The Armenian Studies Program celebrates another successful year with Fresno State with the 34th Annual Armenian Studies Program Banquet. Fresno State students, faculty, administrators, parents, donors, and community members came together to share a delicious dinner and celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Program.

The banquet was held at the Fort Washington Country Club on Sunday, March 20, 2022. As this was the first Banquet held in three years, everyone was enthusiastic to celebrate the Program’s achievements and to recognize students who had been awarded scholarships and those students who graduating with a Minor in Armenian Studies.

Many campus and community leaders were in attendance for this highly anticipated event. Among the guests were Fresno State President Dr. Saul Jiménez-Sandoval; Interim Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs Dr. Xuanning Fu; Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities Dr. Honora Chapman; Founding Director of the Armenian Studies Program, and how proud they and the community are of its success.

“One does not need to be Armenian to appreciate the historical importance and to understand why it is so vital that we continue to support cultural, historical, and linguistic studies on our campus and in this country,” stated Dean Chapman.

Armenian Studies Program Holds 34th Annual Banquet Celebrating Its 45th Anniversary

SARA BEBERIAN
Staff Writer

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Prof. Der Mugrdechian Speaks at Tekeyan 75th Anniversary Event

The Tekeyan Cultural Association Metro Los Angeles Chapter marked the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Tekeyan Cultural Association with a book launch and cultural event on Friday, March 11. The Tekeyan Cultural Association was officially established on March 10, 1947, in Beirut, Lebanon.

Master of Ceremonies Mihran Toumajian introduced the special guests in attendance including Glendale Councilmember Arasha Kassakhian, who made congratulatory remarks on the anniversary; Edmond Y. Azadian, president of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) of the United States and Canada; and Aram Arakian, Executive Director of the Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada and managing editor of the Armenian Mirror-Spectator.

Among the guests were relatives of the TCA founders: Haygaznouban Ouzounian’s daughter Ani Ouzounian; founder Zaven Gostanian’s son Brandon Gostanian; and founder Sarkis Menak’s nephew Dr. Zaven Arslanian and Haig Arslanian.

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Berberian Director of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State gave an overview of the life and achievement of Vahan Tekeyan.

“Tekeyan was a significant figure in Armenian literature having experienced the significant events in the life of his people,” said Prof. Der Mugrdechian. “He was uniquely positioned to be an eyewitness and participant in the major events of his time, as he lived in Constantinople, traveled to Armenia, lived in Europe, and finally settled in Cairo.”

Der Mugrdechian then presented the book Vahan Tekeyan: Selected Poems, which was published as part of the Armenian Series of The Press at California State University, Fresno. Translated by John Papasian and Gerald Papasian and co-edited by Edmond Y. Azadian and Gerald Papasian, Vahan Tekeyan: Selected Poems is comprised of twenty-three of Tekeyan’s poems, in Armenian and English.

The poems in the book are organized by themes such as “Love,” “Songs of Armenia,” and “Universal.”

Nora Ipekian Azadian, the late wife of Edmond Azadian, and whose grandfather Mihran Damadian was a close friend of Tekeyan, added to the richness of this volume with her piece “Vahan Tekeyan as I Remember Him.”

Alexis Hajalian, grandson of the late Armenian Mirror-Spectator columnist Armine Dikjian, read excerpts from Ipekian Azadian’s piece.

Edmond Azadian, speaking in Armenian, gave an overview of his involvement in the publication of Vahan Tekeyan: Selected Poems. Azadian’s comments focused on the significant contributions that Tekeyan made to Armenian poetry and world poetry.

The cultural part of the program included a recitation of the poem “Poshee Azkhu” from Vahan Tekeyan: Selected Poems by Alicke Artinian, a 12th grade student from the Armenian Mesrobian School student; a recitation of Tekeyan’s “Yegebetseen Haygagan” (The Armenian Church) by Khachig Nahabedian and a recitation of the poem “Papak” from Vahan Tekeyan: Selected Poems by Alicke Bardakian, a 6th grade student at the Hovsepian Armenian School.

Very Rev. Fr. Dajad Yardemian, representing the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, gave concluding remarks and a benediction. All of the special guests were invited to bless the publication of Vahan Tekeyan: Selected Poems, by pouring wine on the volume.

Arizona, From Page 1

opportunities that Fresno State has provided both Mark and I," said Astone-Adishian. "We are proud of our alma mater and we believe in providing support for our students, who are the next generation of leaders."

Debbie Adishian-Astone is the Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer at Fresno State and her husband Mark Astone is the owner and CEO of Catalyst Marketing, a local marketing and advertising firm located in downtown Fresno. Mark graduated from Fresno State in 1988 and is a former Associated Students President. Their son Andrew now works at Catalyst Marketing.

Get a Minor in Armenian Studies

For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669. Check on requirements for the Minor in Armenian Studies in the current catalog.

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
Fall 2022 Schedule of Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<td>10:00A-11:50A</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>B. Der Mugrdechian</td>
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<td>MWF</td>
<td>H. Ohanessian</td>
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<td>10:00A-10:50A</td>
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<td>H. Ohanessian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Division Armenian Studies Course</td>
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<td>TuTh</td>
<td>B. Der Mugrdechian</td>
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<td>(Class #73755)</td>
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Hye Sharzhoom Staff Report

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Hapog 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.

Armenian Studies Program Faculty:
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Hye Sharzhoom is an ethnic supplement of The Colle- gian and is the newspaper of the Fresno State Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program and is funded by the Associated Students. Articles may be reprinted provided Hye Sharzhoom is acknowl- edged. Hye Sharzhoom welcomes prose, poetry, articles and other material from its student readers. For further information concerning the newspaper or the Armenian Studies Program contact us at: ARME NIAN STUDIES PROGRAM 5245 N. BACKER AVE, PB4 FRESNO, CA 93740-8001 TELEPHONE 559.287.2069 WWW.FRESNOSTATE.EDU/ARMENIANSTUDIES BARLOWD@CSUFRESNO.EDU

Hye Sharzhoom

May 2022
"Komitas, a survivor of the Armenian Genocide and a symbol of the Armenian people, used the power of music to assert life," proclaimed pianist Dr. Michael Krikorian, as he explained the music for the musical performance of the ensemble, the “Komitas Trio.”

On Friday, March 4, 2022, the Philip L. Lorenz International Keyboard Concert Series, the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program, the Thomas A. Kahldjian Student Family Foundation, and the Greater Fresno Chapter of the Armenian General Benevolent Union presented the Komitas Trio – a master class of the Komitas Trio – 50th Anniversary Season of the Keyboard Concert Series. The “Komitas Trio” includes Michael Krikorian on piano, Aroussiak Baltaian on violin, and Garik Terzian on cello.

Krikorian, a pianist, composer, and educator, has won many top prizes around the world. He has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, the United States, Italy, France, China, and South Korea. A private piano teacher and an adjunct professor of music at Los Angeles Pierce College, Krikorian also composes music for concerts on stage and visual media.

Baltaian, a member of the Pasadena Symphony Orchestra, often spends her time performing with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. She has performed as a soloist and recitalist in the United States and Europe.

Terzian, a soloist and chamber musician, has performed through-out the former Soviet Union, the United States, and the Czech Republic.

Beginning his career as a cellist at the age of six though the guidance of his father in then Czechoslovakia, he has since performed with the Armenian State Philharmonic Orchestra and the Armenian State Chamber Orchestra.

Michael Krikorian began the concert with a thank you to the sponsors, audience, and university. He then, in a manner similar to that of Komitas, introduced each composer to the audience to give more context to each piece.

First on the program was Clarn Schumann, a nineteenth-century composer, who was dealing with the sorrowful circumstances of his life and created a piece for cello and piano, “Largo – Allegro Vivace” in D minor, Op. 67, to express his feeling of nostalgia and a sense of longing for the past.

The audience continued to cheer as the musical performance rang throughout the Concert Hall, and recalled that people did not support either party. Turkey’s adventure for an equitable peace in the Middle East and for their commitment to humanity, honor her parents for all that they have done to support her family, and recalling that people did not support either party.

After a brief intermission, the trio performed Arno Babajanian’s “Trio in F# Minor,” composed in 1952. The piece includes “Largo – Allegro Expressivo,” “Andante,” and “Allegretto.” This composition gave the audience a break from the sorrow-filled emotions of the previous two compositions and replaced those emotions with nostalgia and a sense of longing for the past.

On Thursday, March 31, 2022, the Armenian Studies Program had the honor of hosting Dr. Artyom Tonoyan for a Zoom webinar on “Black Garden Aflame: The Nagorno-Karabagh Conflict in the Soviet and Russian Press.”

Dr. Tonoyan noted that the conflict would produce further struggles between Armenia and Azerbaijan and that the events in Ukraine as cover to provoke Armenia further. “It’s the time of the Armenian Genocide stated,” “was perfect.” Aliyev took full advantage of geopolitical events to act. He even met with Putin the day before the collision, drinking with him and signing a treaty to build rapport with the Russian President. Seeing Russia distracted geographically, Aliyev saw an opportunity to escalate the conflict as he has in the past several months, including cutting off the supply of heating oil to Artsakh.

Dr. Tonoyan concluded his presentation by answering questions from the Zoom audience. One question was to what extent can blame be placed on Putin for this war going back to the formation and policies of the Soviet Union. Dr. Tonoyan noted that the Russian media did not provide much coverage of this issue, but that the consensus was that Stalin’s Glasnost and Perestroika policies created a ticking time bomb which was never defused and exploded into the Artsakh conflict.

The Armenian Studies Program thanks Dr. Tonoyan for sharing the story and inspiration of his book Black Garden Aflame: The Nagorno-Karabagh Conflict in the Soviet and Russian Press and for his deep thoughts on the current conflict in Ukraine and how it relates to Artsakh and the Soviet and Russian conflict between Baku and Yerevan.
Congratulations Armenian Studies Minors and Graduating Seniors of 2021-2022

TATIANA SAMOUE
Biology
Minor in Armenian Studies

What encouraged you to take an Armenian Studies course?
Through my involvement in the Armenian community, I wanted to learn more about our history, traditions, and heritage in a more academic manner. After taking the first semester of Armenian language, I wanted to continue and to pursue a Minor in Armenian Studies. Taking many Armenian Studies courses has broadened my knowledge and allowed me to have a deeper appreciation of the Armenian culture, land, and history.

What was your favorite Armenian Studies class, activity, or event?
From courses and performances, to organizations and socials, the Armenian Studies Program offers many opportunities for students to get involved. I enjoyed making connections with fellow Armenian peers, ASO socials and events were the highlights, where Armenian students could meet and create lifelong friendships.

What are your plans after graduation?
I will be attending law school this fall and I plan on using my experiences and knowledge gained through the Armenian Studies Program to make a difference as an attorney. Whether I am involved in negotiating regional agreements or in patent litigation, I will keep contributing to the Armenian cause and helping my people.

ANI ZHAMKOCHEYAN
Political Science
Minor in Armenian Studies

What encouraged you to take an Armenian Studies course?
There are so many interesting courses that have enhanced my knowledge of Armenian culture, history, and language. I was encouraged to take these classes because, even as an Armenian who has lived in Armenia and was raised surrounded by the culture, I feel there is still a wealth of information for me to learn about my country every day.

What did you value most from your experiences in the Armenian Studies Program?
The different topics in Armenian Studies that I previously had not thought to look into turned out to be some of the most interesting, and having the requirement to take them all for the Minor gave me the opportunity to do that. Nonetheless, the relationships with my classmates, fellow ASO members, and my professors from the Program are the most valuable to me.

What are your plans after graduation?
I plan on continuing my current position at a local law firm as a legal assistant. In the coming year, I will also be studying for and eventually taking the LSAT. I look forward to attending my first year of law school in Fall of 2023!

ARIANA GARABEDIAN
Speech Pathology
Minor in Armenian Studies

What was your favorite Armenian Studies class, activity, or event?
My favorite Armenian Studies course would have to be Armenian 1A, Introduction to Armenian Language. It was my favorite course because it was a fun and inviting environment to learn a language and make mistakes in. In the course, I made countless memories with strangers that I had no idea would become some of my best friends down the road. I can thank the many laughs that the Armenian 1A class brought for the wonderful life-long friends I have made.

What did you value most from your experiences in the Armenian Studies Program?
The ability to learn more about our language, history, and culture. I am grateful for all that I have learned and enjoy sharing it with my family and friends.

What are your plans after graduation?
I would like to use my degree in history and work as an archivist. I am also looking forward to raising my newborn daughter with my fiancé.

SISSE BALOHAN
History
Minor in Armenian Studies

What encouraged you to take an Armenian Studies course?
The desire to learn more about my heritage motivated me to take an Armenian Studies course. Attending the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School planted the seed that motivated me to further my Armenian education.

What was your favorite Armenian Studies class, activity, or event?
My favorite classes were the Armenian language classes. By the time I enrolled in Armenian 2A, I was able to translate a short story written by my great grandfather.

What did you value most from your experiences in the Armenian Studies Program?
I value Prof. Der Mugrdechian and Dr. Ohanesian for teaching me the Armenian language, history, and culture. I am grateful for all that I have learned and enjoy sharing it with my family and friends.

What are your plans after graduation?
I plan to continue working there full-time while studying for my professional certification in the financial services industry.

MICHAIL MAZMAN
Economics
Minor in Armenian Studies

What encouraged you to take an Armenian Studies course?
When I transferred to Fresno State in 2020, I was already aware of the renowned Armenian Studies Program that we have on campus. After being encouraged to get involved by my family and friends, I ended up registering for three Armenian classes in my first semester at Fresno State: Armenian 1B (language), Armenian 148 (literature), and Armenian Studies 108B (history).

What was your favorite Armenian Studies class, activity, or event?
Although I have enjoyed every Armenian Studies class that I have taken at Fresno State, my favorite was Armenian 1B with Prof. Der Mugrdechian. I found it a lot of fun to practice reading, writing, and speaking the Armenian language with my classmates. My Armenian Studies 10 class with Dr. Ohanesian was also very interesting because of its emphasis on the Armenian organizations, churches, and landmarks here in Fresno.

What are your plans after graduation?
I have been working at an independent, fee-only financial planning firm in Fresno for a little over a year. After graduation, I plan to continue working there full-time while studying for my professional certification in the financial services industry.

Congratulations to all
Graduating Seniors at Fresno State!
Boris Allakhverdyan, right on clarinet, performing with Alin Allakhverdyan, on piano.

CHRISTINE PAMBUKYAN
STAFF WRITER

“Thank you to everyone for coming to our concert. It is our first time in Fresno, and the audience is great so far,” said Boris Allakhverdyan after performing his first piece.

On Saturday, April 2, 2022, clarinetist Boris Allakhverdyan and his wife Alin Allakhverdyan performed as part of the “Celebration of Clarinet Featuring Boris Allakhverdyan & Alin Allakhverdyan Piano Concert” held at the Fresno State Concert Hall. The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State was a co-sponsor of the event.

The concert was held as part of the “Celebrating 35 Years of Clarinet” activities at Fresno State, organized by Fresno State Music Professor Miles M. Ishigaki, which included lecture performances, presentations, masterclasses, and concerts by Allakhverdyan and by Ricardo Morales, Principal Clarinet of the Fresno State University Wind Ensemble.

Boris Allakhverdyan was appointed as Principal Clarinet of the American Contemporary Gallery, and his wife, Alin Allakhverdyan, is a prize-winning pianist who began her piano studies at the age of four in Southern California. Currently a music director of the American Contemporary Gallery, she collaborates with dancers and musicians in contemporary and classical pieces, and has collaborated with many renowned musicians.

“Three Preludes,” by George Gershwin, was originally a piece written for the piano, but was arranged into a duet for the concert. The first movement was slow and the second had a more sultry and jazzy feeling. The third movement was fast and intense.

Prof. Der Mugrdechian Speaks at 10th Annual Genocide Awareness Week at Arizona State Univ.

MICHAEL MAZMAN
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, April 6, 2022, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian gave a presentation titled, “The Armenian Genocide: Lessons for the 21st Century,” during the 10th Annual Genocide Awareness Week that took place at Arizona State University. April 4-8, 2022. His discussion, which emphasized the lessons learned from studying the Armenian Genocide, was delivered in-person and also livestreamed virtually.

Prof. Der Mugrdechian began with an introduction of the Armenian Genocide and described the different policies used against the Armenians by the Ottoman Turkish government, such as the state confiscation of Armenian goods and property. “It wasn’t just a matter of killing people,” stated Prof. Der Mugrdechian.

“The financial incentive of taking over Armenian homes, land, businesses, and bank accounts was an important dimension in the Armenian Genocide.”

Another noteworthy policy implementation was the Ottoman Turkish government’s “Temporary Law on Deportation,” which authorized Ottoman officials to forcibly evict the Armenian population (including women, children, and the elderly) from their homes under the pretext of protecting them. Although the Armenian deportees were promised to be returned to their homes later, most were marched for hundreds of miles to their death in the deserts of Northern Syria and Iraq. This was the primary method used to eliminate the bulk of the Armenian population in the Ottoman Empire.

Prof. Der Mugrdechian emphasized analyzing all facets of history as an important lesson learned from studying the Armenian Genocide. “To understand the mechanisms of genocide, we have to get as much information that we can about not only the history, but also things like economics and politics.”


Front row, left to right: Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Dr. Richard Hovannisian, and Dr. Hagop Chanesian. Standing, left to right: Raffi Aparjian, Karina Messerelian, Ani Zhmakhoyan, Armen Apkarian, Hovig Ohanian, and Michael Mazman.

Dr. Richard Hovannisian Presents New Book on Armenians of Persia/Iran for Armenian Studies

CARA TOKATIAN
STAFF WRITER

“The Persian Empire has been a major empire throughout history” stated Dr. Richard Hovannisian. He described the Persian Empire’s long existence impressive, but also notable that Armenians “have lived here century after century” — a presence that can be traced as far back as the pre-Christian era.

On Monday, April 20, the Armenian Studies Program invited Dr. Richard Hovannisian to speak on his recent publication, “Armenian Communities of Persia/Iran: History, Trade, Culture,” Dedicated to his late wife Nina, the lecture was part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series.

Dr. Hovannisian was born in Tulare, California and received his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. He later earned his doctorate in history from UCLA. He is Emeritus Professor of Armenian and Near Eastern History at UCLA and served also as Associate Director of the G.E. von Gronau Center for Near Eastern Studies. Dr. Hovannisian has authored and edited several volumes and scholarly articles pertaining to the Armenian Republic, the Genocide, and historic Armenia. Armenian Communities of Persia/Iran is the fifteenth and final volume of the “Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces” series. The book covers the Armenians in Persia from their early presence to the modern age.

Dr. Hovannisian began his lecture by sharing how the Persian Empire incorporated Armenia under its domain in the 6th century B.C. Despite this, Armenian princes were still permitted to continue as governors of the region. As the neighboring Byzantine Empire began to expand, the region where Armenians lived was caught between the clash of the Byzantine and Persian Empires. Thus, Armenian kings began to play the game of what Dr. Hovannisian called “teeter totter” between the East and the West as a strategy for survival.

Moving forward to the 13th through 15th centuries A.D., Dr. Hovannisian mentioned how some Armenian princes ruled in the region of Maku, located near Tabriz. It is here that Armenian inscriptions have been found on a bridge that dates to the 1300s.

The presence of Armenians in northern Iran has also been attested to by the Armenian monasteries in the area. One of the monasteries Dr. Hovannisian highlighted is Surb Tadeos, where it is believed that St. Thaddaeus was venerated. Today Armenians living in Iran conduct pilgrimages there, holding a special festival for liberation. One important note: Dr. Hovannisian underscored how the present Iranian government, though an Islamic State, has preserved the maintenance of these Armenian landmarks.

In addition to Tabriz, another prominent center of Armenian activity was New Julfa. After Shah Abbas initiated a war against the Ottoman Empire in the early 17th c., he forced hundreds of thousands of Armenians to relocate from historic Armenia to Persia in 1604-1605. Many of the Armenians settled in New Julfa, the modern capital of Tehran.

Today Armenians living in Iran conduct pilgrimages there, holding a special festival for liberation. One important note: Dr. Hovannisian underscored how the present Iranian government, though an Islamic State, has preserved the maintenance of these Armenian landmarks.

Reflecting on his lecture and the information shared, Dr. Hovannisian concluded by noting the remarkable saga of the Persian-Armenians who have “managed to endure throughout the centuries.” Maintaining their culture and dialect over that long period of time was something that Dr. Hovannisian called “most impressive.”

“Have lived here century after century,” stated Dr. Richard Hovannisian. “The evidence which should have been made part of the world record was never brought to light.”

Because of this, the Turkish government has never been prosecuted for Genocide, being the first genocide in the modern age. The Armenian Genocide served as a model for a series of impositions against Armenia and other ethnic groups. Dr. Richard Hovannisian referred to this “impositionism” as a lesson not learned from the Armenian Genocide. Being the first modern genocide of the 20th century, the Armenian Genocide served as a model for a series of

SEE DER MUGRDECHIAN PAGE 7
Jendian Awarded ANCA Hovannisian Armenian Genocide Education Award

Dr. Suren Manukyan Discusses “New Trends in Genocide Studies” for Fresno State Audience

Hye Sharzhook
May 2022

Staff Report

Dr. Matthew Jendian, Professor of Sociology at Fresno State, was recognized with the Richard G. Hovannisian Armenian Genocide Higher Education Award by the Armenian National Committee of America-West Coast (ANCA-WR).

Dr. Jendian was one of eleven educators and supporters honored during a virtual awards ceremony on Saturday, April 9, 2022. The honorees, from various public schools and universities, have uniquely provided instruction, support, and education about the Armenian Genocide. Dr. Jendian was selected for “your exemplary commitment to providing educators and students access to resources that support understanding of the Armenian Genocide and other crimes against humanity.” Dr. Jendian has taught courses such as “The Sociology of Terrorism and Genocide,” a semester-long course that in Dr. Jendian’s words “seeks to help students understand conditions that produce and sustain terrorism and genocide and provides insight to effectively mitigate and prevent these phenomena.”

The awards committee received many nominations for educators from around the world, who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to teach about the Armenian Genocide in the context of crimes against humanity within their classrooms. A full listing of this year’s honorees can be found at: https:// ANCA-WR.EDU/EDUCATOR-awARDS/.

The Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region is an Armenian-American grassroots advocacy organization based in the Western United States. The ANCA-WR advances the concerns of the Armenian American community on a broad range of issues.

Discussion with “The Desire to Live” Movie Director Avetisyan

ANDREW HAGOPIAN
EDITOR

“I was born in Sushi in 2012. I was going to school the third grade. I used to go to Djdjdruz (Hunot Canyon, Shushi) and pick lilies. My house in Shushi was the best. I wanted to protect my homeland Shushi.” These are the thoughts and words of an 11-year-old boy expressing his emotions for his homeland in the documentary “The Desire to Live,” directed by Mariam Avetisyan.

The Armenian Genocide Education Virtual Awards Ceremony

The development of genocide as a distinct social and human scientific phenomenon that can only occur in the state under [the influence of] the Armenian Genocide Museum–Yerevan. He is also a member of the Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region and a fellow of the Rutgers Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at the Rutgers University New Jersey.

Dr. Manukyan introduced Raphael Lemkin as the founder of the field of genocide studies. Lemkin coined the term “genocide,” wrote several papers about the topic, and inspired future genocide scholars. Although the Genocide Convention was adopted by the United Nations in 1948, Dr. Manukyan said that it was not enforced for 50 years due to the Cold War. “It would have been almost impossible for the international community to investigate the crimes and take action if the massacres happened in the state under [the influence of] the Soviet Union or the United States of America.”

The first scholars of genocide studies focused on such topics as definitions of genocide, causes of genocide, comparative case studies of genocide, and models for prevention. “Genocide studies have come a long way over the past decade having obtained a level of intellectual sobriety, academic credibility, and public recognition,” Dr. Manukyan declared. “Lemkin himself never acted as a pure academician. It was an example of successful activism that brought about the adoption of the Genocide Convention.”

Another trend is the emerging concept of genocide science. “The shift of focus from perpetrators to victims is another recent development in the field of genocide studies,” Dr. Manukyan clarified that victim testimonies should not overshadow the role of perpetrators, but should be integrated in order to better understand the scope of the genocide. Dr. Manukyan reminded the audience that genocide is never just about killing people, but about seizing property, destroying culture, denying memories, and silencing the victims.

The field of genocide studies has grown since its introduction in the twentieth century and works are being published in several different languages. “New research tools are being introduced, new topics are being raised, and all the research is being redefined,” stated Dr. Manukyan.

“Genocide studies has turned into a global field having gained an institutional foothold on all continents.”

Avetisyan and Bahlawanian opened the floor to questions from the audience. “I wanted to portray the memories he shared with his father. Avetisyan said that many of the stories he told are the ones that inspired him to make the film. He argued that these stories can serve as early warning signals while some suggest that journalists are not trained to decipher potential early warning signals nor are they in the business of doing so. Surprisingly, one of the most debated topics amongst genocide scholars is activism. Some have argued that genocide scholars should not partake in activism because it calls the validity of their scholarship into question. One has to wonder how an individual can work in the field of genocide studies and not be concerned with preventing genocide.” Dr. Manukyan declared. “Lemkin himself never acted as a pure academician. It was an example of successful activism that brought about the adoption of the Genocide Convention.”

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PAPAZIAN, PAGE 1
academic excellence, and success in his chosen professions. In My From Life and Thought: Reflections on an Armenian-American Journey, Papazian shares his reflections on a quintessentially twentieth-century American life shaped by the challenges and triumphs of his family's struggle to create a life in a new land, and his determined efforts to secure an education that would ensure a life of security and the promise of the American dream. Born ninety years ago in the pre-World War II, pre-civil rights American South of Armenian immigrants from Istanbul, Turkey, Papazian pursued a Ph.D. in Russian history, becoming one of the first American students to study in the then Soviet Union during the height of the Cold War. Not only did this experience open the world to him, it also placed him in the center of major geo-political events, teaching him nuance and perspective that would lead him to become a highly sought analyst as the Soviet Union broke apart decades later. Upon his return to Michigan, Papazian went on to live a life of contribution and service as he engaged in a decades-long career in higher education as an educator, scholar, and administrator. During this period, he also became a key leader in the emergence of an Armenian-American community just finding its footing fifty years after the 1915 Armenian Genocide, where he made significant contributions to multiple Armenian community, religious, academic and political functions. In From My Life and Thought, Papazian shares his resilience, keen sense of perception, and vision, as well as the memorable characters he meets along the way, as he reflects on his consequential, eventful, and at times surprising life. Through it all, he writes with humor and wit, as he tells a story that will inspire readers of all generations and backgrounds and give hope to all who join him on his journey.

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ASP Scholarships, From Page 1
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Dean Chapman described Armenian Studies as "the best program for Armenian Studies in the United States," an amazing accomplishment that everyone in the community could appreciate. The majority of students enrolled in Armenian courses are not Armenian, but through these courses, they learn about a culture they might not have ever known anything about. As we have learned in Armenian Studies courses, Armenian literature and history is so rich and it is always appreciated when non-Armenians find a passion for things Armenian.

Fresno State President Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval shared his thoughts about a trip he took to Armenia with Dr. La Porta in 2019. It was in Armenia where he grew to have a profound love and appreciation for Armenian culture, history, and heritage, and as he playfully joked, a love for Armenian Food!

Prof. Dr. Bahlawanian visited the most sacred sites in Armenia and shared his awe for the beautifully decorated Armenian alphabets he saw throughout the country. He was impressed as well with the Armenian Genocide Monument in Yerevan. It was there that he "felt the resilience and the hope of the Armenian people." His visit to the Genocide Monument reinforced how important the Armenian Studies Program is at Fresno State and how important the scholarships are for students to continue to preserve Armenian heritage, literature, culture, and language.

"In the face of adversity, the community comes together around it core values of faith and family," stated President Jiménez-Sandoval. "My admiration has deepened with my more than twenty years at Fresno State. I have always said that, the Armenian Studies Program sets the 'gold standard' for the field.'" Graduating senior Suzanne Ekmekchyan, who received a Minor in Armenian Studies, spoke of her interactions with the Program.

"One of the opportunities that I had as a student was to participate in Armenian Studies activities and to pursue Minor," said Ekmekchyan. "Little did I know that making this decision was to provide a full feature film. Funding included personal financing plus a GoFundMe campaign which covered the costs of premiering the documentary at various film festivals throughout the United States. Avetisyan would like the world to know of the struggles of the Armenians of Artsakh. There are many non-profits and foundations working in Artsakh today and people can get involved by contributing to those efforts.

The episodes from ‘The Desire to Live’ can be viewed at this site: http://cfjustice.org/the-desire-to-live.

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To engage them in a friendly conversation, thus putting them at ease. “The men who were interviewed admitted to me that they were shocked that they would ever express emotion of sadness or grievance,” stated Avetisyan.

For Avetisyan, filming so many of the sad stories ultimately also to continue to preserve Armenian heritage, literature, culture, and language.

"The Desire to Live" began originally as an online documentary series to bring social awareness of the effects of the war on the people of Artsakh and their livelihood. Within two seasons, twenty-five episodes were filmed, and over 100 subjects interviewed throughout the land of Artsakh. Avetisyan shared his awe for the beautifully decorated Armenian alphabets he saw throughout the country. He was impressed as well with the Armenian Genocide Monument in Yerevan. It was there that he “felt the resilience and the hope of the Armenian people.” His visit to the Genocide Monument reinforced how important the Armenian Studies Program is at Fresno State and how important the scholarships are for students to continue to preserve Armenian heritage, literature, culture, and language.

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Left to right: Dr. Hagop Chahesian, Dr. Sergio La Porta, Dr. Honora Chapman, Dr. Xuanning Fu, Matthew Mugdchechian, Michael Mazman, Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, Prof. Barlow Der Mugdchechian, Ani Zhamochnyan, Ariana Garabedian, Suzanne Ekmekchyan, and Kara Statler.

Der Mugdchechian, From Pag 7

Additionally, systems should be developed to detect the early warning signs that a genocide may occur.

Prof. Dr. Mugdchechian cites the growing number of university programs in the United States...