

HYE SHARZHOOM
Armenian Action
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35th Year

May 2014

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Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

99th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide Marked in Solemn Ceremony at Fresno State



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

ASO Armenian Genocide Commemoration, April 24.

RUZAN ORKUSYAN
STAFF WRITER

The Fresno State Armenian Students Organization (ASO) has blossomed into a thriving Armenian community characterized by a fierce love of Armenian culture and an undying passion for bringing justice to the victims and survivors of the 1915 Armenian Genocide. On no day is this clearer than on April 24, the fateful day marking the start of the atrocities and massacres committed by the Turkish government during World War I.

As has become a long-standing tradition, members of the ASO and Armenian Studies Program organized commemorative events during the week of April 22-24. 2014 marks the 99th anniversary of the Genocide, and sadly, the perpetrators remain in denial of the horrific events.

Spurred by ignorance, the Genocide has remained unpunished for 99 years; therefore, the ASO

Armenian Genocide Committee worked tirelessly for three months to create events aimed at raising awareness about the Genocide and honoring the victims and survivors. Long hours of research, planning, advertisement, and community outreach culminated in a week of educational and interactive events that captivated students and community members alike. In honor of the 99th anniversary, members of the Committee gathered 99 facts about the Armenian Genocide and displayed them on trees around campus.

The week began with a memorable event to raise awareness of crimes against humanity. “Genocides Around the World” was organized by ASO and USU Productions, to educate students about the horrific events occurring worldwide and to poignantly illustrate the similarities between these tragedies.

ASO Vice President Marine

ASO Goes On San Francisco Outing



Photo: ASP Archive

Vardanyan explained that students had the opportunity to walk in the shoes of those who experienced atrocities during various historic genocides. Aramays Orkusyan stated it was an “eye opening event because there was information about more current genocides.”

Tuesday, April 22, the Committee prepared an emotional evening with two documentaries that allowed audience members to travel back in time to witness the trauma and emotions of victims and survivors. “20 voices,” by director Araz Artinian, introduced the audience to twenty survivors who recalled their experiences from the Genocide. As 2015 nears, there are few survivors still alive; thus documentaries like “20 Voices” ensure that their stories are heard for years to come.

“My Mother’s Voice” offered a more personal glimpse into the life and experiences of Flora Munushian as told by her daughter, author Dr. Kay Mouradian. The powerful narration and at times

SEE APRIL 24 PAGE 7

Armenian Studies Program 26th Annual Banquet



Photo: Thomas Ramirez-Best Shots Photo Booth

Left to right: JCAST Dean Charles Boyer, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Fresno State President Dr. Joseph Castro, First Lady Mrs. Mary Castro, Dr. Sergio La Porta, and Dean Vida Samiian of the College of Arts & Humanities.

MARINE VARDANYAN
EDITOR

A special moment arises each year for the faculty, students, and supporters of the Armenian Studies Program. It is an occasion that serves as a reunion, a celebration, and a reflection on the successes of the Program. The

26th Annual Armenian Studies Program Banquet took place on Sunday, March 2, 2014 at the Fort Washington Golf & Country Club in Fresno.

The Armenian Studies Program has much to take pride in. It has succeeded in not only offering

SEE **ASP BANOUET** PAGE 6

Exhibit on “Armenians of Bitlis” in Madden Library



Photo: ASP Archive

Left to right: Prof. Barlow Der Mugardechian, Ara Sarafian of the Gomidas Institute, and Dr. Sergio La Porta.

DENISE ALTOUNIAN
STAFF WRITER

For many Armenians in Fresno, the city of Bitlis, located today in the Republic of Turkey, holds a special place in their hearts. Not only was it the birthplace of the family of noted Fresno native William Saroyan, but also the birthplace to many of the Armenians who settled in Fresno in the years following the Armenian Genocide.

For much of its history, including the Ottoman period, Bitlis flourished as a center of Armenian culture and tradition.

Much of this legacy has almost vanished in the nearly hundred years following the Genocide of 1915.

However, in recent months there has been an attempt to shed light on the history of the city and the impact Armenians had there. Ara Sarafian, director of the Gomidas Institute in London, England, returned to Fresno State to discuss his most recent endeavor, a “bridge-building initiative” which was started in June 2013 to build contacts between Armenians, Turks, and Kurds.

On Sunday, March 30, Fresno State students, faculty, and the

community were invited to the opening of a new exhibit, "Remembering the Armenians of Bitlis," on display at the Henry Madden Library for the month of April. The exhibit was organized by Sarafian, with the support of Prof. Barlow Der Mugardechian and the Armenian Studies Program, to highlight some of the new documentation on Bitlis and to show never before seen photographs of Bitlis.

"This initiative is an important step in the process of recovering so much of Armenian culture lost as a result of the Genocide," stated Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program. "It is also a way to build bridges between people."

Sarafian was on hand in Fresno to open the exhibit and to give a talk "Down and About Bitlis: An Exhibition on Bitlis Armenians on the Shores of Lake Van."

Sarafian initiated contacts with residents of Bitlis last year, and the exhibit was a culmination of extensive research in Russian, Ottoman and Armenian archives to examine the number and role of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, especially the eastern region. This culminated in an exhibition, “The Armenians of Bitlis” (Bitlis Ermenileri), that

SEE ARMENIANS OF BITLIS PAGE 3

Armenian Studies Program
Book/Video/CD Archival Gifts

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Prof. Sergio La Porta, 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.

Armenian Numismatic Society, Pico Rivera, California, for a collection of books related to the study of Armenian coinage.

Books by **Paul Z. Bedoukian**: *Selected Numismatic Studies [I]* (1981), xxxvi, 570pp.; *Coinage of the Armenian Kingdoms of Sophene and Commagene* (1985), 37pp.; *Armenian Coin Hoards* (1987), 64pp.; *A Hoard of Copper Coins of Tigranes the Great and a Hoard of Artaxiad Coins* (1991), 30pp.; *Armenian Numismatic Studies* (2000), viii, 678pp.; *Selected Numismatic Studies II* (2003), viii, 376pp.; *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia* (1978), 81pp.; *Coinage of Cilician Armenia* (1979), xxxi, 494pp.; *Armenian Coins and Medals: An Exhibition from the Collection of Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian* (1971), 24pp.; *Armenian Books: An Exhibition of Early Printings 1512-1700 from the Collection of Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian* (1975), 24pp.; *Thirty Centuries of Armenian Metal Art: An Exhibition from the Collection of Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian* (1978), 24pp.; *Armenian Woven Art: An Exhibition from the Collection of Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian* (1980), 24pp.; and *Armenian Ceramic Art: An Exhibition from the Collections of Tina & Haroutune Hazarian, Dr. Paul Bedoukian* (1982), 24pp.

Books by **Y. T. Necessian**: *Attribution and Dating of Armenian Bilingual Trams* (1983), 36pp.; *Armenian Numismatic Bibliography and Literature* (1984), 29pp.; *Bank Notes of Armenia* (1988), 224pp.; *Silver Coinage of the Artaxiad Dynasty of Armenia* (2006), 212pp.; and *Armenian Numismatic Studies II* (2009), xii, 580pp.

Harry Demirgian, D.D.S., Scottsdale, Arizona, for the CD with an oral history of Marie Demirgian (1908-1998). The interview was conducted in 1993 with Demirgian, who was a Genocide survivor.

Dr. Richard Hovannisian, UCLA, for a copy of the book *Armenian Kesaria/Kayseri and Cappadocia* (Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda Publishers, 2013), ed. Richard Hovannisian, 368pp. Volume 12 in the series “Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces.”

Dr. Kay Mouradian, Los Angeles, California, for the gift of her books and a video: *My Mother’s Voice* (Balboa Press, 2013), 225pp., in English; *A Gift in the Sunlight: An Armenian Story* (London: Taderon Press, 2005), 2nd edition, 208pp., in English; and *My Mother’s Voice*, a video directed by Mark Friedman and based on the novel of the same name.

Ara Sarafian, Gomidas Institute, London, for copies of the following books: Hagop Oshagan, *Remnants: The Way of the Womb, Book I* (Gomidas Institute, 2014, second edition, tr. by G. M. Goshgarian, 207pp., in English; Thomas K. Mugerditchian, *The Diyarbekir Massacres and Kurdish Atrocities* (Gomidas Institute, 2013) 76pp., in English; Ara Sarafian, *Talaat Pasha’s Report on the Armenian Genocide*, 1917 (Gomidas Institute, 2011), 70pp., in English; Sonia Meghreblian, *An Armenian Odyssey* (Gomidas Institute, 2012), 151pp., in English; and Lewis Einstein, *Inside Constantinople: A Diplomat’s Diary During the Dardanelles Expedition*, April-September, 1915 (Gomidas Institute and Armenian Studies Program, Fresno State, 2014), 177pp., in English.

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California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2014 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
• Arm 1A-Elementary Armenian (Class #71267)	4	10:00A-11:50A	MW	B Der Mugrdechian

General Education-Breadth, Arts, Area C1

• ArmS 20-Arts of Armenia (Class #72094)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TuTh	B Der Mugrdechian
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Upper Division Armenian Studies Courses

• ArmS 108A-Arm History I (Class #71269)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	B Der Mugrdechian
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General Education-Breadth, Area D3

• ArmS 10-Intro Arm Studies (Class #71268)	3	12:00P-12:50P	MWF	Staff
• ArmS 10-Intro Arm Studies (Class #79404)	3	3:30P-4:45P	MW	Staff

For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit the ASP office in the Peters Business Building, Room 384.

Get a Minor in Armenian Studies. Check on requirements for the Minor in Armenian Studies in the current catalog: <http://www.fresnostate.edu/catalog/subjects/armenian-studies/armenia-mn.html>

HYE SHARZHOOM
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There are many ways to support
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2) The Armenian Studies Program can also be supported in the future in estate plans.

Regardless of how a donation is made, each gift impacts
the lives of students and faculty at Fresno State.

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Dr. Russell Discusses Work of Poet Kara Darvish



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Dr. Sergio La Porta, right, with guest Dr. James Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard.

SUREN OGANESSIAN
STAFF WRITER

Armenian literary history is full of gifted poets and storytellers, from Agathangelos and Moses Khorenatsi, to Sayat Nova and Hovhannes Toumanian, but few broke as many rules and experimented with language, as did the early 20th century poet Kara Darvish.

On Thursday, March 20, Dr. James R. Russell introduced this obscure but nonetheless important figure in Armenian literature to an audience at Fresno State through his lecture “An Armenian Eccentric: The Life and Times of Kara Darvish.” The lecture was part of the Spring Lecture Series sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program with the support of the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

Dr. Russell is Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University and though having specialized in ancient and medieval Armenian literature, he has recently turned his focus

to modern Western Armenian literature, which brought him to the work of Kara Darvish.

Kara Darvish was born Hakop Genjian, and lived most of his life in Tiflis, Georgia, once a cultural hub for Armenians. His pen name comes from the Turkish word for “black” and the Persian word for “poor bard.” He was heavily inspired by the futurist movement, a popular philosophy in the first half of the 20th century which advocated breaking traditions and looking to the future, and he associated with other Armenian poets such as Yeghishe Charents.

Kara Darvish also wrote novels, proverbs, and manifestos, but was most famous for his poems, which he would often print on postcards and sell in front of cinemas and cafes. These poems would sometimes be nonsensical, containing words both Armenian and made-up, occasionally pasted together from several different languages. They would sometimes evoke imagery from Armenian mythology and

occultism. The letters were not always read from left to right, and would be of different sizes and fonts, or sometimes faced sideways. The point was to paint a picture of the chaotic nature of real life with the words.

Kara Darvish enjoyed causing scandal as well by thumbing his nose at traditional Armenian literature, publicly criticizing Sayat Nova and even Moses Khorenatsi, which was tantamount to blasphemy in Armenian literary circles, akin to a British writer denouncing Shakespeare. He would argue, why reprint and pay so much attention to thousand-year-old books when there are talented writers today starving on the streets? Kara Darvish was of the opinion that every new writer should bring something new to the table, and not only rely on traditional methods to get their points across. His subversive, eccentric opinions were attacked by the establishment.

While initially seeing the 1917 Russian Revolution as the dawn of a new era of enlightenment, Kara Darvish and his fellow futurist writers would fall out of favor when the Bolsheviks came to power, and his work fell into obscurity, perhaps because people at the time were much more concerned with the here and now than the future. He died in 1930, with his work forgotten until more recent times. Kara Darvish’s poems represent an important moment in Armenian literary history, and he is one of the few writers to treat the Armenian language as organic, versatile, and evolving, rather than rigid and unchanging. Perhaps his work can still teach us something in the modern day.

Der Mugrdechian Presents Two Lectures in Scottsdale, Arizona



Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, left, with Fr. Zacharia Saribekyan of St. Apkar Armenian Church in Scottsdale.

Photo: ASP Archive

STAFF REPORT

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program was invited by Scottsdale Community College (Arizona) to speak as part of a program entitled “Genocide Awareness Week: Not on Our Watch,” which was held April 7-11. The “Genocide Awareness Week” was co-sponsored by the St. Apkar Armenian Apostolic Church of Scottsdale.

Der Mugrdechian’s presentation, “The Armenian Genocide: On the Eve of 100 Years,” held on Friday, April 11, was attended by more than 150 students and faculty, as well as interested participants from the Armenian community.

Rev. Fr. Zacharia Saribekyan, pastor of the St. Apkar Armenian Apostolic Church introduced Der Mugrdechian, who focused his talk on documentation of the Armenian Genocide, with special emphasis on a new book jointly published by the Gomidas Institute (London) and Armenian Studies Program, called *Inside Constantinople: A Diplomat’s Diary During the Dardanelles Expedition, April-September 1915* by Lewis Einstein.

Einstein’s memoir provides eyewitness testimony, from the perspective of an American diplomat, about what was occurring to Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, at the beginning of what later would be called the first Genocide of the modern era. Einstein was a special agent of the United States State Department, who was based in Constantinople in 1915. Henry Morgenthau’s more familiar *Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story*, published in 1918, also provides firm documentation by American officials as to what was happening in Ottoman Turkey.

In his talk Der Mugrdechian discussed some of the factors that led to the Armenian Genocide, such as the ideology of pan-Turkism, and also discussed the wealth of Armenian memoir literature and oral histories.

This was the second year that the “Genocide Awareness Week” was held and the April event featured speakers, art exhibitions, a two-day workshop on peace building, and a play.

John Liffiton, an English professor and the organizer of the event, said that it is important that people realize the frequency of genocide in the 20th century.

Der Mugrdechian was also invited to speak after Palm Sunday Services at St. Apkar Armenian Church, presenting an informative power point on “Armenian Jerusalem,” a particularly pertinent talk since it came on the day Christians celebrate the Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

New Hye Sharzhoom Website-hyesharzhoom.com



newspaper.

The new website is the home of *Hye Sharzhoom*, the newspaper of the Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program, now in its 35th year of operation.

Featured on the website is an archive of the back issues of *Hye Sharzhoom* in PDF format, from 1979 to the present, making it convenient for readers to access past articles.

The top news stories are also found on the website, with an enlarged photo section to enrich the *Hye Sharzhoom* experience.

An events page keeps readers up-to-date with activities sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program.

STAFF REPORT

The Armenian Studies Program announces the launching of a new website, hyesharzhoom.com, dedicated to the *Hye Sharzhoom*

www.hyesharzhoom.com

ARMENIANS OF BITLIS, FROM PAGE 1

first debuted on March 1-2, 2014, in Tatvan, Turkey, located on the shores of Lake Van.

As Sarafian explained, some people were doubtful that it would be possible to display data that directly contradicts the Turkish government position on the Genocide. However this project represents a new opportunity for scholarship in the area. The display consisted of ethnographic maps and photographs of Armenians living in Bitlis, documenting the

historic presence of Armenians there. The exhibit were based on research at the ABCFM Archives (Houghton Library, Harvard University), Mt. Holyoke College Archives (Mass.), AGBU Nubarian archives (Paris), and the Ottoman Prime Ministry Archives (Istanbul).

The photographs represented a significant milestone, because many people in Eastern Turkey had never actually seen an Armenian face before. The photos showed the daily lives of the Armenians,

their schools, churches, and more. Although it may seem a small step, these photographs represent the human connection that is often lacking when it comes to Armenian, Kurdish, and Turkish relations.

The maps, based on demographic research from Russian and Turkish sources, displayed the ethnic composition of the Ottoman Empire. The research indicates that Armenians and Kurds in the Bitlis and Van provinces actually made up

the majority of the population, with few Turks in the region. The Turkish government has deliberately argued that Armenians and Kurds were not in the majority.

One interesting outcome of the initiative was the immense support and interest in the project shown by the Kurdish population of Bitlis. They were very supportive of unearthing Armenian history in Turkey. Many Kurdish youth acknowledge the Armenian Genocide and want to know what role they can play in moving forward. Several Kurdish politicians and prominent attorneys attended the debut of the exhibit in Tatvan. According to Sarafian, as many as one in six Kurds in these areas may have Armenian ancestors.

This exhibit was a significant step forward in the future of Armenian Studies in Turkey. It is important that projects like these continue to record history before it is lost. Many Armenian landmarks still exist in Turkey and any attempt to falsify history can never eliminate local memories. The Armenian issue is far from closed and it is up to the new generation to continue scholarship in the area.

Congratulations Graduating Seniors and Armenian Studies Minors for 2013-2014

Miranda Bulbulian Ferrell
Anthropology
Minor in Armenian Studies

What encouraged you to take an Armenian Studies course?

Part of the reason I wanted to attend Fresno State was because I had heard there was a good Armenian Studies Program. I wanted to learn more about my culture and my family's history, so I decided to make it my Minor.

What do you value most from your experiences in the Armenian Studies Program?

I loved learning about the architecture and the churches, as well as the ancient art. I valued everything I learned in all of my classes, and it has made me want to do my own research outside of class.

What was your favorite Armenian Studies class, activity, or event?

I can't decide which class was my favorite—I loved them all. I really loved the language course—it was so much fun to learn the alphabet and conversation starters. I also really loved the Arts of Armenia class, in addition to the Armenian Diaspora class that Professor Bournoutian taught a few years ago.

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I plan on going back to school to get a nursing degree, then after that, I would like to pursue a Masters in Medical Anthropology.



Suren Oganessian
Creative Writing

What was your favorite Armenian Studies class, activity, or event?

My favorite event will probably be an upcoming trip to Armenia with the Armenian Studies Program, but if I had to choose one that already happened, I would probably say taking Dr. Sona Haroutyunian's class on "The Armenian Genocide in Literature, Cinema, and Translation." I learned a lot and enjoyed it.

What are your plans after graduation?

I would like to get a job in the writing field, and become a published author.



Jessica Boujikian
Political Science
Smittcamp Honors College

What was your favorite Armenian Studies class, activity, or event?

My favorite Armenian Studies event(s) was the lecture and film series put on through the Armenian Studies Program. My personal favorite was seeing a documentary entitled "Grandma's Tattoos" by Suzanne Khardalian. I particularly enjoyed this film because I felt an immediate connection to the main character's struggle to understand the mysteries and pain of her family's



past, and her resentment over the world's self-inflicted ignorance over the events that transpired in and around Armenia in 1915.

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan on attending law school at UC Hastings to pursue a Juris Doctor, with an emphasis in either Constitutional or International Law.



Andrew Esguerra
Business Administration, Marketing Option
Minor in Armenian Studies
Co-Curricular Leadership Certificate,
Fall 2011 Cohort

What encouraged you to take an Armenian Studies course?

I was encouraged to take an Armenian Studies course to gain the knowledge of Armenian language, art, culture, and history that the classes have to offer. I was excited to participate in these classes for the opportunity to connect with other students who had an interest in the subject matter, and broaden my own

horizons beyond simply my major courses. The opportunity to work towards my career in my classes is very beneficial, but the opportunity to learn more about myself, my family, and my culture, is fulfilling and has motivated me to continue being active in the Armenian Studies Program.

What do you value most from your experiences in the Armenian Studies Program?

I most value the knowledge that I have grasped from my experience in the Armenian Studies Program, whether through the classes, the *Hye Sharzhoom*, or the Armenian Students Organization. Also appreciated is the recognition and support that I have received from the community members, both indirectly, with the generous contributions to the department, and directly, for providing positive feedback for the *Hye Sharzhoom*.

What was your favorite Armenian Studies class, activity, or event?

My favorite Armenian Studies event would have to be the Annual Banquet, where one can see a majority of the students, educators, and supporters that make the department what it is today.

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I plan to travel this coming summer, and then look for work in my field of study. I would also look forward to getting involved in the community, my church, and a few organizations.

Denise Altounian
Political Science
Minor in Armenian Studies

What encouraged you to take an Armenian Studies course?

I was always looking for opportunities to get more connected to my culture and I thought that taking an Armenian Studies course would be the perfect introduction.

What do you value most from your experiences in the Armenian Studies Program?

I am forever grateful to the Armenian Studies Program for allowing me the opportunity to fully embrace my Armenian culture. I have learned so much more than I ever imagined in the past four years. Thanks to this program I can now read and write Armenian, I traveled to Armenia, attended countless fascinating lectures and met the most amazing people. The Armenian community as a whole really adopted me as one of their own and made my time in Fresno one that I will never forget.

What was your favorite Armenian Studies class, activity, or event?

By far my favorite experience was traveling to Armenia in the summer of 2011, with the Armenian Studies Program. I never dreamed I would have the opportunity to go to Armenia, let alone see so many historic sites in one trip. It was the experience of a lifetime to see the country that my dad grew up in and left so many years ago.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be taking the next school year off to prepare for the LSAT exam and apply to law school. My goal is to be enrolled in a law school in Southern California by Fall 2015.

Photos:

Cary Edmonson, Campus Photographer
Thomas Ramirez, Best Shots Photo Booth
Barlow Der Mugrdechian



Noel Lenard
Graphic Design

What was your favorite Armenian Studies class, activity, or event?

The ASO Genocide Commemoration Week activities have always been the highlight of the year. We come together to put on events that entertain and educate, all the while growing closer as friends, students, and Armenians.

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan on working at a design firm or ad agency in Fresno.



Kristina Koroyan
Kinesiology-Exercise

What was your favorite Armenian Studies class, activity, or event?

My favorite course was Arts of Armenia that I took my first semester as a Fresno State student with Professor Der Mugrdechian. This was my first course in Armenian Studies and it prepared me immensely for Armenia 120T, our excursion to Armenia, which was an amazing experience.

What are your plans after graduation?

I would like to study abroad in Greece over the summer and begin a doctoral program in Physical Therapy in August. I have been accepted to Idaho State University and am very excited to become a healthcare professional in this growing field.



Ruzan Orkusyan
Biology
Smittcamp Honors College

What was your favorite Armenian studies class, activity, or event?

My favorite event/activity was the International Coffee Hour and International Culture Night. Preparing for the International Coffee Hour presentation allowed me to learn more about my history. It was challenging, but also thrilling preparing a dance number for the International Culture Night, I had never done something similar and it was exciting to share our hard work with our friends and classmates. Both events allowed me not only to learn more about my culture, but also to share my love of Armenia and Armenian traditions with the Fresno State community, and I am so happy that I was able to participate in both.

What are you plans after graduation?

I will be attending the UC Irvine School of Medicine for my M.D. degree. I plan on returning to Fresno after my training to use my multicultural and multilingual background to help the underserved and diverse communities of Fresno.



Dr. Hovannisian Speaks on “Armenians of Kayseri”



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Left to right: Michael Rettig, Vartush Mesropyan, Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Marine Vardanyan, Tatevik Hovhannisyan, Haverj Stanboularian, and Ovsanna Simonyan.

SUREN OGANESSIAN
STAFF WRITER

Cappadocia, a region in central Anatolia just west of the Anti-Taurus mountains, has a marvelous, mountainous landscape, dominated by tall rock formations called “fairy chimneys,” and featuring ancient churches built into solid rock and in secret caves, from a time when Christianity was frowned upon by Islamic Arab rulers. Unsurprisingly given its proximity to historic Armenia just to the east, Cappadocia has played a key role in Armenia’s history from ancient to modern times.

The latest in Professor Richard G. Hovannisian’s ongoing series of books detailing regions of historic Armenia, *Armenian Kesaria/Kayseri and Cappadocia*, charts the history of the region as it relates to its once-thriving Armenian population. A frequent visitor to Fresno State, Dr. Hovannisian returned on Friday, April 25, to present a talk “Armenian Kayseri,” as part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series, with is supported by the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

In a broad ranging presentation Dr. Hovannisian discussed the history of the Armenians in the region, and also brought the

lecture to life with video clips. In Diyarbakir, one of the last Armenians in the city, *Digin* (Mrs.) Baydzar was interviewed by Dr. Hovannisian’s daughter Ani. Baydzar instantly became an audience favorite with her warm personality and modest smile. An interesting clip on the Hamshen, an Armenian speaking ethnic group, who live in the region of Northwestern Turkey, was also shown.

Dr. Hovannisian presented historic photos from the many Armenian inhabited villages that were in the region of Kayseri: Evkere, Talas, Tomarza, Chomakhlou, and Evereg among others. Through the photos the audience learned of Armenian customs, of the beautiful Armenian churches, and of the many educational institutions that once existed.

Cappadocia was a longtime cultural and political contact zone between East and West, and like the Armenian Highland region to the east, passed hands between empires several times in its history, with fleeting moments of independence in between. It was briefly a vassal state of Tigran the Great’s empire, making it a buffer state between Armenia and Rome. But for much of its history it served as one of the eastern-most provinces of Rome and later

the Byzantine empire, depending on how much of Armenia the Byzantines dominated at any given time.

Armenians began moving into Cappadocia in large numbers when Greater Armenia was partitioned between the Sassanid Persians and the Byzantines in the fourth century. At different points in its history the Byzantine government, looking to weaken the powerful social structure of Armenia, either enticed or forced entire Armenian communities to move west. They would do this again after annexing the independent Bagratuni and Artsruni kingdoms between the 9th-11th centuries AD. And although the Armenians were Christian, the Byzantine Empire preferred that their subjects adhere to the Greek Orthodox Church, creating a challenge for Armenians in the area to retain their identity as a people.

By the time the Ottoman Turks took over the area in the 14th century, the challenges for Cappadocian Armenians were about the same as Armenians living anywhere else, being Christians in a Muslim-dominated empire. Armenians would maintain a presence in the region up until 1915, when the Armenians of this region were either deported or massacred in the Armenian Genocide.

Professor Hovannisian, Professor Emeritus of Modern Armenian History at UCLA, first began researching the Cappadocia region in 1997, when initiating a series of eighteen conferences on “Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces,” areas from which the Armenians were eliminated during the 1915 Genocide.

Armenian Kayseri is the twelfth volume published in the series. After three years of gathering information, editing and indexing, the newest volume on Cappadocia has now been published, and this interesting and often overlooked chapter in Armenian history is finally being given some much overdue attention.

Sarafian Presents New Book by U.S. Diplomat Lewis Einstein-“Inside Constantinople”

DENISE ALTOUNIAN
STAFF WRITER

Many people are familiar with American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau’s account of the Armenian Genocide in his work *Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story* (1918). In the years following its publication, it has become one of the primary sources in studying the Genocide of 1915. However it is safe to say many people are not familiar with an equally important work written by a fellow American diplomat, Lewis Einstein.

Einstein’s newly published work, entitled *Inside Constantinople: A Diplomat’s Diary during the Dardanelle’s Expedition, April-September 1915*, is an equally important, if not more significant work to Armenian Genocide studies and recognition. Published by the Gomidas Institute (London),

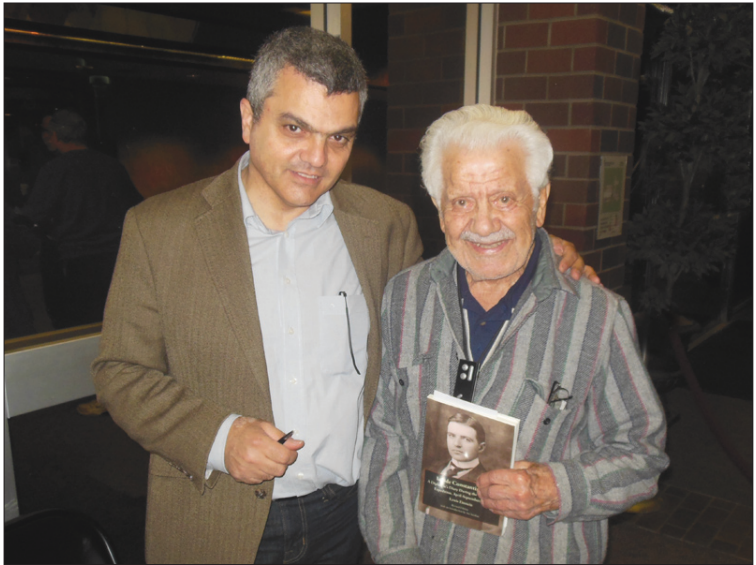


Photo: Vartush Mesropyan

Guest speaker Ara Sarafian, left, with Edward Hagopian.

with the support of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, Einstein’s work is part of a series that is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Ara Sarafian, director of the Gomidas Institute and the editor

of *Inside Constantinople*, spoke at Fresno State on Tuesday, April 1, on “Saving Armenians: The United States and the Armenian Genocide Thesis, 1915,” presenting new insights

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Babayan-Trifonov Keyboard Concert Enchants Audience



Left to right: Keyboard Concert Series director Andreas Werz, Daniil Trifonov, Fresno State President Dr. Joseph Castro, First Lady Mrs. Mary Castro, and Sergei Babayan after the March 7 concert at Fresno State. The concert was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program.

TATEVIK HOVHANNISYAN
STAFF WRITER

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

It is a rare occasion when two talented virtuoso performers unite for a concert—the result was a great performance and a night of incredible melody.

Friday, March 7, 2014 was one of those moments, when a sold-out audience appreciated the performance with a standing ovation, not wanting to let the musicians go, and demanding not one, but two encores.

The Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concerts and the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State organized the concert that featured the exceptional pianists Sergei Babayan and his protégé Daniil Trifonov, as part of the 42nd Season of the Keyboard Concert Series.

The concert commenced with the performance of the “Sonata in D Major for four hands” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, an uplifting and refreshing introduction for what lay in store for the remainder of the evening.

This sonata was written in three movements: Allegro con spirito, Andante and Allegro Molto.

It was one of Mozart’s few compositions for two pianos, composed in a *galant* style that interlocks melodies with simultaneous cadences.

“Fantasy in F Minor” by Franz Schubert, consisting of four parts: Allegro molto moderato, Largo, Scherzo and Finale, took the listeners to a world of reverie and love.

The sonata, composed in 1828, the last year of Schubert’s life, was dedicated to his student, Karoline Esterházy, with whom he was in love. The lyrical rhythms were played with great emotion.

A performance of Sergei Prokofiev’s “Romeo and Juliet Suite, Op. 64,” based on the composer’s 1935 ballet, opened the second half of the concert.

The introduction of this suite, which begins in forte then drops to pianissimo, has no thematic content and is intended to only create a dark and intense atmosphere.

Throughout the entire suite, the atmosphere remains consistent as it prepares for the approaching sadness and danger in the scene.

The audience, which included the recently appointed Fresno State President Joseph Castro and First Lady Mrs. Mary Castro, witnessed the focus and explosiveness of the artists, who were completely drawn into the compositions, feeling every note they performed.

The pleasant evening approached its end with the last composition of the program, “Suite No. 2, Op. 17” by Sergey Rachmaninoff, which was followed by a standing ovation and calls for an encore.

Babayan and Trifonov performed the Suite in complete harmony and cooperation, leaving the audience amazed and awed by their technique and professionalism.

Sergei Babayan started his piano journey at the age of six in the Republic of Armenia, continuing his studies in the Moscow Conservatory under Vera Gornostayeva and Mikhail Pletnev.

As the founder of the Sergey Babayan International Piano Academy at the Cleveland Institute of Music, he has mentored many piano professionals who have been recognized at world-famous competitions.

By the age of 20, Trifonov had already won numerous prestigious awards, becoming the Distinguished Medalist of the International Chopin Piano Competition and being awarded the First Prize, Gold Medal, and Grand Prix at the 14th International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow.

“The sold out crowd and most importantly the musicians were phenomenal. I have worked with the Armenian Studies Program for more than twenty years...these are the concerts I always look forward to,” said the Keyboard Concert Artistic Director Andreas Werz.

The Armenian Studies Program has co-sponsored many Keyboard Concert Series artists.

During the concert, Professor Der Mugrdechian was recognized for his work in bringing the virtuoso artists to Fresno State and providing classical music lovers the opportunity to hear the energetic artists.

ASP 26th Annual Banquet Celebrates 35th Anniversary of Hye Sharzhoom Newspaper



Left to right: Dr. Sergio La Porta, former editors Randy Baioian and Vahe Messerlian, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and current Hye Sharzhoom editor Marine Vardanyan.

ASP BANQUET, FROM PAGE 1

students a Minor in Armenian Studies, but has an array of achievements that includes the establishment of the only university-published Armenian student newspaper in the United States. “*Hye Sharzhoom* is a unique publication that represents our Program and the students, to the campus and to the community,” said Professor Der Mugrdechian. *Hye Sharzhoom*’s 35th Anniversary was a focal part of the evening’s celebration.

With previous editors and staff members in attendance, the audience enjoyed listening to their recollections, and viewing “Hye Sharzhoom, a Retrospective,” a power point presentation of the newspaper’s cover pages throughout the years.

Editor Vahe Messerlian (1984-1985) stated that *Hye Sharzhoom* had “done an outstanding job of showcasing the successes of the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization, keeping up with

current events, and presenting the richness of our culture and heritage.” Former editors Arakel Arisian (1997-1998) and Tamar Karkazian (2010-2013) also recounted the high points of their tenure as *Hye Sharzhoom* editors.

The Armenian Studies Program recognized the contribution of nine *Hye Sharzhoom* editors who were present at the Banquet, presenting them each with a plaque and a book, published by the Armenian Series of The Press at Fresno State.

The Armenian Studies Program was honored to have Fresno State President Dr. Joseph Castro and First Lady Mary Castro in attendance. Dr. Castro is a first generation college student and a Valley native, and his position as the head of the university “gives a fresh look upon what a university is,” said Dr. Sergio La Porta in his introduction. “It’s not an institution...it’s an organic, dynamic place where people come alive in ways they never thought.”

Although he is in only his first year as Fresno State President, Dr. Castro is already familiar with and impressed by the Armenian Studies Program and its contribution to Fresno State and the community at large. “I sense how important the Armenian Studies Program is for the campus, for the community, and for the nation. I would like to compliment everyone who has helped to build this incredible Program.”

President Castro also voiced his support for the Armenian Studies Program and the community for the initiative to construct an Armenian Genocide Memorial on campus, which would make Fresno State the first university to have such a memorial.

“Where else should that be but here at Fresno State,” stated Dr. Castro. The audience was filled with excitement and anticipation as the President outlined his ideas and his vision of the bright future that awaits Fresno State. “In short, I want to work with all of you to make Fresno State the very best university of its kind that it can be here in the nation,” said President Castro.

The Armenian Studies Program also welcomed Dr. Vida Samiian, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, who addressed the audience.

“The Armenian Studies Program does so much with two faculty members, Barlow Der Mugrdechian and Sergio La Porta, who are amazing, and do the work of ten faculty. Many of you in the audience are the product of our Program. We could not have accomplished what we have with the Program without you.

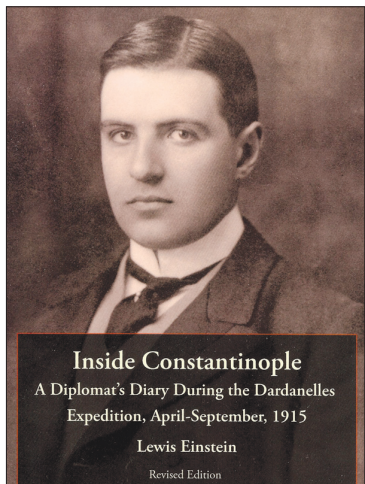
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SARAFIAN, FROM PAGE 5

into the role of the United States in documenting the Armenian Genocide and publicizing the plight of Armenians in 1915

Inside Constantinople, based on Lewis Einstein’s personal diary, is one of the earliest accounts of the Genocide from an American perspective, even predating Morgenthau’s work. Einstein was a career diplomat stationed in Constantinople during World War I and would serve as an important witness to events leading up to and following April 1915. He was appointed to serve in Constantinople as an intermediary for Allied interests in the region. Einstein began keeping a diary to document the Dardanelles campaign and in the process began recording daily events. His diary gives detailed accounts of the deportations in its earliest stages and the escalation of violence to eventually reach genocidal proportions. This is significant because it gives a chronological account of the United State’s knowledge of the events.

Sarafian introduced the audience to Einstein’s work, by reading passages from the book, noting that the book can be described as unpolished, per



Einstein’s wishes. He knew the significance of what he documented and wanted to keep its original integrity. This is especially important today as deniers of the Genocide attempt to attack primary sources to cause doubt in calls for recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Just as Lewis Einstein’s account of the Genocide is unfamiliar to many, the American relief effort for the victims of the Genocide is also a little known part of American history. The United States played a unique role as a witness to the Genocide who chose to act. American missionaries in the Ottoman Empire played a crucial role in relaying the information of the atrocities taking place within the empire back to the United States.

As the Genocide unfolded, the Ottoman government attempted to control the flow of information through censorship. It was the Americans that were able to get the information out to the Bible houses, embassies and the State Department.

Eventually that provided enough information for the Americans to realize as early as June 1915 that organized massacres was taking place in the Ottoman Empire.

However Americans were not simple bystanders. The U.S. Embassy organized a relief program that raised funds to take care of refugees. What was eventually known as the Near East Relief went on to mount the largest humanitarian intervention program in American history and American dollars helped to save tens of thousands of Armenian lives.

Inside Constantinople is a significant work for future studies of the Armenian Genocide. This book single-handedly shows that Americans were very much aware of what was happening in the Ottoman Empire in 1915. We can only hope that as the hundredth anniversary of the Armenian Genocide approaches, works like this will receive more attention to further the campaign for recognition.



Left to right: Davit Gevorgyan, Arnold Muradyan, Roza Marabyan, Aida Sagherian, Stephanie Sagherian, and Ovsanna Simonyan at the ASP Banquet.

Eench Ga Chga

EMMA SHALJYAN • STAFF WRITER

What expectations do you have for the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide?



Julia Aghayan
Senior
Major: Psychology

The deaths of over 1.5 million Armenians is unrecognized in many countries around the world today. It is essential to me, for Armenians and non-Armenians alike, to continue disseminating facts of the Genocide, simply so the world may know our history—the struggles our ancestors endured and the sacrifices they made so that we may still call ourselves the first Christian nation, and may still call ourselves Armenian. My hope for the 100th anniversary is to see the Armenian Genocide accepted as a significant historical event.



Ovsanna Simonyan
Junior
Major: International Business

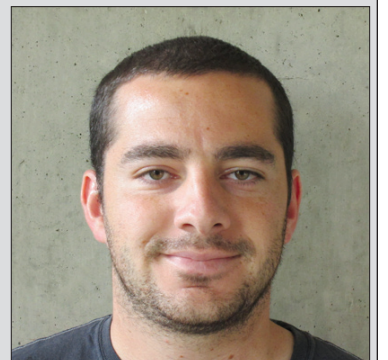
I expect to see a lot of diversity, internet exposure, and personal touches. Genocide is a very sensitive topic that needs to be addressed and taught not only in an informational matter, but on a personal level, with examples that will touch the hearts of others, who in return will also fight for recognition. The internet plays a huge role in our lives today. It is a great tool for exposure and needs to be used tactically to make media about the Genocide go viral all over the news and

all around the world. I want to see Fresno State and the Fresno community involved in planning and implementing activities to bring awareness of the Genocide.



Knarik Kazaryan
Senior
Major: Biology

My expectations are for Americans and Armenians both. I can only expect with hope for America to finally recognize the Genocide. We have all long awaited this step, being the only barrier for final justice. My expectations for Armenians are to never give up and stand firm regardless of what anniversary it is. If we do not commemorate in our hearts, no one will do it for us.



David Tataryan
Senior
Major: Computer Science

Should the Armenian Genocide be recognized by the United States on the 100th anniversary? My response, it shouldn’t have taken this long. Countries in other parts of the world push to recognize the Genocide, and the United States should follow suit. I expect the recognition of the genocide that took the lives of 1.5 million people 99 years ago to be delivered by the United States by the 100th anniversary. Enough is enough.

Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

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Hye Sharzhoom Editors Recall Their Experiences

MARINE VARDANYAN
EDITOR

Hye Sharzhoom celebrates its 35th Anniversary with a look back and interviews with previous editors.

Randy Baloian

Editor: Fall 1985-Spring 1986

How did you become interested in joining the staff of *Hye Sharzhoom*? Why did you decide to become editor?

I realize that this doesn't sound very idealized, but the truth is that I became involved in the paper at the urging—or rather through the arm twisting—of my longtime friend Vahe Messerlian. Because of a heavy course load, I really didn't want to do it at first. Of course, in looking back, I'm glad that my old buddy did twist my arm a bit. Thanks Vahe.

How did your experience with *Hye Sharzhoom* impact your life?

After graduating from Fresno State, I moved on to UC Davis, where some fellow students and I formed an Armenian Students Association there. More recently, my two daughters have attended the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School. Additionally, I've served on the school board and even edited some issues of the CKACS newspaper *Arekag*. Without a doubt, my interest and participation in the Armenian community are direct results of my previous involvement in the *Hye Sharzhoom*, ASO, and ASP.

What were some lessons you learned by being on the staff?

As with writing in general, I've learned to read my stuff over and over again, then have someone else proof it. It's important to minimize your mistakes, although in the end you have to accept that you're going to make them no matter what you do. Nobody bats a thousand

What was your favorite part/best memory from writing for *Hye Sharzhoom*?

By far, the most memorable times were working with Vahe, Prof. Barlow, and all the other people that contributed to the paper. It was work, too, and yet even when I see our photographer Gary Kazanjian (who is arguably the *Hye Sharzhoom*'s all-time best photojournalist), he still makes me laugh the way he used to. There is something to be said for working shoulder to shoulder with your friends and comrades. This is what community is all about. This is what moves *Hye* Tad forward.

In what ways has *Hye Sharzhoom* changed since your time as editor?

It's been a longtime since I was

the editor—almost 30 years. Yet I really don't see that many substantial differences in the overall product—it's still very much a student newspaper. I suppose that with the advances in computer technology, the paper's graphics have improved in that time.

I'd also imagine that the production of the paper is probably easier now than it was back then. In comparison with today's computerized programs and templates for newspapers, the way we used to lay out the paper in that grimy *Daily Collegian* office back in the mid-1980s was akin to setting type for Gutenberg's press. By present day standards, it was right out of the Middle Ages.

In your opinion, what does it take to be an effective editor? Effort.

Tamar Karkazian

Editor: Fall 2010-Spring 2013

How did you become interested in joining the staff of *Hye Sharzhoom*?

When I decided to go to Fresno State, I knew I wanted to be part of the *Hye Sharzhoom* staff. Growing up, I saw my cousin's articles, stories and pictures in *Hye Sharzhoom* and knew that I wanted to do it too.

Why did you decide to become editor?

I really enjoyed writing for the *Hye Sharzhoom* and when the opportunity came to do more with the newspaper I was glad to!

How did your experience with *Hye Sharzhoom* impact your life?

The way *Hye Sharzhoom* impacted my life was by showing me how connected we all are as a culture. Whenever a new issue of *Hye Sharzhoom* would come out it would be followed by someone's positive comments. Realizing how far of a reach it had was amazing.

What was your favorite part/best memory from writing for *Hye Sharzhoom*?

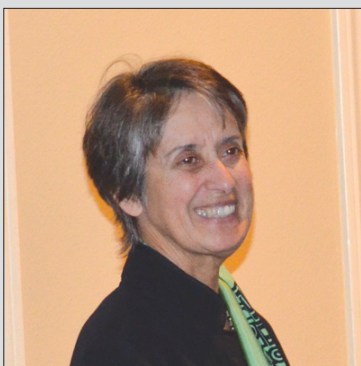
One of my very favorite memories with *Hye Sharzhoom* was when a group of the writers and I were folding the papers to send internationally.

I remember about half of the staff had come and we were working as a team to send them out. As we were stuffing the newspapers into envelopes, we started looking at the addresses.

We were amazed at how far our stories traveled, and who our stories were sent to.

I remember our excitement and awe, as a group, as how far our voices traveled through *Hye Sharzhoom*.

ASP BANQUET, FROM PAGE 6



Dean Vida Samiian

Through your presence and your support, together we have the best undergraduate Armenian Studies Program in the United States...I also would like to congratulate the students who make all of us so proud with their achievements."

The Banquet continued with recognition of graduating seniors, students with minors, and students who were recipients of Armenian Studies scholarships. Graduating senior Andrew Esguerra spoke of his outstanding memories while a student at Fresno State. Special recognition was also given to the executive officers of the Armenian Students Organization. Each student felt a sense of pride and achievement as they were recognized and received certificates of recognition from the Armenian Studies Program.

The evening ended with those in attendance showing their appreciation for the Armenian Studies Program and all that it has achieved. Guests left the Banquet with a gift of books from the Armenian Series of The Press at Fresno State, along with photos of their fun time in the photo booth during the reception.

Photo: Ovsanna Simonyan

Photo: Ovsanna Simonyan

Photo: Ovsanna Simonyan

With more than ten Armenian Studies Programs and endowed chairs in the United States, Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program is the top undergraduate Program in the country.

"It is only through the support of the community, and those of you in attendance this evening, that this success is possible," said Professor Der Mugrdechian.



Left to right: Former editors Tamar Karkazian, Sevag Tateosian, Arakel Arisian, Randy Baloian, and Bill Erysian.



Left to right: Graduating students Ruzan Orkusyan, Jessica Boujikian, and Noel Lenard.

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disturbing black and white images moved many of the spectators, who had the distinct privilege of asking Dr. Mouradian, who attended the event from Los Angeles, their questions.

The movies were followed by a candlelight vigil at the Free Speech area, where they were greeted by traditional Armenian music. Rev. Fr. Yeghia Hairabedian, pastor of St. Gregory Armenian Church in Fowler led the requiem service (*hokehankisd*) and expressed his thoughts on the occasion. The night ended with a musical number by ASO members Aramayis Orkusyan (*duduk*) and Michael Rettig (*oud*), who performed two Armenian folk songs.

The climax of the week was on Thursday, April 24, and the Committee planned an unforgettable afternoon. During



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Dr. Kay Mouradian

an hour-long "Silent Protest" at noon, the students held informational posters and banners calling for justice and recognition of the Genocide.

The commemoration began at 1:00PM with welcoming remarks by Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program, followed by ASO President Vartush Mesropyan. Students of the Charlie Keyan

Armenian Community School sang two songs, "Hye Enk Menk" and Mushetzee Mor Enk." The program also included an emotional and stirring reading of Siamanto's poem "A Handful of Ash, Home of my Fatherland" by Haverj Stanbouljian and Noel Lenard.

Menas Arisian and Tatevik Hovhannisyan then performed "Open Wounds" by R-Mean and their contemporary beat and rapping captivated the audience, particularly the younger students.

Ovsanna and Armen Simonyan bravely shared their family's stories, recounting the experiences of their grandparents during the Genocide.

The first keynote speaker, Fresno County Superior Court Judge Houry Sanderson, spoke

SEE APRIL 24 PAGE 8



Photo: James Ramirez

Children from the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School performed two songs at the Commemoration.



Photo: Vartush Mesropyan

ASO member Aramayis Orkusyan singing "Ag-hunik," at the conclusion of the ASO Armenian Genocide Commemorative program. Students placed carnations on the Armenian Martyrs Monument as he sang.

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about the events of 1915, and also addressed the “personal responsibility of each Armenian... to not only commemorate this historical reality, but to see to it that the world recognizes the Armenian Genocide.” Furthermore, Judge Sanderson urged the attendees to be “gatekeepers” protecting “others from suffering similar tragedies.”

Special guest Congressman Jim Costa (D-16th District) spoke with tremendous respect and knowledge about the Armenian culture and history, and called for recognition of the Genocide.

Dr. Sergio La Porta then revealed plans for construction of an Armenian Genocide Memorial on campus in time for the 100th Anniversary, news that excited many students and community members.

The event closed with the song “Aghunik,” performed by Aramayis Orkusyan, as the attendees placed carnations on the model of the Armenian Martyrs Monument.

In all, the events were very successful, especially the April 24 Commemoration that according to Vardanyan reached a greater audience and attracted “students of all backgrounds.”

“The professionalism,



Menas Arisian



Haverj Stanboulian

preparedness, and wonderful performances of the students, along with our honorable guest speakers helped make this event appealing to the crowd,” stated Vardanyan, “especially to students who prior to the event lacked a good understanding of



Tatevik Hovhannisyan



Front of the ASO T-shirts.

the Genocide.”

Indeed, all the events ran smoothly, in large part due to the efforts of the Committee members and led by ASO president, Vartush Mesropyan, who was prepared to solve any problem that came her way. For all the executives and Committee members it was exciting to see the product of their hard work and dedication.

“Our duty as ASO is to always educate our peers about the Armenian Genocide and make sure they understand the truth and facts about what occurred on April 24,” stated Mesropyan.

The commemorative events certainly accomplished this, and for Mesropyan, the greatest part was “seeing all the faculty, students, and community members come together in one place.”

As we approach the 100th



The “Silent Protest” at noon on April 24 at Fresno State.



On Thursday, April 22, 2014, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution sponsored by Supervisors Henry Perea and Debbie Poochigian proclaiming “The 24th Day of April 2014 as the 99th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, a day known as the Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.” Dr. Sergio La Porta, center front, accepted the Resolution. Left to right: Supervisors Debbie Poochigian, Henry Perea, Andreas Borgeas, Judy Case McNairy, and Phil Larson.

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L. to R.: Marine Vardanyan, Tatevik Hovhannisyan, Congressman Jim Costa, Judge Houry Sanderson, Vartush Mesropyan, Zhor Pogosyan, Menas Arisian, Ovsanna Simonyan, and Aramayis Orkusyan.



ASO Vigil on Tuesday, April 22 at the Free Speech Area.

anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, ASO will continue its activism, educational activities, fight for justice, and commemoration in hopes that one day, the truth will heal our wounds and bring peace to our souls.



Ovsanna Simonyan



Armen Simonyan

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the Armenian Genocide
Commemoration

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