

# HYE SHARZHOOM

## Armenian Action

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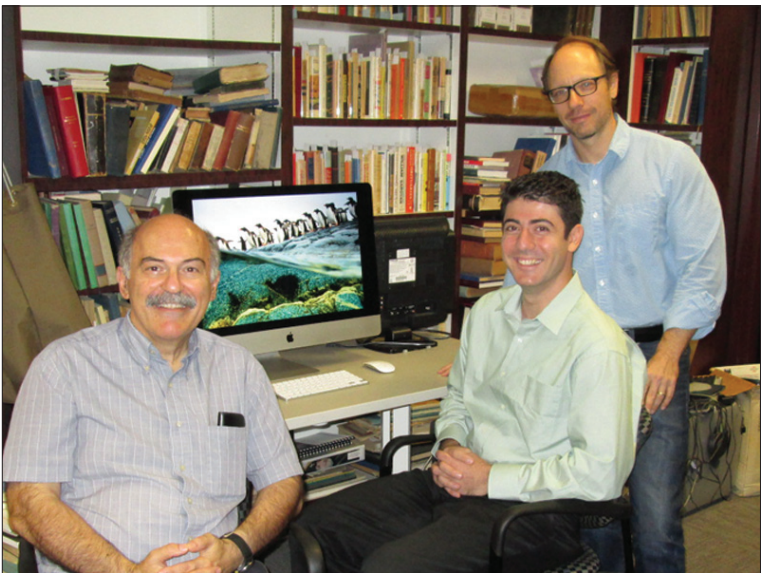
37<sup>th</sup> Year

October 2015

Vol. 37, No. 1 (131)

Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

## Armenian Studies Program Adds Faculty with Enrollment Increase



Left to right: Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Prof. Hagop Ohanessian, Dr. Sergio La Porta.

KATRINA BISSETT  
STAFF WRITER

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State is enjoying its highest number of students enrolled in Armenian Studies courses. There are three faculty members teaching: Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian; Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies Dr. Sergio La Porta; and the newest addition to the Program, Prof. Hagop Ohanessian. Each instructor has a unique history with the Program, sharing a passion for Armenian studies and culture.

Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian first joined the Program as a Fresno State student

in the late 1970s. He was President of the Armenian Students Organization and actively involved with the Program, taking classes taught by now retired ASP Director Dr. Dickran Kouymjian. Der Mugrdechian was intrigued by the Armenian courses he took and decided to change his major to pursue a graduate degree in Armenian Studies at UCLA. Prof. Der Mugrdechian rejoined the Program as a faculty member in Fall 1985, with this semester marking the start of his thirty-first year at Fresno State.

When asked what has been the most dramatic or important change within the Program since

SEE [FACULTY](#) PAGE 7

## Armenian Students Organization Starts Off Another Active Year



ASO members at the first meeting.

Photo: ASP Archive

KATRINA BISSETT  
STAFF WRITER

The Armenian Students Organization (ASO) has already begun the new school year with a variety of on-campus and community events. From cultural events to fashion shows, the ASO has represented the Armenian

student body with zest and spirit. The ASO volunteered at the Fabulous 50's & Swinging 60's Car Show on September 19, organized by the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School of Clovis. The students helped prepare food and assisted with

SEE [ASO](#) PAGE 4

## Armenian Themed Film “Aram, Aram” Previews at CineCulture and Premieres at Maya Cinemas

ARAMAYIS ORKUSYAN  
EDITOR

There was standing room only in the Peters Educational Center Auditorium on Friday, August 28, as more than 300 Armenians and non-Armenians came to watch the special sneak preview screening of the film *Aram, Aram*. Co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, the screening of *Aram, Aram* was part of the Fresno State CineCulture Fall 2016 film lineup.

CineCulture has had a long standing collaboration with the Armenian Studies Program, bringing films such as *Grandmas Tattoos* and *Celluloid Exiles: A Brief History of the Armenian Genocide and Diaspora on Film* to the Fresno State campus. CineCulture professor Dr. Mary Husain explained her decision to screen *Aram, Aram* stating “after watching a screener, I was extremely impressed by the film, both the cinematography and



Left to right: Director Christopher Chambers, John Roohinian (Aram), Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and Sevak Hakoyan (Hakob) at the Red Carpet premiere at Maya Cinemas.

content. The issues addressed in the film are relevant to many different cultural groups, and the acting is superb.”

Directed by Christopher Chambers, *Aram, Aram* is the first American independent film to take viewers inside the Armenian

community of Los Angeles. Featuring the well-known Armenian actor Levon Sharafyan (Arsen), as well as the debut of stars John Roohinian (Aram), and Sevak Hakoyan (Hakob), the

SEE [“ARAM, ARAM”](#) PAGE 7

## Bohigian Awarded Undergraduate President’s Medal

ARAMAYIS ORKUSYAN  
EDITOR

As the Spring 2015 graduation ceremony approached its close, excitement built in the Save Mart Center as the crowd anxiously awaited the announcement of the President’s Medalists. From a group of nine outstanding undergraduate students, Joseph Bohigian was selected by President Castro as the recipient of the University’s highest academic honor.

“I had a very tough choice,” explained President Castro.

SEE [BOHIGIAN](#) PAGE 6



Joseph Bohigian, left, with Dr. Joseph Castro.

Photo: Cary Edmundson, FresnoStateNews.com

## “The Cut” to Come to 2015 Fresno Film Festival

YVETTE MANCILLA  
SPECIAL TO HYE SHARZHOOM

A historical epic seven years in the making about the Armenian Genocide will make its Central Valley debut at the 2015 Fresno Film Festival.

“The Cut” will screen at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14 at the historic Tower Theatre, as part of the Nov. 13-15 Festival, which celebrates independent voices in cinema.

Beginning in Armenia in 1915, “The Cut” follows one man’s journey through the Ottoman Empire after surviving

the Genocide. Nazaret (Tahar Rahim), a young blacksmith from Mardin, Turkey, is ripped from his family and is forced to work as a slave laborer. Years later, he begins a continent-crossing quest to reunite with his twin daughters.

Turkish-German filmmaker Fatih Akin directed and co-wrote the film with Armenian-American screenwriter Mardik Martin. Martin—best known for writing the Martin Scorsese films “Raging Bull,” “New York, New York” and “Mean Streets”—will make a special appearance to discuss

SEE [“THE CUT”](#) PAGE 8



Photo: Strand Releasing

Director Fatih Akin’s “The Cut.”



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.

**Dr. James B. Aaronian**, Arcadia, for the book *Under the Shadow of Death: Memoirs of a Survivor of the Armenian Genocide* by Garabed Hagop Aaronian (Aharonian) (Las Vegas: Pyramid Press, 2014), 184pp., in English. The book is about the story of Garabed Aaronian, who was born in Hussenig, Kharpert, in 1886, and passed away in 1983.

**Bishop Moushegh Babayan**, Holy See of Etchmiadzin, for the book *The Pillage of the Century: Expropriation of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 1914-1923* by Anahit Asoyan (Yerevan: “Nairi” Publishing, 2014), 253pp., in English.

**Dr. Meher Babian**, Glendale, California, for three books written by his late brother Archbishop Gorion Babian: *The Invention of the Armenian and Georgian Alphabets* (Antelias, *Hask Armenological Journal*, 1983-1984), in Armenian; *The Conversion of Armenia and Georgia to Christianity* (Antelias, *Hask Armenological Journal*, 1981-1982; and *The Relations Between the Armenian and Georgian Churches: According to the Armenian Sources*, 300-610 (Antelias: Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia, 2001), 456 pp., in English.

**Denise Boranian**, Fresno, for several Armenian books, including an Armenian Bible published in 1912 in Constantinople.

**Dr. Marlene Breu** and **Dr. Ronald Marchese**, Kalamazoo, Michigan and Forest Lake, Minnesota, for a copy of their new book, *Treasures of Faith: Sacred Relics and Artifacts from the Armenian Orthodox Churches of Istanbul* (Istanbul: Çitlembik Publishing, 2015).

**Elza & Haig Didizian**, London, United Kingdom, for two books: *100 (1915-2015)* by Hrair Hawk Khatcherian (2015), 516 pp., in English; and *Between Heaven and Earth: A Conversation with His Holiness Karekin I* by Giovanni Guaita, Volume 16 in the Karekin I Theological and Armenological Study Series (2015), 230 pp., in English. *100 (1915-2015)* is a lavishly illustrated book with photographs taken by Khatcherian of historic Armenian regions, cultural artifacts, and traditional costumes.

**M. Haigentz**, Fort Lee, New Jersey, for two of his books: *Minchev Drakhte yev Andin* (To Paradise and Beyond) (Mayreni Publishing, 2010), 110pp., in Armenian, short stories, book reviews, and short essays and *Anourj Getin Kamurjnere* (The Bridges of Dream River) (Mayreni Publishing, 2015), 2nd ed., 103pp., in Armenian, short stories and more.

**Dr. Sona Haroutyunian**, Venice, Italy, for a copy of her new book *Hayots Tseghaspanutyun Teman Italakan Grakanutyun Mej* (The Theme of the Armenian Genocide in Italian Literature) (Yerevan: Yerevan State University Press, 2015), 126pp., in Armenian.

**Berge Hovaghimian**, San Francisco, for a copy of his book *History of Armenia Through Maps: From Beginning to Present* (Cairo, 2014), 501pp., in English. A survey of Armenian history, utilizing sketch maps, and a variety of timelines.

**Abraham D. Krikorian** and **Eugene L. Taylor**, Port Jefferson, N.Y. for a copy of *Festschrift Wolfgang Gust zum 80. Geburtstag*, with an article by Krikorian and Taylor on “United States Consul Leslie Davis’s Photographs of Armenians Slaughtered at Lake Goeljuk, Summer of 1915,” pp. 169-197.

**Boghos Armenak Lakissian**, Glendale, California, for his book *Patarak Armin-Hayeri Nakhninerin* (Glendale, 2015), 382pp., in Armenian.

**Litty Mathew**, Los Angeles, California, for her new book *The Musician’s Secret* (Glendale, CA, 2015), 249pp., in English. The novel is about an eighty-three-year-old musician living in Glendale, California.

**Peter Musurlian**, Glendale, California, for two documentaries that he produced and directed: *The 100-Year-Old Survivor* (2014, RT 54 minutes) and *Historic Armenia* (2014, RT 40 minutes)

**Dr. Hideharu Nakajima**, Kawasaki, Japan, for a copy of *Fact Book: Armenian Genocide Centennial* (AG-100 Committee, Japan, 2015), 100pp., in Japanese. The Japan Armenia Friendship Association has periodically published books dealing with Armenian culture and history. The new book is illustrated with photos from the period of the Armenian Genocide.

California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program

Spring 2016 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
<b>General Education-Breadth, Humanities, Area C2</b>				
• Arm 1B-Elementary Armenian (Class #32207)	4	10:00A-11:50A	MW	B. Der Mugrdechian
<b>General Education-Breadth, Arts, Area C1</b>				
• ArmS 20-Arts of Armenia (Class #33498)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TuTh	B. Der Mugrdechian
<b>General Education-Breadth, Area D3</b>				
• ArmS 10-Intro Arm Studies (Class #33645)	3	12:00P-12:50P	MWF	H. Ohanessian
• ArmS 10-Intro Arm Studies (Class #33518)	3	2:00P-3:15P	MW	H. Ohanessian
<b>General Education-Integration, Area IC</b>				
• Arm 148-Mastrpcs Arm Cult (Class #33038)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	B. Der Mugrdechian
• Arm 148-Mastrpcs Arm Cult (Class #35972)	3	3:30P-4:45P	MW	H. Ohanessian
• Arm 148-Mastrpcs Arm Cult (Class #36069)	3	9:00A-9:50A	MWF	H. Ohanessian
<b>Upper Division Armenian Studies Courses</b>				
• ArmS 108B-Arm History II (Class #32206)	3	3:30P-4:45P	MW	S. La Porta
• ArmS 120T-Great Tragedy-Ideas (Class #36082)	3	4:00P-6:50P	Th	Kazan Visiting Prof

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

HYE SHARZHOOM

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**Hagop Ohanessian**, Lecturer, Armenian Studies Program

**Dickran Kouymjian**, Berberian Professor Emeritus of Armenian Studies

Give Your Way  
to the Armenian Studies Program

There are many ways to support  
the Armenian Studies Program.

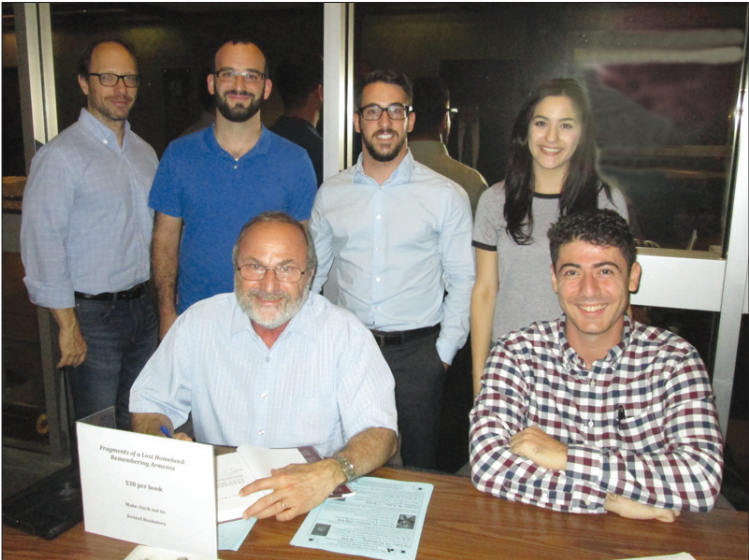
- 1) A gift today could come through the donation of cash, stock, or goods.
- 2) The Armenian Studies Program can also be supported in the future in estate plans.

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

Armenian Studies Program • 5245 N. Backer Ave. PB4  
Fresno CA 93740-8001 • 559.278.2669



Dr. Marsoobian Shares Search for Roots Through Photography



Left to right: Dr. Sergio La Porta, Michael Rettig, Dr. Armen Marsoobian, Tadeh Issakhanian, Lucie Ekezyan, and Prof. Hagop Ohanessian.

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

MICHAEL RETTIG  
STAFF WRITER

Memory and the search for origins is an important facet in the understanding of one’s identity. To appreciate and internalize one’s past and history is to honor one’s ancestors and the struggles that they faced.

Dr. Armen Marsoobian, Professor and Chair of Philosophy at Southern Connecticut State University, was able to share his personal journey into his origins with a lecture at Fresno State on Tuesday, September 15, titled “Memory, Memorialization, and Bearing Witness: Contested Memories of the Armenian Genocide in Turkey.” The presentation was part of the Fall Lecture Series of the Armenian Studies Program, and was supported by the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

As a philosopher, Dr. Marsoobian has always had an interest in his roots. “I think that part of what I’ve always been engaged in is a reflection on where we come from, what our origins

are.” He first became inspired to dig deeper into his past when he was invited to Anatolia College in Marsovan, Turkey, where his grandfather, Tsolag Dildilian, was the photographer in 1894. This visit prompted Dr. Marsoobian to embark on two simultaneous journeys; the first, his personal journey in discovering more about his family’s past, and the second, an “intellectual journey” to determine what he ought to do with the memories he unearthed.

“I soon came to realize that the stories I uncovered had an important moral dimension. My ancestors, in recording their story, in both words and images, were bearing witness to the unjust suffering and harm they had undergone. It thus became my moral duty to tell their story, and by so doing, acknowledge their suffering.”

Dr. Marsoobian believes that it is his obligation to share his findings with the perpetrators. He partnered with a Turkish NGO that is dedicated to using the arts to advocate for social

issues, including alleviating the animosity felt between Turks and Armenians around the world. They organized photography exhibits in Istanbul, Diyarbakir, and Marsovan that attest to the Armenian experience in Ottoman Turkey. These photo exhibits allow Turks and Kurds who know very little of the ancient Armenian existence in Anatolia to learn about that history.

Dr. Marsoobian is also partnering with locals in Marsovan to identify buildings, such as homes, churches, and businesses, with historical significance to Armenians. His goal is to attach plaques to these “Memory Sites” to bear witness to the lost memories and histories of these buildings. He has identified the former homes of Armenian professors and intellectuals with the hopes of purchasing them from the city. Dr. Marsoobian has also been able to track down his grandfather’s home in Marsovan by using the family’s photos.

“Our memory projects are designed to reach the individual Turkish citizens in such a way as to change the collective memory of Turkish society. The ultimate goal is to encourage Turks to take responsibility for their nations past, and in so doing, to collectively do justice to that past.”

To conclude his lecture, Dr. Marsoobian showed a sample of his grandfather’s photos from Marsovan and their journey to Greece. It was his grandfather’s occupation as a photographer that ultimately preserved his life during the Genocide, as the Turks had need of his skills, and it was his grandfather’s photos that helped preserve their family’s story. Dr. Marsoobian has been able to use his family’s story to better understand his own past and to aid those who have forgotten an understanding of their own history.

Armenian Studies Program Awards More than \$60,000 in Scholarships to Fresno State Students

The Armenian Studies Program awarded more than \$60,000 in scholarships and research grants for the 2014/2015 academic year. These scholarships encourage students to pursue minors in Armenian Studies and to enroll in the various course offerings. We ask our student and our supporters to tell their friends and relatives about the Armenian Studies Scholarship program and encourage them to apply.

Applying has become simplified and is entirely online through the Program website at [http:// www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies) and the University website at <http://www.fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/scholarships/>.

The priority application period for this academic year is October 1-31, 2015. Please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669 for more information.

**Armenian Professional Society of San Francisco Scholarship**  
Roza Marabyan  
**Nerces & Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship**  
Brioni Boyajian

**Kirkor & Mary Bedoian Memorial Scholarship**  
Lauren Chardukian  
Michael Rettig  
**Norma & Bob Der Mugrdechian Scholarship**  
Vartanush Mesropyan  
**Bertha & John Garabedian Foundation Scholarship**  
Sarkis Basmajian  
Dominic Bedrossian  
Takui Frnzyan  
Arnold Muradyan  
Anna Sislian  
Arman Zakaryan  
**Peter Mourad Hagopian Scholarship**  
Menas Arisian  
Haverj Stanbouljian  
**Albert & Isabelle Kabrielian Armenian Studies Scholarship**  
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**Charlie Keyan Endowed Scholarship**  
Lilit Grigoryan  
Sosse Kendoyan  
Haverj Stanbouljian  
**John & Lucille Melkonian Armenian Studies Scholarship**  
Ani Ekezyan  
**Koren & Alice Odian Kasparian Scholarship**  
Rakel Hairabedian

**Knights and Daughters of Vartan Scholarship**  
Joseph Bohigian  
Marina Chardukian  
Alexa Ude  
Marine Vardanyan  
**Yervant, Rose, & Hovannes Levonian Armenian Scholarship**  
Menas Arisian  
Joseph Bohigian  
Brioni Boyajian  
Rachel Dadian  
Lucy Garayan  
Dylan Hammond  
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Christine Idjian  
Kyle Jensen  
Alek Khatchigian  
Alexey Korol  
Shelby Krikorian  
Levon Manucharyan  
Roza Marabyan  
Carlina Megerdichian  
Vartanush Mesropyan  
Arpine Mkhitarayan  
Arlen Pilavian  
Michael Rettig  
Elena Sarmazian  
Ovsanna Simonyan  
Yufei Wang  
**Charles K. and Pansy Pategian Zlovovich Endowed Scholarship**  
Breanna Aivazian

“They Will Not Perish” Near East Relief Exhibit Opens in Library



Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, left, with ASO Vice-President Tadeh Issakhanian.

Photo: Hagop Ohanessian

STAFF REPORT

A traveling exhibit, “They Will Not Perish: The Story of Near East Relief” opened on Monday, October 5, on the second floor of the Henry Madden Library, at Fresno State and will be on display through October 30 during regular Library hours. The exhibit was organized by the Armenian National Committee–Western Region “America We Thank You” (AWTY) initiative, in conjunction with Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian. AWTY committee member and Fresno State alumnus Shant Kataroyan spearheaded the effort to bring the exhibit to Fresno State.

An opening event was held at noon on October 5, featuring a documentary video by director Bared Maronian, “America We Thank You,” which was screened to an audience of students and faculty. Prof. Der Mugrdechian welcomed those in attendance. “Today we have the opportunity to learn more about an exceptional page in Armenian and American history. Thanks to the efforts of Near East Relief nearly one-

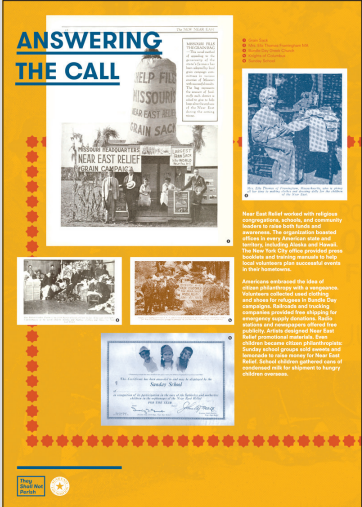
hundred years ago, thousand of Armenians were saved from the effects of the Genocide.”

ASO Vice-President Tadeh Issakhanian addressed the audience, stressing the significance of the Near East Relief efforts in Armenia.

The exhibit was prepared to commemorate the outpouring of generosity and aid by both the American government and its people during the years 1915-1930. Composed of colorful panels, the exhibit chronicles the incredible story of The Near East Relief on the 100th anniversary of its inception. Many of the panels are from the series of Near East Relief posters that had been created to raise awareness to what was happening to the Armenians.

The “America We Thank You” campaign reminds the world and especially Armenians of the pivotal role the American government played and it also strives to recognize the brave men and women who stood up for the Armenians and spearheaded the humanitarian movement that preserved the Armenian people.

To find out more about AWTY go to [americawethankyou.org](http://americawethankyou.org).



Some of the Near East Exhibit panels.

Stefaun Avakian  
Nairi Bekverdyan  
Katrina Bissett  
Aram Hajian  
Tro Karoglanian  
Zhor Pogosyan  
**Leon S. Peters Armenian Studies Scholarship**  
Marina Chardukian  
Anoush Hakobyan  
Alek Khatchigian  
Arnold Muradyan  
Arsen Stepanyan  
**Pete P. Peters Armenian Studies Scholarship**  
Lauren Chardukian

Lucie Ekezyan  
Tatevik Hovhannisyan  
Zhora Pogosyan  
Marine Vardanyan  
**Walter Sepetjian Armenian Studies Scholarship**  
Kyle Jensen  
**Genevieve Tatoian Armenian Studies Scholarship**  
Rachel Dadian  
**Telfeyan Evangelical Scholarship**  
Alexa Ude  
**Harry & Mary Topoozian Merit Scholarship**  
Marine Vardanyan



## New ASO Executive Officers Discuss Goals



Photo: Barlow Der Mugdechian

**Left to right: Elena Sarmazian, Tadeh Issakhanian, Michael Rettig, Aramayis Orkusyan, Lucie Ekezyan.**

### STAFF REPORT

**President: Lucie Ekezyan**  
Sophomore, Pre-Nursing

#### Why did you run for an executive position?

It was a decision I was eager to make after being a part of such monumental accomplishments by the Armenian community last year. I was not sure what to expect entering Fresno State and joining the Armenian Students Organization. Participating in ASO made me realize I wanted to have an impact on the group that had made my college experience thus far unforgettable. I want to commit myself to Armenian causes and I feel that being President is a great opportunity to not only be involved, but to give all I can to bring ASO to new heights.

#### What are some of your goals this year?

As President, I hope to make lasting memories with all of our members as we honor and celebrate the rich Armenian heritage, while taking part in events to share the past of our culture and make our future one filled with good works, great causes, and meaningful endeavors.

**Vice-President: Tadeh Issakhanian**  
Graduate student, Masters in Business Administration

#### Why did you run for an executive position?

I wanted to get more involved in the ASO and the Armenian community as a whole. Being an executive officer gives me the ability to work first hand with my fellow executives to improve ASO and allows me to take a leadership role in the local Armenian community.

#### What are some of your goals this year?

My major goal is to increase the number of members who participate in ASO, while at the same time increasing ASO's presence in the local community.

**Treasurer: Aramayis Orkusyan**  
Senior, Mathematics

#### Why did you run for an executive position?

I was an active member of ASO even before I was a student at Fresno State, and ever since I became a member, some of my fondest memories have been those that I have shared with friends from ASO. I wanted to

take a leadership role and work hard to ensure that others have a chance to experience the lasting friendships and memories that ASO can create.

#### What are some of your goals this year?

My goals are two-fold. I want to ensure that ASO continues to participate in events that create an environment which sparks a dialogue about the Armenian culture on campus. Additionally, I want to make sure that we have great social events where ASO members can create friendships and memories.

**Secretary: Michael Rettig**  
Graduate student, History

#### Why did you run for an executive position?

I have been active in ASO throughout my schooling at Fresno State and it has had a very positive influence on me.

#### What are some of your goals this year?

My goal is to work alongside my fellow executives to ensure that ASO continues to have a positive impact on Armenian and non-Armenian students.

**Public Relations: Elena Sarmazian**  
Junior, Psychology

#### Why did you run for an executive position?

I ran to be able to become more involved with the cultural activities on and off campus while being able to take responsibility for an organization that has contributed so greatly in efforts to promote the Armenian heritage on and off campus.

#### What are some of your goals this year?

As an executive member, I strive to promote the Armenian heritage on and off campus.

## ASO Spotlight-Issakhanian Involved in Community

**LUCIE EKEZYAN**  
STAFF WRITER

A highly motivated individual, Fresno State student Tadeh Issakhanian is devoted to a variety of causes and interests.

Born in Tehran, Iran, Issakhanian and his family moved to Fresno when he was only three years old. He was raised in a strong and driven household, where perseverance and strong work ethics were instilled in him from a young age. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Fresno State, majoring in Biology, with a minor in Chemistry and is currently enrolled in an Executive Masters in Business Administration program.

Issakhanian works in the Valley Air District, where he is directly involved in solving some of the San Joaquin Valley's air quality issues. He is also a part of the Fresno State Sustainability Committee, which works to make the campus more energy efficient. More recently, he was involved in



Photo: ASP Archive

#### Tadeh Issakhanian

a project that saw the installment of charging stations for electric vehicles on the Fresno State campus.

Aside from his regular work, Issakhanian takes pride in his involvement in the Armenian community. He is the vice-president of the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State, and off campus he is involved with the Armenian National Committee of America.

In his spare time, Issakhanian enjoys being outdoors and participating in activities such as backpacking and cycling. In fact, among his many other

responsibilities, Issakhanian is also the president of the Fresno State Cycling Club.

With many great works already accomplished, Issakhanian is not planning on stopping any time soon. He plans on utilizing his drive and passion to run for public office, where he can continue making a difference in his community. Eventually, he would like to run for State Senate.



Photo: Garry Brooks

**Issakhanian competing at Fresno's Woodward Park.**



Photo: Barlow Der Mugdechian

**Left to right: Aramayis Orkusyan, Lucie Ekezyan, Hourig Attarian, Ani Ekezyan, and Michael Rettig.**

### ASO, FROM PAGE 1

set-up. Students also distributed flyers to promote the premiere of the Armenian themed movie *Aram, Aram*.

During the campus Cross Cultural Week, the ASO set up a booth on Monday, September 21 to spread awareness among students about the 24th Anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia.

ASO President Lucie Ekezyan and ASO Vice-President Tadeh Issakhanian, delivered passionate remarks in the Free Speech area, celebrating the "strength and perseverance" of the Armenian people in the wake of independence. They gracefully conveyed to the audience the joys and hopes of the Armenian people, along with stressing the need to support and celebrate other cultures.

Hourig Attarian, an ASO

member who attended the event, stated "we have such a rich history. It is important for us to share our history, our sufferings, and our culture."

The ASO continued their participation in the Cross Cultural Week by entering the "Taste of Culture" event and fashion show on Wednesday, September 23. ASO members Hourig Attarian, Ani Ekezyan, Lucie Ekezyan, Aramayis Orkusyan, and Michael Rettig had a turn on the catwalk wearing traditional Armenian costumes.

The ASO has gotten off to a fantastic start. Future events will include more academic and artistic education opportunities and a fall social to bring together new students.

Please stay posted for more events. We look forward to a great year for the Armenian Student Organization!

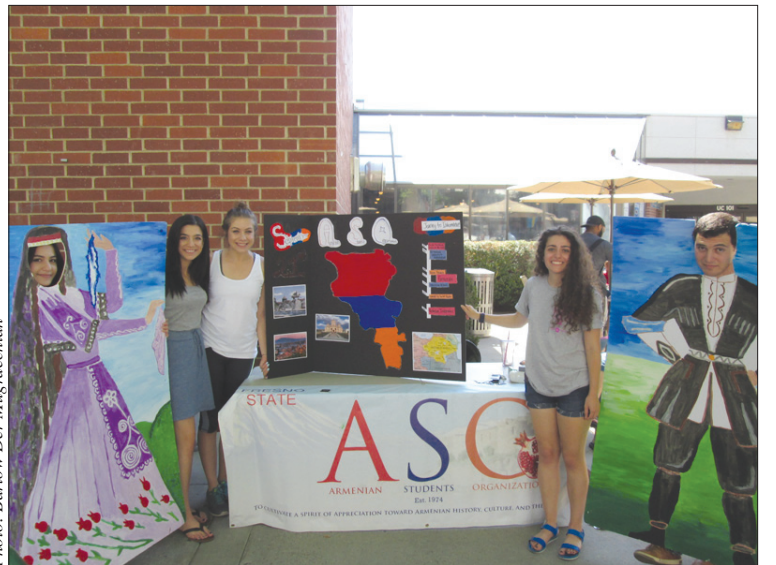


Photo: Barlow Der Mugdechian

**Armenian Independence Day, Monday, September 21, was marked at Fresno State. The ASO distributed information at its table in the Free Speech area. Left to right: Lucie Ekezyan, Ani Ekezyan, Elena Sarmazian, Hourig Attarian, and Aramayis Orkusyan.**



Photo: Barlow Der Mugdechian

**Tadeh Issakhanian and Lucie Ekezyan addressing the Fresno State Cross Cultural Week participants. Fresno State began its Cross Cultural Celebration Week Sept. 21-25 with a flag parade across campus on Monday, Sept. 21, and held a Taste of Culture Festival on Wednesday, Sept. 23.**



# Fresno State Students Reflect on Armenian Genocide Monument Six Months After Completion



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

The Armenian Genocide Monument at Fresno State.

**TADEH ISSAKHANIAN**  
*STAFF WRITER*

The Armenian Genocide Monument at Fresno State was unveiled this past April 23 in the presence of an estimated crowd of 4,000 plus. Since then, it has remained a focal point for Armenians in the region, who continue to visit the campus to see the Monument. The only Monument of its kind on a college campus in the country, the Monument brings awareness to not only the Armenian Genocide, but also genocides committed in numerous other countries around the world.

Armenians take great pride in the Monument and its significance cannot be underestimated. But what does the Monument mean to the everyday Fresno State student? Are they familiar with the history behind it?

The Monument is located on the major East-West thoroughfare of campus and thousands of students pass by each day. Students who entered the Monument space were asked their thoughts. The responses received were as diverse and varied as the students themselves.

Michael Vu, a Fresno State freshman and a second-generation Hmong immigrant, stated that like the Armenian people, his people had also gone through genocide and, because of this shared circumstance, he was very much aware of the Armenian Genocide. He had a very positive view of the Monument saying that, “It’s really cool the university would do something like this. I hope the Hmong people can one day have something similar on campus.”

The next few students were familiar with Armenians, but not so familiar with the Armenian

Genocide. This sentiment was echoed by junior Sarah Stout, who stated “I can’t believe something like this happened. We don’t really learn about it in school.” For her, the Monument was a huge eye opener into a tragedy she knew little about.

Collectively, the students all showed genuine interest in the Monument and in learning more about the Armenian Genocide. They were drawn in by the new and unfamiliar structure, but once inside, they learned about a history many previously knew nothing about.

Michael Walker, Fresno State senior, first found out about the Monument and the Armenian Genocide this past April. Upon leaving a late afternoon class, he had seen the large crowd that had gathered for the unveiling and “walked over to see what was going on and ended up staying for most of the ceremony.” Walker continued by stating “I was really impressed by the togetherness of the people and the pride everyone had for the monument.” His experience is one that is similar to many students on campus; it has opened their eyes to a history and a past they previously knew little about.

The opportunity to expose the younger generations of our community to the history of the Genocide is one of the greatest benefits the Monument has to offer.

The Monument will be a way for students to become better aware of the Armenian Genocide.

## Visiting Kazan Scholar Ümit Kurt at Fresno State

**MICHAEL RETTIG**  
*STAFF WRITER*

Ümit Kurt, a doctoral candidate at Clark University (Worcester, MA) studying under Dr. Taner Akçam, will be spending the Fall semester at Fresno State as a Kazan Visiting Scholar. Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian invited Kurt to complete his dissertation on “The Emergence of the New Wealthy Class between 1915-1923: The Seizure of Armenian Property by the Local Elites in Aintab” and to continue his research.

Kurt was inspired to learn more about the Armenian Genocide after a chance visit to a café in his native Aintab. “I didn’t have any knowledge regarding the presence of Armenians in my hometown until I was 24 years old. My friend wanted to get together and suggested that we meet at the Papirüs Café in Aintab. I had never been to this neighborhood and I was amazed to see such beautiful houses and architecture. I saw unfamiliar letters on the wall which made me curious and I wanted to get more information. I went to the owner of the café and said ‘you are very lucky to have this great place.’ He said that it was his grandfather’s, who had passed it down in the family.”

After pressing him further,



Ümit Kurt

Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

Kurt said that the man eventually admitted where his family had gotten the house. “He said ‘there were Armenians here!’ So I asked him where they were and he said ‘they are all gone.’ Just like that, so simple.” The experience inspired Kurt to read more about the Armenians. He explained that he felt ashamed that he was born, raised, and educated in Aintab and yet didn’t know its real history. “It was an embarrassment and after that I read whatever I could find.”

According to Kurt, there is an awareness of the past presence of Armenians in Aintab. “Everybody knows. By that I mean that by the time someone reaches a certain age, their 50s or 60s, they know that the Armenians used to live

here and they used to be rich. They know which house belonged to whom and they know how they were deported and exiled. There is an awareness of the whole story, but they don’t want to express this in public,” said Kurt.

Kurt has been able to spend considerable time researching in the Turkish archives. For the most part Kurt has had an easy time studying in Turkey, but he has had some difficulties in accessing particular segments of the archive.

“While I haven’t had any kind of problem in terms of studying, I wasn’t able to reach essential documents which I was looking for. Those documents, which were about the liquidation of Armenian properties, were not accessible to

## Eench Ga Chga

HAVERJ STANBULIAN • *STAFF WRITER*

### What does being Armenian mean to you?



**Anoush Hakopyan**  
**Sophomore, Business-Accounting**

It means being part of an international culture that has evolved and grown over time. Armenians have united to withstand persecution and threats that are common in our history. No matter where we are in the world, Armenians will always find each other and keep the culture alive through our language and faith. Being Armenian means holding strong to our traditions and beliefs in the midst of all the changes taking place around us.



**Arpine Mkhitarian**  
**Senior, Psychology**

For me, being Armenian is a very unique feeling. I am very proud of the culture, morals, traditions and principles shared by Armenians. I was born and raised in Armenia, and I am thankful for the experiences I had growing up there. Armenians are a strong people who have endured

me because they were closed to researchers.”

Kurt also studied in France, the United Kingdom, and Armenia. His first visit to Yerevan was in 2008.

“It was as if I was at home; I was quite comfortable doing my research there. I also met many Aintabsis in Yerevan who shared their ancestors’ experiences with me.”

When asked about his future research goals, Kurt expressed an interest in studying the Aintab War, which took place between

genocide and war, and who continue to fight for their rights each day. So being Armenian means a lot to me, and although I am living in America, I have left my soul in Armenia.



Photos: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

**Taleen Issakhanian**  
**Junior, Liberal Studies**

I am a part of a culture with a rich history of religion, art and perseverance—a community that is proud of its history and a people who love being Armenian. Above all being Armenian means I bleed red, blue, and orange.



**Rosie Terpogosyan**  
**Sophomore, Pre-nursing**

Besides your identity, which defines you as being Armenian, being Armenian also means remembering our past and our history in order to create a better future for ourselves. It means embracing our culture and traditions, eating delicious ethnic foods, respecting our elders, and practicing our Christian beliefs.

the French and Kemalist forces in 1920-1921.

Kurt will be giving a lecture on “A Kurdish Schindler: Story of a ‘Savior,’” the account of Turkish Military officer Cemil Kunneh.

The lecture will take place at 7:30PM on Friday, November 6, in the University Business Center at Fresno State. The lecture is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669 or visit the ASP website at [fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).

**Hye Oozh - Saturdays 9:00 AM - Noon**

**90.7 FM-KFSR**

**Hye Oozh is 90.7 KFSR’s weekly program dedicated to contemporary and traditional Armenian music and culture.**

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## Dr. Markarian Presents New Book on “Martyred Armenian Writers”



Photo: Barlow Der Mugdechian

Left to right: Prof. Hagop Ohanessian, Kevork Ajamian, Barbara Mortanian, Dr. Herand Markarian, Mary Ekmalian, Bagrad Oganyan, and Barret Arakelian.

### STAFF REPORT

The works of thirteen prominent writers, including Krikor Zohrab and Daniel Varoujan, were brought to life before a rapt audience at a lecture by Dr. Herand Markarian held on Friday, May 15, for the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, in conjunction with the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society.

The evening was a fitting conclusion to a series of community activities organized on the occasion of the 100th

Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Six students and community members: Kevork Ajamian, Barret Arakelian, Mary Ekmalian, Barbara Mortanian, Bagrad Oganyan, and Hagop Ohanessian participated in the event by reading excerpts from Dr. Markarian's new anthology, *The Martyred Armenian Writers: Armenian Writers 1915-1922*, which surveys the lives and writings of thirteen authors who were killed during the Genocide—several of them on the night of April 24, 1915.

The authors included in the Anthology and other community leaders, intellectuals, and clergy were rounded up and deported from Constantinople, never to be seen again. The 246-page book is an important addition to the works of Armenian authors translated into English.

Organized in three parts, the Anthology includes a general introduction to 19th century Western Armenian literature and to the Genocide. Part two is concentrated on the accounts of the Genocide and on maps of the sites of many of the mass killings. The main focus of the book is in part three, which contains short biographies of some of the most beloved Western Armenian writers of the era, along with a bibliography of their writings. Dr. Markarian has also provided a sample of excerpts from the works of each author, all translated into English.

Dr. Markarian is a scientist, playwright, poet, theater specialist, literary critic, director and actor.

Since 1967, Dr. Markarian has been the director of the New York Theater Group of Hamazkayin. He is the author of 27 plays, 24 of them in Armenian, two in English, and one, in English and Armenian.

### BOHIGIAN, FROM PAGE 1

“[But] I ultimately selected Joseph ‘Joey’ Bohigian because of his scholarly achievements, his success as a composer while still a student, and his community service.”

A Smittcamp Honors Scholar and a member of the Arts and Humanities Honors Program, Joseph Bohigian graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA, receiving a bachelor's degree in Music Composition and a minor in Armenian Studies. His interest in music began at an early age. Bohigian began playing the piano at the age of five when his parents decided to purchase a piano. Within a few years, he added percussion instruments to his skill set, and by his high school years, Bohigian was already composing his own music.

For Bohigian, pursuing a degree in music seemed only natural. “I couldn't see myself doing anything else as a career,” he stated. Although he enjoyed performing music and was a member of Fresno State's Symphony Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, and New Music Ensemble, Bohigian's main focus was composition. “While I still perform on both piano and percussion,” explained Bohigian, “composition has become my main musical outlet because it offers so much in the way of expressing oneself creatively.”

This outlet has carried Bohigian around the globe and his original compositions have been performed in Armenia, Germany, Portugal, Brazil, and across the United States.

Perhaps more significantly, Bohigian's musical pursuit has carried him to his ancestral homeland and has paved a path of deeper connection with his



Photo: Cassandra Hishida

Joseph “Joey” Bohigian performing on the vibraphone.

Armenian roots. In the summer of 2012, Bohigian studied in Armenia as part of the first cohort of the AGBU Musical Armenia Program. It was then that Bohigian composed his first piece directly influenced by Armenian music and heritage, *Dzirani Dzar* (The Apricot Tree).

His second Armenian piece, *In the Shadow of Ararat*, was written in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and was performed in both Fresno and Los Angeles. “*In the Shadow of Ararat* was a very personal piece for me as a descendant of Genocide survivors,” reflected Bohigian. “I began the process of writing it by researching the Genocide and my own family's connection to it. I also studied Armenian sacred and folk music and took elements present in those which I could use in my own music, retaining my own personal style while still having a strong connection to Armenian music.”

Among the many fans of Bohigian's music, President Castro commented, “I was particularly moved by his original

piece of music commemorating the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.”

Currently, Bohigian is studying in the Masters Program in Music Composition at Stony Brook University in New York and plans on remaining at Stony Brook to continue on to a PhD. From there, “Whatever I end up doing,” Bohigian stated, “my goal is to continue writing and playing music.”

Joseph Bohigian's accomplishments are astonishing to say the least. The level of his achievements is best captured by the following statement from President Castro: “Dean José Díaz wrote in his recommendation that Joseph is ‘poised to join the ranks of an elite group of contemporary American composers whose music reflects the complexities of the world in which we live.’ I agree and I can't think of a better student to represent Fresno State as the President's Medalist.”

We are proud to have Joseph Bohigian representing not only Fresno State, but the Armenian community and the Armenian heritage as well.

## 1922 Almanac Added to the ASP Library

### STAFF REPORT

Almanacs and yearbooks, with their practical compilation of facts and figures, were the mainstay of the 18th and 19th century American home. This was no less true of the newly established Armenian-American home, where yearbooks and almanacs also included information concerning local Armenian communities, societies and businesses. As such, they offer a wealth of information for historians and researchers interested in the life of early Diasporan communities.

The Armenian Studies Program library recently added to its catalog a copy of one such volume. Printed in Fresno in 1922, Արշալոյս պատկերազարդ տարեգիրք/ *Arshalouys patkerazard taregirk'* (Volume 3, 160pp., in Armenian) was a yearly publication prepared by Armenak Melikian. The *Taregirk'*, or yearbook, contains the customary calendars, sections on cosmology, astronomy and farming (“village economy”) present in other almanacs.

The yearbook also features topics specific to the Armenian American diaspora, such as a listing of American diasporan newspapers in print, and statistics pertaining to the number of Armenians attending American universities. An interest in



Local Armenians in *Almanac*.



A page from the 1922 *Almanac*.

statistics carries through to the Fresno Armenian population, with a breakdown of immigrants to Fresno, according to the various towns of origin in historic Armenia. Facts and figures are also given on agriculture and farming by Armenians in Fresno.

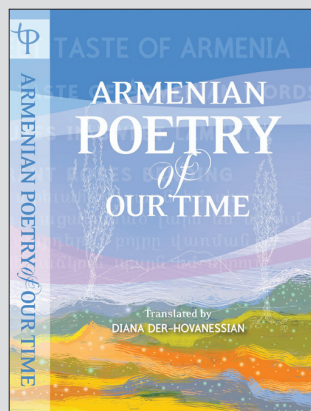
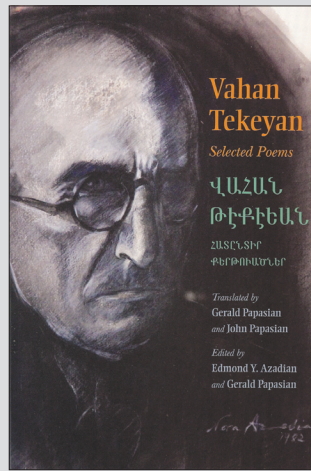
The yearbook also offers fascinating contemporary accounts of the trials of Soghomon Tehlirian and Misak Torlakian, just one year after the killings of Talaat Pasha and Behbud Khan Javanshir.

The yearbook offers a glimpse onto the interest of the times, and the international world which touched the Armenians of the Central Valley. Poems by Persians Hafez and Omar Khayyam, translated into western Armenian, are printed alongside a work by Bengali poet (and Nobel Prize winner) Rabindranath Tagore, translated in Eastern Armenian and first published in the monthly Armenian newspaper of Baku, *Gorts*.

At the back of the volume are a number of interesting advertisements for local Fresno business, such as the one pictured.

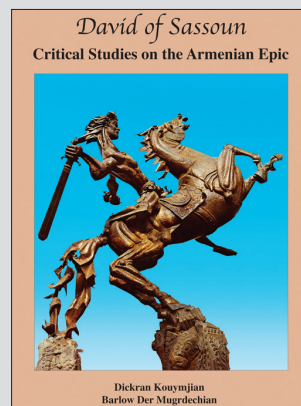
The Armenian Studies Program is seeking information about Volumes 1 and 2 of the Yearbook. If you have information about them, please call the Armenian Studies Program office at 559-278-2669.

## The Armenian Series at Fresno State



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Kathy Zakarian

FACULTY, FROM PAGE 1

he joined, Prof. Der Mugrdechian said, “I think we have now got a Program that is well-established within the university and also recognized both nationally and internationally. All of our General Education classes are full and we have both Armenians and non-Armenians taking the courses.”

“We have had an increase in our activities with the Annual Lecture Series-programs, lectures, movies, and concerts. It has reached a point where we have more activities than we have had in the past,” said Der Mugrdechian.

Professor Der Mugrdechian describes the Program’s impact on the community. “All of our faculty have given lectures and presentations in the community. We have an impact because we are an intellectual center for this community, a place where people can go to get answers.”

Dr. Sergio La Porta received his doctorate in Armenian Studies from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University. He taught at Hebrew University in Jerusalem from 2001 to 2009, and joined the faculty of the Armenian Studies Program in Fall of 2009.

Dr. La Porta lists the activities commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide as significant events that he has seen take place on campus and within the Program during his time on campus. He specifically named the construction of Fresno State’s Armenian Genocide Monument, a project he helped to oversee as Chairman of the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee.

When asked to describe how the Program has impacted the Fresno community, Dr. La Porta believes that “the Armenian Studies Program is an essential part of the community, and it has had a great impact, both on the university and on the greater Fresno and Central Valley community.” Dr. La Porta went on to say that partially thanks to the Program, the Armenians have “become... one of the more recognized communities in the Fresno area.” He concluded by explaining how the Program is a great source of information for Armenians around the world.

The newest member of the faculty is Hagop Ohanessian, who began his involvement with the Program as a college freshman in 2005. He completed his graduate studies in the spring of 2014, with a Masters Degree in History, and joined the Program as an instructor in fall of 2014. He is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership Program from the University of Southern

California.

Prof. Ohanessian said that the 2007 Armenian Studies Trip he took to Armenia as a student with the Program had a great impact on him. “I’m Armenian, but I’m not from Armenia, so having the opportunity to go to Armenia was a really great experience. I had always learned about Armenia in my classes and from my parents but to go there, that was pretty amazing for me.”

“Working with the students has been a wonderful experience. It is great to see students respond to your teaching. It is a good feeling for me to see that students are interested and care to learn something new, and more importantly, about Armenian Studies. It’s been great to work with Professors Der Mugrdechian and La Porta, who have been very helpful in this process of getting acclimated and adjusting to teaching in higher education.”

The Armenian Studies Program has a bright future with its dedicated faculty.

Armenian Studies Program  
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Priority add period October 1-31.

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

Photo: Michael Quintero



“Aram, Aram.” Director Christopher Chambers, left, and actor Levon Sharafyan (Arsen).

“ARAM, ARAM,” FROM PAGE 1

film follows the life of Aram, a 12 year-old boy who is suddenly uprooted from his home in Beirut and forced to immigrate to Los Angeles, where he struggles to adapt to his new life.

Although the movie focuses on the story of an Armenian boy, ultimately the movie conveys struggles that are universal to all immigrant groups. Explaining his vision for the film during a Q&A session after the screening, Chambers remarked “I wanted to make it [the film] in a way that we can all identify with it, no matter of our race.”

Speaking with students after the screening, it was clear that Chambers was successful in his goal. Fresno State sophomore, Eric Jimenez, reflected on the film’s ability to transcend ethnicity stating “personally, I could connect to the film in more than one way. My family moved here from Mexico and I’ve had family members who’ve been pulled down the wrong path like Aram.” Jimenez also commented on the movies message on stereotyping saying “as a Latino, I get stereotyped all the time by people just like this movie was suggesting, so I’m glad that this movie was also showing the negative outcomes of stereotyping.”

However, the nuances of the Armenian culture were still very much deeply ingrained in the film. Co-producer, Ian Coyne,

who was also at the Q&A session, remarked “it was interesting watching him [Chambers]...kind of absorb this culture and really show it to us in a way I think Armenians will appreciate and Americans can really understand and grasp.”

On a different level, the movie conveys an important side of the Armenian culture that we see here in Fresno on a regular basis. “My hope” explained Chambers “was that at the end when they are hugging and embracing, that is, on a metaphorical level, talking about how the different [Armenian] ethnic groups—despite their differences—... are also united, transcending everything and being united as Armenians.” Anyone who has attended an Armenian event in Fresno can attest to this fact.

In addition to its CineCulture screening, *Aram, Aram* was shown at the newly opened Maya Cinemas. The film had its official red carpet premier in Fresno on October 1, and continued its run at the Maya Cinemas until October 8. Those who attended the premier had the opportunity to meet the actors and the director of the film, and many were able to have their pictures taken on the red carpet with the stars.

An American film that is the first of its kind, it is hoped that the success of *Aram, Aram* will encourage more Armenian stories to be told and more Armenian-themed movies to be made.

Photo: Michael Quintero



Some of the cast and crew of “Aram, Aram.” Left to right: Lorita Megerdichyan, Mike Ghader, Sevak Hakoyan, Nick Cimiluca, John Roohinian, Levon Sharafyan, Director Christopher Chambers.

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**ŞAHAN ARZRUNI**  
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In addition to his reputation as a recitalist and chamber music partner, Armenian pianist Şahan Arzruni has achieved recognition as a composer, ethnomusicologist, teacher, lecturer, writer, recording artist, broadcasting personality, producer, and impresario. He has toured in these capacities throughout North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, and Australia. Şahan Arzruni has become a familiar figure through many television broadcasts such as Johnny Carson and Mike Douglas Shows. He has also been featured in a number of PBS specials including Around the World in '82, Gala of Stars, and A Place of Dreams: Carnegie Hall at 100.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2015 • 3 PM**  
**The Concert Hall at California State University, Fresno**  
*(SPECIAL EVENT-NOT PART OF THE SUBSCRIPTION SERIES)*

**Tickets: \$25.00 General • \$18.00 Seniors • \$5.00 Students**

Parking available in Lot P1 (corner of Shaw and Maple Avenues).  
For ticket reservations and other information, please call 278-2337.

**“THE CUT,” FROM PAGE 1**


the film, presented by Fresno Filmworks and co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

With few films touching on the genocide, let alone depicting it, Martin said in a news release: “A story about survivors of the Armenian Genocide is a sensitive subject to tackle. I never imagined anyone would have the courage to do it. Fatih has that courage. ... I can only hope that the audience is able to delve into the feel of the era and its turbulence and upheaval. For me as an Armenian, this is an incredible adventure movie.”

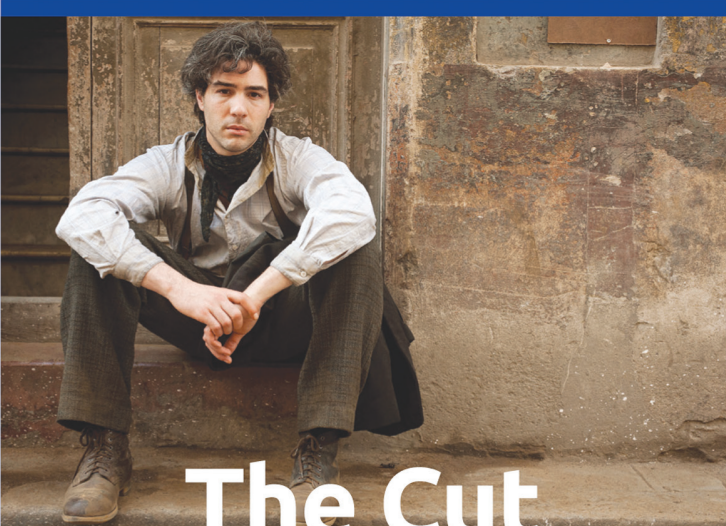
With a large Armenian community in the Central Valley, Fresno Filmworks president Jefferson Beavers reiterated the importance of the screening.

“In this 100th anniversary year of the Genocide, I cannot think of a more culturally relevant or historically important film we could possibly show,” Beavers said. “It’s an honor and our duty, not just to our Armenian brothers and sisters, but to our entire community, to show this movie in Fresno.”

“It is wonderful that such an important film is being screened in Fresno. The Armenian Studies Program is please to be a co-



**fresno film festival**



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**ASP Calendar of Activities**  
**October-November**

**Friday, October 30 • 7:30PM (Reception 6:30-7:30PM in the UBC Gallery)**  
**“The Political Culture of the Young Turk Revolution of 1908: Space, Symbolism, and Language”**  
**by Dr. Bedross Der Matossian-University of Nebraska-Lincoln**  
*University Business Center, Room 191, A. Peters Auditorium, Fresno State.*  
Free admission and free parking. With the support of the Ararat Foundation.

**Friday, November 6 • 7:30PM**  
**“A Kurdish Schindler: Story of a ‘Savior’” (The account of Cemil Kunneh)**  
**by Ümit Kurt-Kazan Visiting scholar**  
*University Business Center, Room 191, A. Peters Auditorium, Fresno State.*  
Free admission and free parking. With the support of the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

**Wednesday, November 18 • 7:30PM**  
**“What Comes After Undoing Denial: Reflections on Contemporary Art and Exhibition Practices in the Armenian Diaspora”**  
**by Neery Melkonian-New York**  
*University Business Center, Room 191, A. Peters Auditorium, Fresno State.*  
Free admission/parking with coupon code. Supported by the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

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sponsor. The film is especially timely and I think it will be well received in the community,” said Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

Dr. Sergio La Porta, Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State, said it can also be seen as a reflection of positive change within the Turkish community of artists and intellectuals.

“The idea that you have Armenian and Turkish people working together on this film—I think is a wonderful way in which art can bring two communities that have this historic injustice standing between them to bring them closer together to a point of mutual understanding,” La Porta said. “It’s especially great to have a Turkish director to be involved in this.”

Visit FresnoFilmworks.org for details on the showing of the film and to buy tickets.

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