



Karin Dance Group Takes First Prize

The Karin Dance Group representing Armenia won first prize at the the 14th World Folk Dance Festival in Spain. Competing against the group from Armenia were 27 other dance groups from 21 countries. The Karin Dance Group showed the international crowd what Armenian folk dance is all about. For years, the group has been holding free dance lesson nights, once a month in Yerevan. At these lessons, everyone is welcome no matter what the age or race. Attendees learn the steps to traditional Armenian dances while enjoying a night full of excitement and friendship.



Mkhitaryan is Armenia's Best Paid

ESPN has released its list of best-paid athletes from 182 countries around the world, and topping the charts for Armenia is Shakhtar soccer sensation Henrikh Mkhitaryan. An annual salary of \$360,000 was reported for the 22-year-old FC Shakhtar Donetsk midfielder. The official Shakhtar Web site reports that Mkhitaryan's five-year contract transfer from FC Metalurh Donetsk in August 2010 was for \$7.5 million. Mkhitaryan's professional career began in FC Pyunik (Armenia), where he scored 30 goals in 69 games and helped his hometown team to four successive league titles between 2006 and 2009. He is also a member of the Armenian National team.



Richard Hovannisian's Last Lecture

Hundreds packed the lecture room of UCLA's Moore Hall to hear Professor Richard Hovannisian speak at the "Second Annual My Last Lecture Award Ceremony." This year, over 1,600 professors were nominated for the award and according to event organizers, Hovannisian blew the rest of them out of the water. At the age of 28, he was hired by UCLA to not only teach, but also to create an Armenian Studies program. Since then, thousands of students have studied Armenian history, listening to the master teach, as if he were telling a story – without notes, presentations or flash cards.



Youngest Chess Master

Sam Sevia is your average fourth grader in Santa Clara, California, where he lives with his parents and younger sister, rides his bike around the neighborhood and defeats international chess masters almost five times his age in his spare time. Recently, Sevia became the youngest person to be named a master in U.S. Chess Federation history, just a month shy of his 10th birthday. He played his first tournament with his new title this past week in Agoura Hills, California, against another young master, 14-year-old David Adelberg, who holds the title of youngest master in Arizona. Sam won.

