

HYE SHARZHOOM

Armenian Action

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37th Year

March 2016

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Ethnic Supplement to The Collegian

New Dean of Arts & Humanities Shares His Vision for the College



Dean Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval

LUCIE EKEZYAN
STAFF WRITER

With a mission to enrich students with communication skills, humanistic values, and cultural awareness, Fresno State's

largest academic unit, the College of Arts and Humanities began a new chapter when a new Dean, Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, was appointed in January of this year. Dr. Jiménez-Sandoval plans to "establish new initiatives, new areas of collaboration with other schools, and to really make [the College of Arts and Humanities] known as the fundamental cornerstone of the university."

With roots in Zacatecas, Mexico, Dr. Jiménez-Sandoval moved to the United States with his family in 1980 and settled in Fowler. Dr. Jiménez-Sandoval earned a Ph.D. from the University of California at Irvine, and a certificate in Critical Theory from Cornell University. Specializing in late 19th century and early 20th century poetry, Dr. Jiménez-Sandoval chose

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Peters Foundation Allocates \$30,000 to Armenian Studies

STAFF REPORT

Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian announced that the Leon S. Peters Foundation has made a generous donation of \$30,000 to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State for 2016. This continues the tradition of the Peters Foundation in supporting the Armenian Studies Program Annual Lecture Series, as well

as a variety of other activities, including scholarships, outreach activities, and general support for the Program.

Leon S. Peters was respected as a businessman, civic leader, and philanthropist, who lived and worked according to the highest ethical standards. He cherished his community and considered its well being his personal

SEE [PETERS](#) PAGE 2

Armenian Students Organization Strengthens Sense of Community



ASO at the Annual Christmas Party in December.

Photo: ASP Archive

DIANA GASPARYAN
STAFF WRITER

In the past several months, ASO members have volunteered in the Armenian community and attended socials that have helped the student organization grow and strengthen their sense of community.

Since its establishment in

1974, the ASO has attracted many passionate members each year, who are always excited to help better the Armenian community. "The importance of the ASO is keeping a sense of Armenian community and culture alive," said President Lucie Ekezyan. "If there is no effort to preserve and

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Best-selling Author Chris Bohjalian Impresses Audience with Wide Ranging Presentation



Left to right: Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Serpouhie Messerlian, Chris Bohjalian, and Edward Megerdichian.

ARAMAYIS ORKUSYAN
EDITOR

"Two men lie dead in a suburban living room, two women are on the run from police, and a marriage is ripping apart at the seams." This is the chilling synopsis of Chris Bohjalian's newly published novel *The Guest*

Room, which Bohjalian presented to a Fresno State audience on January 8, 2016.

Bohjalian is the *New York Times* best-selling author whose work has been translated into more than 30 languages and has been adapted into movies three times. In his presentation, Bohjalian gave the audience

insight on why he wrote his previous novel, *The Sandcastle Girls*, shared discoveries about his ancestors, spoke about his recent visits to historic Armenia, and introduced *The Guest Room* – his newest publication.

The lecture was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State and the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society.

The Sandcastle Girls, published in 2012, is a novel about the Armenian Genocide and Turkey's century long denial. Unlike traditional books on the Genocide, however, Bohjalian's take on history revolves around a page turning love story.

"*The Sandcastle Girls* is not the first time I tried to write a novel about the Armenian Genocide," explained Bohjalian. "I tried as a much younger man in the early 1990's with a whole manuscript. When I finished reading it, I realized it was a train wreck...and

SEE [BOHJALIAN](#) PAGE 7

"The Armenian Genocide Legacy" Book Published

STAFF REPORT

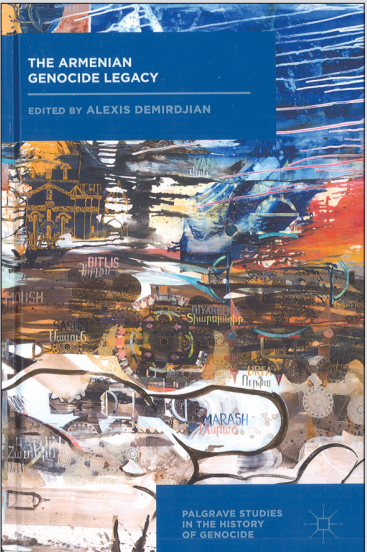


Photo: ASP Archive

It was almost three years ago that Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian received an invitation to participate in a book project planned to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The path to completion of the book eventually took Der Mugrdechian halfway around the world to participate in an international conference "The Armenian Genocide Legacy, 100 Years On," held March 5-7, 2015, in The Hague, Netherlands.

The journey was completed

with the publication of *The Armenian Genocide Legacy*, (Palgrave Studies in the History of Genocide, 2016), 369pp., in English.

An international group of twenty-three authors contributed to the volume. They had varied professional expertise, with art and film critics, lawyers, literary scholars, social and political historians, and educational theorists.

The moving force behind the project was Alexis Demirdjian, a

SEE [LEGACY](#) PAGE 6

Dr. Ervine Appointed 12th Kazan Visiting Professor

LUCIE EKEZYAN
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Roberta Ervine was appointed as the 12th Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State for the Spring 2016 semester. She will teach a course, Armenian Studies 120T, entitled "Great Tragedies and Great Ideas: Learned Armenians and the Genocide." Dr. Ervine's course will examine the intellectual history of Armenians and the responses of Armenian intellectuals to the Armenian Genocide. As part of her duties, Dr. Ervine will also give three public lectures during

the semester on topics related to the course.

Prior to coming to Fresno State, Dr. Ervine was Professor of Armenian Studies at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New York, where she was also the editor of the *St. Nersess Seminary Theological Review*.

Dr. Ervine was born into an Irish family in Bridgeport, Connecticut and attended Wheaton College in Illinois, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and a minor in Religion. Inspired by her studies, Dr. Ervine decided

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Dr. Roberta Ervine is the 12th Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State for Spring 2016.

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. Varouj & Lena Altebarmakian, Fresno, for Armenian books on a variety of topics.

Armenian International Women’s Association, Boston, MA, for a copy of Zabel Yessayan’s *In the Ruins: The 1909 Massacres of Armenians* in Adana, Turkey, translated from the Armenian by G. M. Goshgarian (AIWA Press, 2016). 261pp., in English. Noted author Zabel Yessayan journeyed to Cilicia after the 1909 massacres to provide relief to survivors. Her monumental account is a powerful testimony to the events there.

Dr. George Bournoutian, Iona College, New York, for a copy of his book, *From Tabriz to St. Petersburg: Iran’s Mission of Apology to Russia in 1829* (Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda Publishers, 2014), 333pp., in English. A detailed study of the events surrounding the 1829 murder in Tehran of Alexander Griboedov, the Russian Ambassador to Iran. The book is an account of the journey of apology undertaken by an Iranian delegation to Moscow, which passed through Armenia.

Lucine Kasbarian, Teaneck, NJ, for her new book *Perspectives from Exile (Kiss the Ground)* (2015), 109pp., in English, a six-part exhibition series that examines and celebrates contemporary Armenian art one hundred years after the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

Dr. Rubina Peroomian, Glendale, CA, for a copy of her new book, *The Armenian Genocide in Literature: The Second Generation Responds* (Yerevan: Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, 2015), Research and Studies in Armenian Genocide Series: 6, 392pp., in English, with an Armenian summary.

Proud Son of Hadjin, A Memoir of an Armenian Genocide Survivor: The Story of Asadour Chalian (Asbarez Media Network, 2015), 193pp., in English and Armenian.

Vartouhi Zerdelian Pinkston, New York, for a copy of her book, *Time to Give God Back the World* (2015). The illustrated book is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Mary Terzian, Hacienda Heights, California, for a copy of her new work *Politically Homeless: A Five Year Odyssey Across Three Continents* (AuthorHouse, 2015), 380pp., in English. Terzian’s memoir covers five years in the life of the author from her position in the UN in the Congo, to her eventual home in the United States.

Dennis Torigian, Fresno, for a copy of *Yettem Memorial and Memories of Etchmiadzin*, dedicated to the 50th anniversaries of the foundation of Yettem and the The Pastor of Yettem’s Educational Center.

“VALLEY OF HOPE”

THE ARMENIAN JOURNEY FROM TERROR TO TRIUMPH
THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 7PM
ONLY ON PBS
CHANNEL 18.1-COMCAST 8
DIRECTTV 18

PETERS, FROM PAGE 1

Leon Peters and his brother, Pete Peters, established Valley Foundry and Machine Works, a world-recognized supplier of agricultural equipment, and it became one of the region’s most successful businesses, allowing them to start the foundation in 1959.

Since the early 1980s, the Peters family has provided numerous gifts to Fresno State including the Pete P. Peters Endowment in Armenian Studies, the President’s Fund, Ag One Foundation, the Henry Madden Library, the Bulldog Foundation, the Leon S. Peters Honors Scholars, and the Business Associates Program.

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2016 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education-Breadth, Humanities, Area C2				
• Arm 1B-Elementary Armenian (Class #72321)	4	10:00A-11:50A	MW	B. Der Mugrdechian
General Education-Breadth, Arts, Area C1				
• ArmS 20-Arts of Armenia (Class #73114)	3	11:00A-12:15P	TuTh	B. Der Mugrdechian
General Education-Breadth, Area D3				
• ArmS 10-Intro Arm Studies (Class #72322)	3	12:00P-12:50P	MWF	H. Ohanessian
• ArmS 10-Intro Arm Studies (Class #73685)	3	8:00A-09:15A	TuTh	H. Ohanessian
• ArmS 10-Intro Arm Studies (Class #76217)	3	3:30P-4:45P	TuTh	S. La Porta
General Education-Integration, Area IC				
• Arm 148-Mastrpcs Arm Cult (Class #73684)	3	2:00P-3:15P	MW	S. La Porta
• Arm 148-Mastrpcs Arm Cult (Class #73686)	3	3:30P-4:45P	MW	H. Ohanessian
• Arm 148-Mastrpcs Arm Cult (Class #76218)	3	3:30P-4:45P	TuTh	H. Ohanessian
Upper Division Armenian Studies Course				
• ArmS 108A-Arm History I (Class #72323)	3	9:30A-10:45A	TuTh	B. Der Mugrdechian

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

HYE SHARZHOOM

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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.

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Dr. Bournoutian Gives Talk on “Iran’s Mission of Apology to Russia”



Left to right: Nathan Vanderhoof, Prof. Hagop Ohanessian, Aramais Orkusyan, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Dr. George Bournoutian, Dr. Sergio La Porta, Bako Oganyan, Lucie Ekezyan, Dr. Jack Zeldis, and Tadeh Issakhanian. Dr. Bournoutian’s lecture provided fascinating insight into the historical period of the 1820’s.

Photo: Hourig Attarian

ARAMAYIS ORKUSYAN EDITOR

In the aftermath of the second Russo-Iranian War, which concluded on February 10, 1828 with the signing of the Treaty of Turkmenchay, anti-Russian sentiments in Iran were rampant. After the ratification of the Treaty, an angry mob stormed the Russian embassy in Tehran, Iran and murdered Alexander Griboedov, Russia’s ambassador to Iran, and all but one of the embassy’s staff. Dr. Bournoutian’s lecture on January 28, 2016 titled “Iran’s Mission of Apology to Russia” discussed the Iranian government’s response to these massacres. The lecture was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian General Benevolent Union of Fresno.

In order to prevent the outbreak of another war, the Shah of Iran sent an official mission of apology to Tsar Nicholas I. In his lecture, Dr. Bournoutian detailed the ten-month long journey from Tabriz to St. Petersburg headed by Khosrow Mirza—the seventh son of the Crown Prince of Iran Abbas Mirza. Scholars know some of the details of the journey due to a diary that was kept by Khosrow Mirza’s secretary during the entire trip. “In the diary we have unbelievable material on what kind of palaces they went to, what kind of soirees they had, fireworks they saw, presents, you name it,” said Dr. Bournoutian.

However, the diary of the Iranian secretary painted an incomplete picture of the journey. Crucial information, such as the return trip to Iran and events to which the secretary was not allowed to attend, were missing in the diary. Additionally, much of the information in the diary was riddled with inaccuracies caused by the language barrier of the secretary. “All the Russian generals, all the Russian villages, and the cities are undecipherable,” said Dr. Bournoutian.

Dr. Bournoutian discussed his long quest to fill in the gaps in the diary of the Iranian secretary. Compiling information from Russian sources such as the confidential diaries of General

Rennenkampf, who acted as the Iranian delegate’s host during their trip to St. Petersburg, reports from the secret police of Tsar Nicholas I, and reports of the Governor of Moscow, Dr. Bournoutian was able to paint a complete picture of the journey of the Iranian delegates.

Although seemingly unrelated to Armenia, the Treaty of Turkmenchay, which is what ultimately created the need to send a mission of apology to Russia, was also important in the eventual formation of the first Armenian Republic. Dr. Bournoutian explained that Article 15 of the Treaty allowed Armenians, who 200 years before were forcibly deported by Shah Abbas from the region of Nakhichevan, Yerevan, and Julfa, one year to repatriate to Russia’s newly created Armenian province.

Although Armenians already lived in the region, they only constituted about 30% of the population, whereas the other 70% were Muslim. “Russians kept very detailed statistics,” said Dr. Bournoutian. “We have the statistics and two years later, this Armenian province had 50% Armenians 50% Muslims, and very soon the Armenians begin to have more and more, and the new Armenia was born.”

In 1976 Dr. Bournoutian received a Ph.D. from UCLA with a dissertation on “Eastern Armenia on the Eve of the Russian Conquest,” the first Ph.D. in Armenian History from UCLA, and is now a senior professor of history at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York.

Dr. Bournoutian has authored 30 books with 4 more in the press. His groundbreaking *A Concise History of the Armenian People*, currently in its sixth edition, has sold over 20,000 copies. It is used in many institutions of higher education and has been translated into Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, Armenian, Russian, and most recently in Japanese.

Dr. Bournoutian has been a distinguished visiting professor in many universities across the United States, including Fresno State, where he was the 7th Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies in Spring 2009.

Ümit Kurt Discusses Reasons Behind Turkish Government Denial of the Armenian Genocide

ELINA KARAPETYAN STAFF WRITER

There has been a long-standing, Turkish government political tradition to deny the Armenian Genocide. During a special presentation on Wednesday, February 10 Clark University doctoral candidate Ümit Kurt gave a talk entitled, “Why Does Turkey Deny the Armenian Genocide?” to provide some answers to the question. This lecture was part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series.

Kurt gave two main reasons for the Turkish government denial: first, he pointed out that the Turkish people do not have sufficient historic consciousness and historical knowledge about the topic. One of the reasons for this was because of the 1928 “revolution in writing,” when the Turkish alphabet was changed from Arabic to Latin characters so that people could no longer read what was written before 1928. They therefore only had access to the official Turkish thesis on the subject.

Second, Kurt noted that founding cadres of the Republic were composed of former Committee of Union and Progress members (for example Celal Bayar, Ali Cenani, Bekir Sami Bey, Tevfik Rüştü Aras), who were also responsible for the Genocide.

Kurt offered the audience several theories as to why the Turkish Government is still in a state of denial. First and foremost, denial served a vital function in the formation of Turkish national identity through the process of mythmaking about the origins of modern Turkey. By forgetting the past, and constructing a new past, the primary ideology was, “...we Turks did not murder



Photo: Hourig Attarian

Left to right: Charlie Keyan Armenian School Principal Zar Der Mugrdechian, Greg Kohayan, and Ümit Kurt.

Armenians; Armenians murdered us.” According to Kurt, this claim makes the act of forgetting an integral part of their society, because it was important for their creation of an official state.

Kurt believes that the main reason the Turkish Government avoids any discussion of its history and makes it a taboo to speak about the Genocide, lies in this connection between the Armenian Genocide and the foundation of the Turkish Republic.

“Forgetting has turned out to be a cultural code for Turkey to avoid facing the dark annals of its past,” he said. For Kurt an important aspect of this problem is to develop a social responsibility in order to fully confront the Genocide.

Kurt suggested that Turkish society’s reactions to its own history can be described as “pathological.” The Turks are unable to speak calmly about the subject because, as a nation, they feel confronted by serious accusations.

In nationalist discourse, this sentiment is perceived as an accusation that puts into question

four thousand years of glorious Turkish history, and attributes to the Turkish nation a crime of which it is not capable. Thus, there is a deep fear of recognition because of what inevitably will follow, reparation and restitution.

“The presentation gave the audience new insight into why Turkey denies the Armenian Genocide. Kurt’s explanation of the political and sociological reasons behind the denial was helpful into understanding why the Turkish state continues its policy of denial,” said Armenian Studies Program Coordinator Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

Umit Kurt has conducted extensive research and is the author of *The Great, Hopeless Turkish race: fundamentals of Turkish nationalism in the Turkish homeland 1911-1916* and editor of *The Revolt and the Destruction: Construction of the state of the Ottoman Empire to Turkish Republic and collective violence*.

Kurt is working on his Ph.D. through the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program in the History Department of Clark University.

Digitized Sources for Local Armenian Research

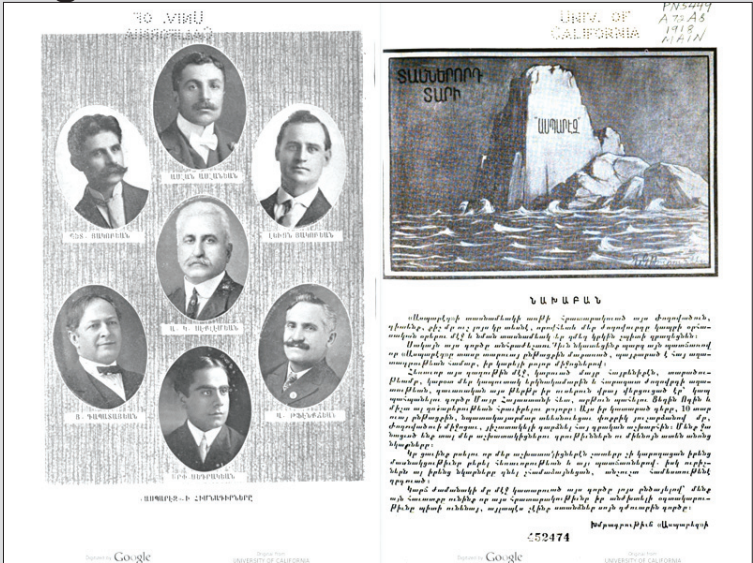


Image: Courtesy HathiTrust

A digitized page from Asbarez newspaper (1918).

STAFF REPORT

The past few years have seen an explosion in the number of digital resources available online, notably in the field of Armenian Studies. The Armenian Studies Program is in the forefront of helping students reach these resources online, as part of our continuing effort to link researchers to new sources of information.

In particular, there are excellent resources for people pursuing local history.

HathiTrust, a digital repository of scanned books and printed materials scanned through universities and the Google Books Library Project, has made a vast number of titles available to the general public. In addition to works of fiction and non-fiction, one can also find Armenian dictionaries and periodicals,

including an anniversary publication of *Asbarez* newspaper from 1918.

The prevalence of so many digitized collections of printed books has freed up libraries to focus on the digitization of their special collections to distinguish themselves. Conglomerates of universities and cultural institutions have committed to maintaining the digitized data and servers, which offers greater security that the resource will be there for posterity, thus allowing collections from smaller institutions to come to light. What this means to the student of Armenian Studies is that even a greater number of resources are available virtually.

For those interested in local history, the Online Archive of California (OAC) offers a single search engine to query archival collections throughout the state. The OAC also operates Calisphere, a separate search engine of digitized archival images from California institutions. One such image was

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ASI Senate Vote Calls for Divestment from Turkey



Photo: Gina De Young

ASI Senators and Armenian students at the Divestment Resolution vote of the ASI Senate.

STAFF REPORT

On February 3, the Fresno State Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) Senate unanimously passed a “Resolution To Urge The Fresno State Foundation to Divest From The Republic of Turkey.” The resolution, which was spearheaded by Armenian Students Organization Vice President and ANCA-WR member Tadeh Issakhanian, calls upon the Fresno State Foundation to take several steps towards divestment of any current or future endowment funds invested in the Republic of Turkey.

The resolution, in many ways, mirrors similar resolutions that were passed at several University of California campuses, including UCLA, UC Berkeley and UC Irvine, as part of the Armenian Youth Federation’s “Divest Turkey Initiative.” The idea behind passing a similar resolution at Fresno State came from the Armenian National Committee Central California.

After its introduction to the ASI Senate, the resolution was taken to the ASI Legislative Committee. ASI Vice President of External Affairs Kaitlyn Sims led the effort, along with ASI President Abigail Hudson, ASI Vice President Nicholas Stevens and Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Operations Deborah Adishian-Astone, to identify the Foundation’s investments

in the Republic of Turkey and to draft a resolution calling for the divestment of these funds. Astone’s involvement was instrumental in crafting a resolution that reflected the spirit of the “Divest Turkey” initiative while ensuring the feasibility of any calls to action.

Fresno State students and members of the Armenian community attended the numerous public ASI Senate meetings, where the resolution was introduced, discussed, and later voted on.

The attendees spoke to the Senate about the university’s investments in the Turkish government, its perpetuation of genocide denial, and the need for divestment.

During these meetings, Issakhanian expressed his concerns about the contradictory actions of Fresno State remarking, “on the one hand we have a genocide memorial on campus that recognizes the Armenian Genocide, while at the same time we have investments in the country that committed the Genocide and to this day continues their campaign of denial.”

The resolution argues that Fresno State, a public academic institution guided by the principles of academic freedom, contradicts those very principles by investing in a government that engages in academic censorship

and criminalizes Armenian Genocide scholarship in Turkey. The resolution also references the acts of Genocide committed by the Republic of Turkey and its continuous campaign of denial.

Although the Fresno State Foundation, which manages Fresno State’s financial activities relating to investments and endowments, has no direct investments in the Republic of Turkey as of September 30, 2015, its endowments contain a total of \$430,000 invested in the form of mutual funds in the Republic of Turkey. This represents 0.30% of Fresno States \$140 million endowment.

The resolution calls upon the Fresno State Foundation to take the following actions: to take all possible steps towards divesting Foundation funds in the Republic of Turkey; to establish a task force to evaluate and report on the feasibility and financial impact of divesting these funds; to create a policy preventing direct investments by the Foundation into the Republic of Turkey; and to take steps in order to make investment information available to potential donors who may be wary of where their donations are being invested.

The passing of the resolution by the ASI is an important first step towards the goal of getting the Fresno State Foundation to cut all financial ties with the Republic of Turkey. Moreover, it has set a precedent for socially responsible investing for Fresno State.

In addition, this resolution and the efforts of the ASI to address these concerns, once again, highlight the ASI’s commitment to its Armenian students and the local Armenian community.

All groups involved in the resolution will continue to work towards realizing these changes. ASI Vice President Kait Sims stated “I look forward to continuing to work with Vice-President Astone and the rest of the Association on this issue in the coming months.”

Dr. Kulhandjian Joins Faculty

ELENA SARMAZIAN
STAFF WRITER



Photo: ASF Archive

Dr. Hovannes Kulhandjian

Fresno State welcomed a new Armenian faculty member in Fall 2015. Dr. Hovannes Kulhandjian, who specializes in digital signal processing, wireless communication and networking, joined the campus as an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and is now in his second semester of teaching.

Dr. Kulhandjian was born in Gyumri, Armenia, but in 1988, in the year of the catastrophic earthquake that struck Armenia, Kulhandjian’s family moved to Georgia. Not long after, the family relocated once more, this time to Egypt, due to political upheaval in Georgia. Dr. Kulhandjian’s family moved to the United States when his brother, Michel, and he decided to pursue a Ph.D. in electrical engineering in Buffalo, New York.

Kulhandjian’s fascination with science and engineering was sparked at a young age in large part due to his father. “My father had a big impact on my brother and I from childhood,” said Dr. Kulhandjian. “He would teach us mathematics and physics so we were enthusiastic about engineering.”

Fulfilling his childhood dream, Kulhandjian studied Electronics Engineering at the American University in Cairo (AUC). After graduating with high honors from the AUC, he was accepted to the State University of New York at Buffalo to pursue a Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering, specializing in signal processing and wireless networking.

Despite living and studying outside of Armenia for most of his life, Dr. Kulhandjian has held firm to his Armenian culture for which he credits his parents. “Throughout my life...my parents have always encouraged my brother and I to always speak the Armenian language at home,”

said Dr. Kulhandjian. “I have to say it was challenging, but it was very well worth it because that is how we were able to preserve the Armenian language and our Armenian identity.”

Maintaining ties to the Armenian culture was a motivating factor in Kulhandjian’s search for a teaching position at a university. “After completing my Ph.D., I applied for several tenure-track faculty positions mainly in California because of its large Armenian community,” stated Kulhandjian.

“Prior to applying to Fresno State,” continued Kulhandjian, “I had visited Fresno for over a month last year and I established strong ties with the Armenian community. The people were very welcoming and I loved Fresno, which was one of the driving forces that attracted me to relocate to here. Later, I found out that Fresno State had a tenure-track faculty opening, so I applied immediately.”

At Fresno State, Dr. Kulhandjian continues to work on cutting edge research in underwater wireless communications and networking, focusing on developing new algorithms to improve the limitations of underwater wireless technology.

In his spare time, Dr. Kulhandjian participates in events organized by the Armenian community and the Armenian Studies Program. “I find Fresno to be close to home,” concluded Dr. Kulhandjian.

Dr. La Porta’s Armenian History Course Brings New Perspectives to Students

MICHAEL RETTIG
STAFF WRITER

History plays an important role in helping people understand their identity. It enables one to understand the experiences of their ancestors and how they have shaped our contemporary world. Students in Professor Sergio La Porta’s Armenian Studies 108B course, a survey of modern Armenian history, have been able to better understand the present situation of the Armenian nation by learning about its history.

The course explores Armenian history from the year 1000AD and includes the Turkic invasions up to the present day dispersion of Armenians and the creation of the Republic of Armenia.

“I think that the time period covered in this class is important because it helps us understand current events and conflicts in Armenia and the surrounding

areas,” said student Lauren Chardukian.

Students expressed an excitement to learn about the Armenian culture in greater depth. “I moved here when I was young and I didn’t get the chance to learn all of these things when I was in Lebanon. I only had a very basic knowledge of Armenian history and I like this class because we’re able to go in depth,” said Haverj Stanboulian.

The class is composed of both Armenian and non-Armenian students, many of whom were History majors taking the course to fulfill a World Regions requirement in their degree. This enables the class to reach a diverse audience.

“I think it’s great for young Armenians and non-Armenians to understand how rich a culture we have,” stated Menas Arisian.

Professor La Porta’s goal for the class is to foster a better understanding of Armenia’s current state. “I’d like to give



Photo: Aramayas Orkanyan

Students in the Modern Armenian History course.

them the sense of the general arc of Armenian history. The trajectories in this course in particular are to talk about what caused the Armenian dispersion as well as the formation of Armenian national identity, the goals of establishing an Armenian state, and then its eventual establishment.”

He hopes to accomplish this while tying the Armenian

narrative into a greater world context. “One of the challenges of Armenian history is that it doesn’t occur in isolation. I try to approach it from the position of world history.”

Professor La Porta explained

that the various Armenian states and Diasporas heavily interacted with various cultures, states, and empires across a large geographical scale. This enables him to touch upon broader world events, such as the Crusades, from a different perspective.

“The Armenian case gives a particular look at what happened in the world, not necessarily from the viewpoint of the dominant culture, but of a significant contributor to that culture.”

Students are able to learn not only about Armenian history, but also about various other groups and how they interacted with Armenians.

The course helps students to understand the current friendships or animosities between these groups in the present day Middle East.

Hye Sharzhoom-Founded in 1979
hyesharzhoom.com

“Discovering Kristin Saleri” Exhibit Opens at Madden Library Through May 31



Photo: Barlow Der Mugrdchian

“Discovering Kristin Saleri” Exhibit in the Peters Ellipse.

TADEH ISSAKHANIAN
STAFF WRITER

Fresno State’s Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery, located on the second floor of the Henry Madden Library, has been transformed into a retrospective exhibition of artwork by the pioneering 20th century Turkish-Armenian artist Kristin Saleri. Curated by Fresno natives Joyce Kierejczyk and Carol Tikijian, “Discovering Kristin Saleri” presents students and the community with a unique glimpse into Saleri’s life and work. The exhibition opened on Saturday, February 6, and will remain open during regular hours of the library through May 31.

Several members of the Saleri family attended the opening reception. Among them was Kristin Saleri’s son, Houston-based Dr. Nansen Saleri, who spoke of the promise he had made to his mother on her

deathbed. ““What will happen to my paintings after I die, will I be forgotten?” my mother asked. ‘I will make sure that you will be as well-known as Van Gogh,’ was my response, hours before she passed away,” recalled Dr. Saleri. This promise was the origin of the “Discovering Kristin Saleri” project.

Born in Istanbul, Turkey in 1915, Saleri’s artistic talents were recognized at a young age. A child prodigy, Saleri received her initial training from Feyhaman Duran, one of the first Turkish artists to work in the Western style, and later studied at the Istanbul Academy of Fine Arts. Her talents would eventually take her to study in Germany, Italy, and France—the epicenter of the art world. As a mature artist, Saleri returned to Istanbul, where she remained for the rest of her life and produced over 3,000 pieces of art until her death in 2006.

As a female and Armenian artist Saleri was faced with many obstacles. She lived in an era dominated by men and was an ethnic minority in a period of social and ethnic strain in post World War II Turkey. Undeterred by these hurdles, however, “she transcended the challenges of being an Armenian woman living in Turkey to become an integral part of the modern art movement in Europe and Asia Minor,” reflected curator Carol Tikijian.

Highlighting the importance of bringing Kristin Saleri’s work to Fresno State, Peter McDonald, Dean of the Henry Madden Library, stated “The fact that Kristin Saleri was an Armenian child born in the first year of the Genocide, a woman, and above all, a powerful artist, speaks to the enduring spirit of Armenian culture in their Middle



Photo: Kristin Saleri catalog

“The Love Tree” (1980)

Eastern homeland...This year marks the first anniversary of the Fresno State Armenian Genocide Monument. It is therefore fitting that we look ahead to celebrate all that Armenian culture has done to enrich the history, arts, and

industry of this great nation and world.”

The 72 pieces on display encapsulates several decades of Saleri’s work. The series of self-portraits on display depict Saleri’s progression from a young, promising artist to her days as a mature, established art figure. Many of the pieces demonstrate the strong influence of Saleri’s homeland and heritage in her work. Saleri’s work exhibits delicate artistic imagery that is at first hidden and then almost instantly reveals itself to the viewer. Many of her pieces are multilayered showing themselves as one thing from a particular perspective, but from a different view revealing themselves as another.

The exhibition truly showcases the artistic genius of one of the 20th century’s premier artists.

Fresno State's Henry Madden Library presents

DISCOVERING KRISTIN SALERI

Exhibition runs through May 31, 2016

Join us at the Henry Madden Library for an exhibition featuring this pioneering Armenian artist from Istanbul.

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Ara Sarafian Discusses Ambassador Morgenthau

MICHAEL RETTIG
STAFF WRITER

The vehement denial of the Armenian Genocide on the part of the government of the Republic of Turkey has led to the falsification and distortion of history. Scholarship and the use of primary sources are vital tools in countering this misinformation. Studying the accounts of politicians, missionaries, and soldiers and how they corroborate with each other, helps to contribute to the historic accuracy of what took place in 1915. On Wednesday, February 17, Ara Sarafian, founder of the London based-Gomidas Institute, spoke about one such example of an important primary source in his lecture, “Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story.”

Sarafian has been publishing primary source material through the Gomidas Institute to better familiarize people with the details of the Genocide. According to Sarafian, scholarship is the most appropriate response to Genocide denial.

“You [the public] depend on the scholars doing their work, but you also need to be well read as the basis of your activism. There is a clear role to be played by public intellectuals.” Sarafian has recently republished *Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story* with an added introduction to better combat denialist historians. According to



Photo: Hourig Attarian

Left to right: Aramayis Orkusyan, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian, Ara Sarafian, Tadeh Issakhanian, and Michael Rettig.

Sarafian, Morgenthau’s story is not only important for its insight into the Armenian Genocide, but it can be used to study the history of denial surrounding the event.

According to Sarafian, Morgenthau’s story is an especially crucial piece of evidence because of who Morgenthau was and the accessibility of his account. Morgenthau was appointed ambassador to the Ottoman Empire by President Woodrow Wilson in 1913. Because the Americans entered the war in 1917, much later than the French and British, the American missionaries and diplomats were able to remain in the Ottoman Empire for a longer period. During the Genocide, Morgenthau, upon

receiving hundreds of reports from the American consuls and missionaries based in the provinces, advocated for the Armenians. He forwarded these reports to the State Department and discussed them with both Turkish and German officials. The Armenian issue dominated his conversation and attention during the war.

Morgenthau’s German-Jewish background made him well suited to the task, as he was able to understand the language of Turkey’s ally and his Jewish ethnicity made him sympathetic to disenfranchised minorities. “Ambassador Morgenthau could have ignored what was going on because the Armenians, who were the objects of mass

murder and destruction, were not American citizens. It would have been easy for him to have dealt with it in a few sentences and put it aside,” stated Sarafian. “It is quite remarkable that, starting in April 1915, the Ambassador of a neutral United States was preoccupied with saving the lives of Armenian subjects of the Ottoman Empire.” Morgenthau was able to use his prior training as a lawyer to advocate for their cause. “He knew the importance of evidence and how to gather it and how to use it.”

Despite this, Morgenthau’s account has been called into question by denialist historians such as Dr. Heath Lowry (formerly of Princeton University). Lowry claimed that Morgenthau was fed false information by his Armenian aides. Sarafian attributed this criticism as a result of a prejudiced attitude in which Armenians are considered inherent liars. Lowry similarly tried to discredit Morgenthau by claiming that because his accounts were written in 1918 when the United States was at war, they were nothing more than “wartime propaganda.” He claimed that Morgenthau’s earlier private papers and diaries told a much different story. Upon

researching Morgenthau’s private papers, Sarafian realized that it was Lowry who had fabricated his information. Morgenthau’s wartime memoir was actually heavily based on his diaries and papers from 1915. “It was a good example for me to see how history can be turned on its head if you are not able to argue your case well while your opponent is.”

The republished edition of Morgenthau’s story includes an introduction by Sarafian which stresses the direct link between Morgenthau’s memoir and his diary and papers from 1915. This introduction bolsters the historical accuracy of *Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story* against those who would try to distort history.

Sarafian concluded his lecture by emphasizing the importance of good scholarship in countering falsified histories. “We have at least 25 years of systematic Turkish denial. The Turkish position is actually very weak; *Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story* is only one of those cases. This is why we need scholarly refutation as the basis for dialogue. The way you win arguments is not by shouting people down, but by actually knowing what that person says, why they are wrong, and by arguing with the evidence.”

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Dr. Ervine's Class Explores Ideas of Post-Genocide Writers



Left to right: Cory Lynch, Zhora Pogosyan, Dr. Roberta Ervine, Lucie Ekezyan, and Anoush Hakobyan.

DIANA GASPARYAN
STAFF WRITER

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State offers many opportunities for students and the public to learn about Armenian history and culture through its Armenian Studies Lecture Series and the Kazan Visiting Professorship. The Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professorship provides support that allows the Armenian Studies Program to invite an internationally recognized scholar in contemporary Armenian affairs to teach a one-semester topics course related to Armenian history, the Armenian Genocide, and the formation of the Armenian Republic. In addition to their teaching responsibilities, Kazan Visiting Professors conduct research and present three public lectures as part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series.

For the Spring 2016 semester, the Armenian Studies Program appointed Dr. Roberta Ervine, a Professor of Armenian Studies at

St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, as the 12th Kazan Visiting Professor. Dr. Ervine's course, "Great Tragedy and Great Ideas: Learned Armenians and the Genocide," examines the values of the Armenian people in the years following the Armenian Genocide.

"The traditional Armenian understanding of life has deep ancient roots. How did it not only survive but thrive in the harsh climate of the post-genocide world? How did it adapt to devastating psychological, spiritual, and physical upheaval?" are the types of questions Dr. Ervine is exploring with her students this semester.

The small size of the class allows for more in-depth and one-on-one discussions. The students are able to engage in the material with Dr. Ervine as well as with each other. Explaining her approach to teaching, Dr. Ervine stated, "It's a mix of lecture and discussion because there is a lot of material that the students won't have access to unless I give it to them. I also like to hear

from my students. I want them to have a relationship with the material. I want to expose my students to something they may otherwise not get to see. I want to open a window to information that is difficult to access for my students."

Students have had a positive reaction to Dr. Ervine's teaching style. Anna Sislian, who grew up and lived in Yerevan, Armenia, commented on her experience, "It's very intimate—we talk, and we discuss the material." Sislian also remarked on how much more information she has learned about the Genocide in this class than she did growing up in Yerevan. "We go deeper into the years of the Genocide, what people were thinking then, not just the historical facts. In Armenia we learn about the Genocide, but none of the perspectives of the people in the Armenian communities."

Lucie Ekezyan, remarking on the amount of new information she is learning in the class, stated "Dr. Ervine has opened up a world that we didn't know existed, such as the pre-Genocide diaspora.

The students share a desire to discover more about their Armenian heritage. "It is a required course [for the Armenian Studies minor], but if I had the choice, I would still take it," said senior Zhora Pogosyan.

For Dr. Ervine, the topic of the course is one that she herself is very interested in. "I picked something I had been wanting to look into," said Dr. Ervine. "It's been a lovely opportunity for me to go back into all the literature and pull out different themes of what people would be thinking about then, and what they would want to communicate to us," concluded Dr. Ervine.

Visit
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ERVINE, FROM PAGE 1

to travel to Jerusalem during her senior year at Wheaton College—a decision that shaped the rest of her career.

The visit to Jerusalem was the match that sparked Dr. Ervine's interest in Armenian Studies. There, she had the opportunity to visit historic Armenian sites and churches and to be inspired by Armenian history.

After returning from Jerusalem, Dr. Ervine visited the Armenian Church of Holy Ascension in Trumbull, Connecticut, where she received informal lessons in Armenian language from the late Rev. Fr. Levon Arakelian. She then applied to the Armenian Studies Program at Columbia University, where she received her Ph.D. on the topic of "Hovhannes Erznkatsi Pluz and His Compilation of Commentary on Grammar" in 1986. At Columbia University, Dr. Ervine's research interests in medieval studies led her back to Jerusalem, where she lived in the Armenian Monastery of St. James for 21 years and studied under His Grace Abp. Norayr Bogharian, curator of manuscripts.

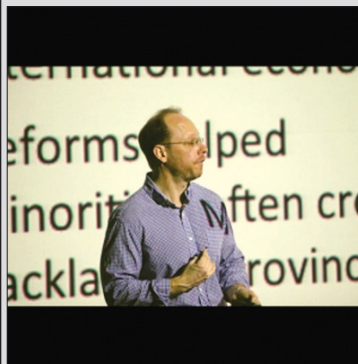
Professor Abraham Terian—then the Dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary—presented

her with an opportunity to return and teach in the United States. "It was perfect timing because I was ready to leave Jerusalem, but didn't know what I was going to do next. St. Nersess was a wonderful place where I would be able to teach medieval, Armenian spirituality and thought," said Dr. Ervine.

At Fresno State Dr. Ervine hopes to excite students about a topic she is passionate about. "I had always wanted to visit [Fresno State], so when I received the announcement that they were taking applications, I applied," said Dr. Ervine. Although the Armenian Genocide is a topic that has been taught by others, Dr. Ervine stated "what I can contribute is a new perspective. I look at the modern period with the point of view of 1600 prior years of history."

Dr. Ervine actively pursues research in topics related to the history of Armenians in Jerusalem and the intellectual traditions of the Armenian Middle Ages. "Without Armenian Studies," concluded Dr. Ervine, "you have an incomplete picture. It is a vital and beautiful piece of the entire puzzle, and without it, there is just a hole there that mars the picture."

Professor La Porta Gives Annual Genocide Lecture at Sonoma State



Dr. Sergio La Porta

STAFF REPORT

On February 16, 2016, Dr. Sergio La Porta lectured on the Armenian Genocide at Sonoma State University. Sponsored by the Alliance for the Study of Holocaust and Genocide and the Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture Fund seeded by the Thomas Family Foundation, the lecture forms part of the Holocaust and Genocide Lecture Series organized by the Center for the Study of Holocaust and Genocide and Professor Diane Parness, academic coordinator of the series.

In conjunction with the Lecture Series attended by the community as well as the students, Sonoma State students enroll in a 4-unit course entitled, "Perspectives on Holocaust and Genocide." About 120 students enroll in the class each year. The title of the 33rd Annual Lecture Series was "Into the 21st Century: Genocide in Our Time "and Dr.

La Porta's lecture was called "The Armenian Genocide and the 21st Century." His talk focused on the repercussions of the Genocide in today's world. Dr. La Porta has delivered the annual lecture on the Armenian Genocide at Sonoma State since 2010.

"The organizers and supporters of the Lecture Series are incredibly kind and welcoming," said Dr. La Porta. Moreover, Dr. La Porta feels that it is a great way to reach people, and especially students, who may not have been informed about the Genocide. He also said that the lecture gives him an opportunity to meet with representatives of the local Armenian community. The night before the lecture Ms. Christyne Davidian, who helped to establish the Armenian Genocide Memorial Lecture Fund, organizes a dinner for Dr. La Porta with members of the Armenians of the North Bay who share their experiences of being Armenian in California and how their families arrived in Sonoma County.

"We are so proud when Dr. La Porta defines the Armenian people by presenting our complete history, not just the Genocide!" says Davidian. Dr. La Porta says that one of the most enjoyable aspects of his participation in the Lecture Series is that he learns so much from scholars and survivors of other genocides, from the community, and from the students.

LEGACY, FROM PAGE 1

prosecution trial attorney at the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia, based in The Hague.

The volume focuses on the impact of the Armenian Genocide on different academic disciplines at the crossroads of the centennial commemorations of the Genocide.

Its interdisciplinary nature offers the opportunity to analyze the Genocide from different angles using the lens of several fields of study.

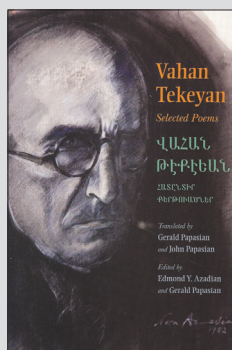
Der Mugrdechian's chapter, "The Theme of Genocide in Armenian Literature," focused on the effects of Genocide as seen through the eyes of writers. He analyzed Armenian-American writers of the twentieth century and their outlook.

Second and third-generation writers in particular returned to the theme of the Genocide in their works.

For more information on *The Armenian Genocide Legacy* please visit the website at: <http://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9781137561626>.

The Armenian Series at Fresno State

General Editor: Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian



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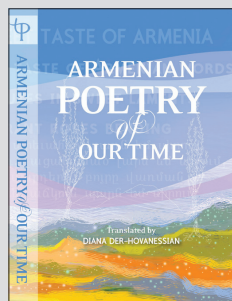
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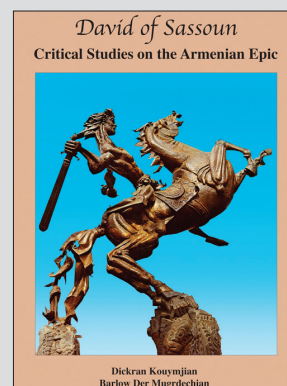
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DEAN, FROM PAGE 1

this period to study because “it is when we have a break in the conception of the human being. We become complex, we become individuals.”

Passionate about poetry, Dr. Sandoval believes that “it is poetry that interrupts the everyday; it is poetry that lets you know there is something much more powerful and significant than the routine.” One example he provided demonstrated the importance of poetry. “The Genocide represents an interruption of a community, a violation of the community...the survivors become a representation of the triumph of the past. It is the poetic that gives us a sense of our responsibility for our present in relationship to the future in view of the generations of the past that have survived so we would be here.”

As Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, Dr. Jiménez-Sandoval aims to find a balance between “keeping the college solvent economically, but also keeping the College dynamic within the University and the community.”

“The College is the heart of the university, it is what provides the other disciplines with critical and humanistic thinking skills that allow us to relate to each other on a more humane, social, and artistic basis,” stated Dr. Jiménez-Sandoval.

Dr. Saul Jiménez-Sandoval’s passion for arts and humanities extends to all the departments within the college—especially for the Armenian Studies Program. “The Program is a special part of the College,” said the Dean. “It represents an area of study where students discover themselves and their past. It establishes a sense of social responsibility of what we as Valley residents have for the future.” Additionally, Dr. Jiménez-Sandoval related the mission of his College to the mission of the Armenian Studies Program, “Crafting a way for



Associate Dean
Dr. Honora Chapman

fields of studies that makes a difference, and that is Armenian Studies.”

Sharing his vision of the future, Dr. Jiménez-Sandoval concluded, “I see the College fully integrated within the University, fully recognized for what it brings to the table, and what it affords the

BOHJALIAN, FROM PAGE 1

I remember thinking to myself, why does anyone need my take on this story when we have the work of Carol Edgarian, Peter Balakian, and of course Franz Werfel.”

Commenting on his decision to repackaging the story of the Genocide as a dramatic love story Bohjalian stated “When I tried again, beginning in 2010, I made the decision that I wasn’t going to be writing it for our community. We know these numbers. We know these stories...I made the decision that instead, I needed to approach this for North Americans who could not find Aleppo on a map, readers...who knew nothing of this part of our history.”

Bohjalian was not the first in his family to write about the Armenian Genocide. “I had mistakenly assumed that I was the first Bohjalian to try to make sense out of the Armenian Genocide in art when, in fact, I am but the second,” remarked Bohjalian reflecting on his recent discovery that his great grandfather, who

other disciplines. We will be in a very well established place.”

Assisting the Dean is a new Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities, Dr. Honora Chapman. Formerly a professor of Classics in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, Dr. Chapman shares the Dean’s passion for the College and the students it serves.

She received her B.A. and Ph.D. in Classics at Stanford University. In 2002, she came to Fresno State and became Coordinator of Classics. She received the Provost’s Award for Promising New Faculty and tenure in 2006. She served as Director of the Smitcamp Family Honors College from 2009-2014.

Together the new team will lead the College of Arts & Humanities for many years.

was thought to be a tailor, was actually a prodigious troubadour, “a Bruce Springsteen of the Anatolian plains in the 1860’s and early 1870’s.”

The past three years have been a time of discovery for Bohjalian as he has made three trips to historic Armenia. Recounting his experience, Bohjalian highlighted a visit to the Dudan Crevasse, a mass unmarked grave near Chunkush, Turkey. Incidentally, the visit led him to an emotional meeting with Asiya, a 98-year old Islamized Armenian and the last Armenian in Chunkush, which once had a population of 10,000 Armenians.

Visits to historic and modern Armenia have inspired Bohjalian’s writing. *The Guest Room* had its origins in 2014 when Bohjalian was in Yerevan, Armenia. While in the lobby of a hotel in the middle of the night, Bohjalian spotted a young escort.

“We’ve all seen escorts in nice hotels in San Francisco, or Chicago, or New York,” remarked Bohjalian, “but this was especially hard for me as a father, and heartbreaking for me



Soccer fans gathered after the match with the FC Ararat Yerevan team.

Photo: ASP Archive

ASO, FROM PAGE 1

advance it, then it will slowly fade. With ASO, we prevent that.”

On November 14, 2015, ASO members volunteered at the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School 38th Annual Banquet. ASO treasurer Aramayis Orkusyan commented, “I’m always excited when an opportunity arises to help out in the community. We not only get to keep the culture alive in ourselves, but we also get to play a role, no matter how minor, in an event that will keep the culture alive in the younger generations.”

Another key way in which the ASO brings the community together is through social events. One of the main socials of the year is the Annual Christmas party held at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church. On December 18, 2015, friends and family gathered to enjoy a night full of joyful celebration.

“My favorite event is our Christmas party,” said sophomore Rosie Terpogosyan. “We all had a great time with each other. There was a lot of dancing, a photo booth, and delicious food!” Social events are always important to strengthen bonds

and build a better sense of unity within the ASO.

More recently, the ASO attended a soccer match between Fresno Fuego and the FC Ararat Yerevan team from Armenia. The match took place on Thursday, February 18 and a crowd of more than three thousand attended. Junior Hourig Attarian was one of the many ASO members present cheering on FC Ararat Yerevan. “The soccer game was so great because there were a lot of Armenians coming together and supporting the team,” Attarian stated. The encouragement was apparent, with dozens of Armenian flags being waved throughout the stadium.

ASO members are eager to partake in many more events coming up in the Spring 2016 semester such as a Woodward Park social, a trip to Shaver Lake during Spring break, and the Armenian Genocide commemoration week.

Everyone is eager to see how the organization will grow with its new members and new ideas. The warmth and spirit of the Armenian people has been alive for centuries, and ASO brings it to our small Fresno community.

SOURCES, FROM PAGE 3

used for the Armenian Studies Program Genocide exhibit last spring in the Madden Library, in a section documenting survivor life in America. The image, dating from 1920, shows an Armenian girl as part of a Melting Pot float in the Armistice Day parade in downtown Banning, California.

Digitized resources available online are not limited to print sources: the Internet Archive provides access to audio files of a KPFA 1976 radio program *Saroyan: My Name is William* by Charles Amirkhanean and Vic Bedoian, which includes over an hour of Saroyan reminiscing about growing up in Fresno. Also pertinent to local history, recordings and photographs from the WPA California Folk Music Project (1938-1940) are available online through the Library of Congress. On the site, one can listen to ethnographer

Sidney Robertson Cowell’s 1939 recording of Armenian musicians in the Fresno area, including Aslanian’s Armenian Orchestra, Ruben J. Baboyan, and Mary Goshtigian.

If a digitized version exists of a title in the Armenian Studies Program collection, a link has been included to that digital version in the Armenian Studies Program online catalog, found on the home page at fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies. Links to resources pertinent to our collection, like the KVPR’s Saroyan interview, will also be included.

Hathi Trust: digitized books and print materials-hathitrust.org

Internet Archive: provides access to digitized collections, including books and audio-visual materials-Archive.org (for Saroyan interview, search “Saroyan” “KPFA” in search window)

because it was in Yerevan.” This encounter sparked Bohjalian’s research in human trafficking, the outcome of which was his newest literary thriller.

Despite having been newly released, *The Guest Room* has already received acclaim.

“I love the way that readers are commenting that they want to see Yerevan. I love the way that people are sort of debating on what they would do if they were married to Richard,” concluded Bohjalian.

in honor of our loving and devoted mother, Mrs. Alice Vartanian, our beloved and devoted father, Mr. Arthur Vartanian of Fresno, and in memory of our cherished grandparents, the late Mr. & Mrs. Simon & Hegina Vartanian of Fresno and Mr. & Mrs. Levon & Pepay Sarkisian, Los Angeles