight of the official activities was a visit to the Armenian



Armenian Genocide Museum director Dr. Hayk Demoyan, left, with Barlow Der Mugrdechian, at the Armenian Martyrs Monument in Yerevan.

Photo: Mary Papazian

Genocide Monument and Museum in Yerevan. Genocide Museum director Dr. Hayk Demoyan gave a tour of the grounds of the Monument and then accompanied guests on a guided tour of the Museum. At the conclusion of the tour, the YSU guests planted a memorial tree in the gardens by the Museum. Noted political leaders, humanitarians, and other guests have also planted trees in the grove.

The official ceremony marking the YSU 90th anniversary was held on Saturday afternoon, October 3, when YSU faculty and administrators and guests gathered in the YSU Main Conference Hall. Special guests at the ceremony were Tigran Sargsyan, Prime Minister of Armenia; Hovik Abrahamyan, Speaker of the Parliament; and Armen Ashotyan Minister of Education and Science. Following the ceremony participants walked in procession from the University to the Armenian National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre for a magnificent concert.

Yerevan State University has a long history as the leader in education in the Republic of Armenia and many of the most important figures in the country are YSU graduates.

The ASO Executive wants to expand membership in the club. “We want to get as many Armenians together as we can,” explained Faten Myaznih Kassabian, “So we went to Fresno City College and invited the Armenian students to participate.” The students were happy about the decision. Zhor Pogosyan said “I was glad that they came to visit us, so that we can be part of ASO and meet Armenians our own age.”

Not only is the ASO participating in the Armenian community, they are also participating on the Fresno State campus. They showed their support by go-

ing to one of the first Fresno State Men’s basketball games. “Watching the game with ASO was a lot of fun,” exclaimed Kimberly Santikian.



ASO members enjoying a Fresno State basketball game at the Save Mart Center.

As the season of giving leads to the New Year, the ASO will continue to take part in activities supporting the community.

Armenia-Turkey Protocols Remain Controversial



Photo: Armenian Studies Archives

Signing of the protocols in Zurich, Switzerland.

ANDREW ANTARAMIAN
STAFF WRITER

The state of relations between Armenia and Turkey has changed dramatically over the last few months.

On October 10, 2009, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu signed landmark protocols that could pave the way to normalization of relations between the two countries. The signing ceremony was stalled for three hours due to last-minute disagreements on both sides. The reason for the delay was due to Armenia's objection to remarks that the Turkish delegation was going to read at the conclusion of the signing. It was thought that the Turkish delegation was going to make remarks casting doubt on the Genocide.

United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton engaged in intense discussion between the two sides in order for them to complete the

signing ceremony. Once the protocols were signed, neither Armenia nor Turkey made any statements and according to an on-site correspondent, this was one of the compromises arranged by United States officials.

The protocols do not include any acknowledgement of the Genocide by Turkey. They imply that both sides will look for closure on the subject by setting up a "historical commission" to reviewing findings from independent experts and historians. This stipulation has created major opposition to the protocols both in Armenia and in the Armenian Diaspora. Many Armenians feel that this is a way for Turkey to open the Genocide issue to debate and to defuse Genocide recognition attempts in other countries. Protests by Armenians occurred after the signing in Armenia, France, Lebanon, and in the United States.

A second clause in the protocols talks about the "inviolability" of borders and seeks ratification of

existing international borders. This is widely viewed by Armenians as seeking Armenia's ratification of the 1921 Treaty of Kars, thus permanently ceding territory taken from Armenia by Turkey.

Some Armenians and Armenian groups have positively viewed the protocols, while others fear that Armenia is conceding too much. Both Turkey's and Armenia's parliaments must ratify the protocols for them to be implemented.

The goal of the protocols is "to establish good neighborly relations and to develop bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and other fields for the benefit of their peoples" and for Turkey to open its borders with Armenia and to establish diplomatic ties.

In April of 2009, Armenia and Turkey announced that they would hold talks to discuss the current situation between their countries and try to establish diplomatic ties. This was to be a major step between the two countries because Armenia and Turkey have not had any diplomatic ties since Armenia gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Turkey unilaterally blockaded Armenia in 1993, closing the border between the countries as a result of the Karabagh conflict.

Armenia and Turkey announced in late summer that they would begin their diplomatic talks in order to take this major step toward reconciliation. Switzerland has been the main mediator in the talks. Both the United States and Russia have been deeply involved in putting pressure on Armenia to accept the protocols.

SAS, FROM PAGE 3

(UCLA) joined Der Mugrdchian on the panel and presented a paper on "Dare to Remember: The Istanbul Armenian Literature and the Unabated Memory of a Tragic Past." Muge Salmaner (University of Washington) presented an interesting paper on "Cinematographic Representations of Trauma in Atom Egoyan's *Ararat*." Fatma Ulgen (UC San Diego) was the discussant for the panel and in her comments touched on the need for a change in Turkish civil society regarding the Genocide issue. Marc Mamigonian (NAASR) chaired the panel.

Another panel on "Turkish Armenians after 1915" was co-sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies and the Turkish Studies Association, and included various papers on the Armenian experience in Turkey since the time of the Genocide.

A roundtable on "Integrating

Armenians: New Sources and Approaches for Armenian History within Middle East Studies" featured four scholars who discussed their research and how to move Armenian Studies into a broader general arena. Elyse Semerdjian (Whitman College), Sebouh Aslanian (University of Michigan), Bedross Der Matossian (MIT), and Rachel Goshgarian (Zohrab Center) each gave their perspective on the issue before opening the session to a general discussion.

A two-part panel on "Former Ottomans and Contemporary Communities: Explorations in Reconciliation" was chaired by Fatma Müge Göçek (University of Michigan) and featured Armenian, Turkish, and Greek scholars who explored various aspects of reconciliation, both from a comparative and also interdisciplinary approach. These two panels attracted a large audience of more than 80 scholars,

which is a large showing for a typical MESA panel.

The second part of the panel focused on memory and how confronting memory is so important in efforts to further reconciliation. Caryl Bertram (San Francisco State) explored the role of Diasporan Armenians who have visited historic western Armenia, while Khatchig Mouradian (Clark University) discussed how civil initiatives are bridging the Turkish-Armenian divide.

Many individual scholars also presented papers at a variety of other panels throughout the conference. For full listing of the program panels and participants please go to the MESA website at <http://www.mesa.arizona.edu/annual/current.htm>.

Next year's SAS and MESA meeting will be held November 18-21, 2010 in San Diego.

nian and Persian Zoroastrians, depicted as wolves, are thrown into hell, emphasized the need for contemporary Armenians to either convert or remain loyal to Christianity.

Prof. La Porta then discussed how certain authors understood the coming of Islam and, especially, the coming of the Seljuk Turks within an apocalyptic framework. He brought forth passages from the Armenian historians Sebeos, Ghewond, Matthew of Edessa, and Artistakes Lastivert'si. In conjunction with this, he noted that a change in Armenian perception is detectable after the arrival of the Crusad-

ers. Texts such as the vision of St. Nerses included within his *Life* and the *Treatise on the Antichrist*, display a pro-Crusader position and see victory against Islam for a combined Christian force of Europeans and Armenians.

Finally, Dr. La Porta demonstrated the King Levon I of Cilicia portrayed himself as the Last Roman Emperor, an eschatological figure, who would lead the Christian forces to victory over Islam at the end of time. He argued that a counsel written by an Armenian theologian revealed that by 1210 such a belief may have become an

Eeench ga Chga

What is your favorite Armenian course taken at Fresno State so far, and why?

KNAR MEKHITARIAN, STAFF WRITER

Gina Jelladian

That is a hard question to answer! The Armenian Studies Program is filled with so many great classes – history, literature, art, and architecture. They all have something very unique to offer. If I had to choose only one, I would say the weekend course on the history of the Armenian Church. We all attend *badarak* [Divine Liturgy] on Sundays, but there are so many significant pieces to the service that people from our generation don't necessarily understand the roots of. It was very interesting to learn all of these details and the history of them. Thumbs up professor Barlow!



Nayiri Moundjian

My favorite Armenian courses taken so far have been the Armenian language courses, Armenian 1A and 1B, because before then I didn't know how to read or write in Armenian. It taught me a lot and I am grateful for the classes because I can now read Armenian text as well as write in Armenian.



Faten Kassabian

Armenian 148 (Masterpieces of Armenian Culture) is my favorite class. I'm half Armenian and the class really broadened my views on our beautiful heritage. I know about our culture from family, church, and going to Armenian school...but this class teaches so much more. It brings out the past that we might not be too familiar with. It teaches us about people and events from the fifth century such as Mesrob Mashtots, the inventor of the Armenian alphabet, to St. Nerses Shnorhali who I wasn't familiar with.

I personally liked learning about the *sharagans*, spiritual poetry and sacred songs. Prof. La Porta is such a great teacher. He shows excitement and gets the whole class involved. He knows so much about Armenians and our culture. That's what keeps us excited! I always look forward to class because I know I'm going to enjoy the lectures and learn something new. It's such a wonderful class—you'll learn so much and love it."

Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdchian and Randy Vaughn-Dotta



LA PORTA, FROM PAGE 1

Dr. La Porta first presented the vision of St. Gregory the Illuminator within Agathangelos' history of the conversion of the Armenian people to Christianity. He observed that the vision is an example of apocalyptic literature in both form and content. Noting that the text was compiled in the 460s, after the war of St. Vardan, the vision may be one of the author's own contribution to Gregory's life. He further argued that the conclusion of the vision in which Armenian Christians, depicted as lambs, are carried off into heaven, while Arme-

nian and Persian Zoroastrians, depicted as wolves, are thrown into hell, emphasized the need for contemporary Armenians to either convert or remain loyal to Christianity.

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Dr. Sergio La Porta presenting "Armenia at the Edge," as part of the Armenian Studies Program Fall Lecture Series.

Photo: Erica Magarian

official interpretation of the medieval Armenian apocalyptic literary tradition.

During the question-and-answer session that followed the lecture, Dr. La Porta noted that he had become interested in the topic of the Armenian apocalyptic tradition because he realized that not much

attention had been devoted to the subject. He also noted that he and Prof. Kevork Bardakjian of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, are currently editing a two-volume collection of essays on the subject from two conferences held in Jerusalem and Michigan.

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**ARMENIAN LEGION,
FROM PAGE 1**

the audience whose family members fought in the Armenian Legion. The Shishmanian family had two relatives; Arminee Shishmanian’s father Smpat Shanazarian and her uncle Arshavir Shanazarian. Edward Hagopian’s father, drafted into the Turkish Army in 1913, left the Army in 1915 when the Turks began using the Armenian soldiers for forced labor and were preparing for them to be executed. He managed to get into the Armenian Legion soon after, and remained until 1919.

John Machoian spoke about two relatives who had been in the Legion; his grandfather Moses Machoian and great-uncle Stephen Krikorian, who were volunteers from the United States. John Machoian’s father, Edward, noted that many of the Legionnaires were in their twenties and wanted “to go back and try to help the people,... they believed that things should not have happened as they did.” Machoian discussed how his mother was 10 years old at the time of the forced marches across the desert and how his father had been injured by shrapnel during the war, but they didn’t talk to him much about the events when he was younger. Also included among the families present was Rosemary Vartanian, whose father Nishan Chalebian had fought in the Legion. Numerous pieces of memorabilia, including clothing, photos, and equipment from the Machoian family was also displayed.

The Armenian Legion was established when an agreement was



The Armenian Legion exhibit was shown on the second floor of the Henry Madden Library through the month of November.

formed between Armenian statesman and businessman Boghos Nubar Pasha and the governments of France and Great Britain on October 27, 1916, to volunteer Armenians to fight with the Allies against the Turkish front. The Armenian Legion was initially known as the “Eastern Legion” rather than “Armenian Legion” so as to not provoke the Ottoman Empire, which continued its campaign against Armenian civilians.

The agreement involved promised autonomy of Armenians in Cilicia, a part of southern Turkey that was the home of a medieval Armenian kingdom and a large Armenian population for centuries.

The Armenian National Union recruited Armenian volunteers from the United States in late 1916 to 1917, raising about 1,200 volunteers and approximately 4,000 total in later recruitments. The men were

trained by French officers in Cyprus over an intensive, 10 month program. The soldiers were then sent to Port Said, Egypt to join the Allied forces and eventually included Syrian volunteers as well. Under the command of British General Edmund Allenby, the Armenian Legion’s first successful objective was the taking of Arara, Palestine in September 18, 1918. Arara was defended with heavy artillery fire by the Turkish Seventh Army, commanded by General Mustafa Kemal (who would be later known as Atatürk, founder of the modern Turkish nation) and under the control of German General Otto Liman von Sanders. The Armenians successfully took the hill of Arara on the first day of the attack, September 19, 1918.

The Turkish army was then in retreat as General Allenby advanced north to Aleppo, Damascus,

IREX Scholar Dr. Samvel Mkhitarian Visits Fresno State to Conduct Research



Dr. Samvel Mkhitarian, right, with Ashot Hagopyan. Dr. Mkhitarian was at Fresno State for two weeks in November to continue his research on strategic planning and assessment outcomes. He visited with Fresno State officials and presented a final report to IREX. He had spent the semester at Miami University, Ohio. Dr. Mkhitarian is from the Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University in Yerevan.

UCLA, FROM PAGE 1

with topics such as “Recent Developments in Armenian Literature and Other Medias,” “Diverse Reflections of Homeland in Armenian Literature,” and “Future Trends and Expectations.”

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, presented a paper on “The Role of the Family in Armenian-American Literature,” as part of a panel on “The Role of the Family as the Locus of Roots and Source of Inspiration for Literary Creation.” His paper explored family as it is represented in modern Armenian-American literature. Author Nancy Agabian later read from her memoir *Me as Her Again* as she reflected upon her own family.

One of the highlights of the weekend was a performance of William Saroyan’s *The Hungerers*, a powerful one-act play reflecting on the hardships of the Depression and the invincibility of the human spirit. Dr. Anahid Aramouni Keshishian directed a five-person cast in front of a full house at the Jan Popper Theatre in Schoenberg Hall.

and Beirut. On October 7, 1918, the Eastern Legion was divided, separating the Syrian troops, and would then be known as the Armenian Legion. Turkey withdrew from the war on October 31, 1918. The Legionnaires passed through Palestine and Syria, coming across the remains of Armenians deported, massacred, and left to perish in the Syrian desert. They found some

On Saturday night, a concert of Contemporary Armenian Music was held, with the participation of composers Tigran Mansourian (Armenia), Kevork Andonian (Canada), and Vache Sharafyan (Armenia). The artistic director was Movses Pogossian and the concert was co-sponsored by the UCLA Armenian Studies Program and Herb Alpert School of Music.

Authors Bogos Kupelian, Peter Sourian, Diana Der-Hovanessian, Lory Bedikian, Arpine Konyalian Grenier, and Alicia Ghiragossian were among those who read from their own works during the conference.

The “Zephyr Group” of poets, Tina Demirjian, Armine Iknadossian, Shahe Mankerian, and Alene Terzian read poetry inspired by their Armenian roots. Meeting once a week, they support each other and criticize each other, providing an opportunity to improve their works.

The conference was an excellent forum to discuss important issues in contemporary Armenia literature. Plans are underway for a fourth Conference to be held in Yerevan, Armenia

survivors. During the time of the Armenian Legion, the Allies in Syria found 200,000 deported Armenians who survived the Genocide and in 1919, 120,000 to 150,000 Armenian exiles were repatriated to their homes throughout Cilicia, with 50,000 more shipped by rail to their homes in western Asia Minor.

In 1921, the French concluded negotiations with the Accord of October, where France would recognize Nationalist Turkey. The Armenian Legion was meanwhile disbanded, and many of the promises to the Armenians were absent from treaties over the Middle East over the aftermath of World War I.

The Armenian Legion was disbanded with the agreements having failed to ultimately materialize, but memory of the Legion’s efforts continues to this day. The traveling exhibit on the Armenian Legion serves as one reminder.

The exhibit will run on the second floor of the Henry Madden Library until the end of November. The exhibit will continue move to venues in Los Angeles and Detroit.



Henry Madden Library Dean Peter McDonald.

SISTER CITY, FROM PAGE 1

Cultural Organization listed the cathedral of Etchmiadzin as a World Heritage Site.

The decision to establish a sister-city relationship between Fresno and a city in Armenia was originally brought up by Councilmember Borgeas, and according to incoming Chair Bznuni, “We knew it wasn’t going to be the easiest thing in the world to do. It takes time and dedication and the key was putting together the right people, and we were fortunate to have the right people dedicating their time.”

Among those people is Fresno State’s own Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian who is part of the twelve-member Committee, and who was involved in the decision-making as to which city Fresno would partner with. Traveling between Armenia and Etchmiadzin this past September to meet with officials, Professor Der Mugrdechian brought the signed copies of the agreement back to Fresno.

Incoming Chair Bznuni was in Etchmiadzin in September for a formal ceremony officiated by Etchmiadzin’s Mayor Karen Grigoryan and attended by Arman Kirakossian, Armenia’s Deputy Foreign Minister.

Picking Etchmiadzin made sense for the Committee due to the



Photo: Howard K. Watkins

Left to right: Councilman Borgeas, Mayor Swearingen, and Vahagn Bznuni. The Mayor is holding the signed document establishing the sister city relationship.

size of the city and because it has an economy that relies heavily on agriculture. “The city is in an agriculturally rich province of Armavir. It makes a great match for us. We can take businessmen from here to Etchmiadzin to explore how we export our technologies there to help their farmers become better,” said Bznuni. The new ties will be beneficial to their economy and hopefully helping to promote new interest in those wanting to travel to Armenia.

The Fresno-Armenia Council has put much effort and time the past year, meeting regularly and sending representatives to Armenia to get this project off the ground. The long work put into this endeavor by the

Council was formally acknowledged on July 30 of this year, when the Fresno City Council unanimously voted to approve a motion declaring Fresno and Etchmiadzin as sister cities.

This relationship will be beneficial to Fresno and also to Fresno State students, who can get involved by joining the Fresno-Armenia Sister City Committee. There are other fields that may interest students—travel, education, agriculture, culture, and art to name a few.

Professor Der Mugrdechian stated, “Students should be interested in expanding their horizons, in traveling abroad and in working towards common goals. The Armenian Studies Program will get involved in the field of education and work with educational leaders in Armenia on a variety of projects.”

The Fresno-Armenia Sister City Committee members are Andreas Borgeas, Anna Borgeas, Vahagn Bznuni, Nshan Derkalousdian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Charles Garabedian, Jr., Allan Jendian, Yeghig Keshishian, Mary Alice Kaloostian, Hygo Ohanessian, Sevag Tateosian, and Philip Tavlian.

Anybody interested in taking part with this new sister city relationship can contact the Fresno Armenia Sister City Committee at fresnoarmeniasistercity@yahoo.com.

*The California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program*

Special Spring 2010 Courses

“ArmS 120T-Armenia Today”

by

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian

*The course will cover the history of the modern Republic of Armenia and discuss the economic, political, and social issues of the country.
Illustrated with slides and movies.*

**Friday, Feb. 19, 2010 • 5:00-8:50PM
Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010 • 9:00AM-5:00PM**

Schedule number 36818 • 1 unit

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by

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