

California State University, Fresno



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM
Fresno, California 93740



HYE SHARZHOOM NEWS SERVICE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program activities as reported in
local, national, and international media.

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE NAASR Newsletter: Cambridge, MA

DATE Autumn 1988

SUBJECT Summer Study Tour to Armenia Sponsored by
CSUF

PAGE 1 of 1

NAASR Newsletter



Autumn 1988 (Vol. V, No. 3, Issue 17)

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

Summer Study Tour to Armenia Sponsored by CSUF

The Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, is offering a one-month summer study tour in Armenia in 1989. Selected participants will stay in the Armenian capital of Yerevan as guests of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad and will visit nearby historic and cultural sites.

According to preliminary plans, the study tour will operate from May 31 to June 28 and the tentative cost is \$1,400. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Lecturer in Armenian Studies, will direct the tour.

Information and applications are available by contacting Armenian Studies Program, California State University — Fresno, Fresno, CA 93740.

Professor Makes Hard Work Pay Off

By Steven Lashley

CSUF professor Dickran Kouymjian won't admit that he is a hard man to please, but don't get the impression he is a push-over, either.

Through hard work invested in seven-day work weeks, this Armenian studies professor has come to know a higher degree of standards for success. In fact, these standards have come by way of many things, including a list of academic and social activities that would leave the average man behind, choking in the dust.

"I wouldn't call myself a perfectionist, but I guess I do have expectations that exceed the average person," Kouymjian says. "Maybe I ask too much... I don't know."

What this former Professor of the Year at CSUF in 1985 apparently has come to know is a fairly good understanding of the world around him. But, while Kouymjian continues to pursue his understanding of the world under a full head of steam, he says his ultimate goal may prove to be his toughest challenge yet.

"I just want to come to understand myself," he says with confidence. "After all, isn't that what every man hopes to do?"

To understand Kouymjian and his standards for success, it is important to know a little bit about his past. In particular, it is important to discuss a one-semester assignment in the Soviet Union the professor performed in 1987 after he received a Fulbright Senior Lectureship to teach at the Armenian State University in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

Teaching English and Armenian classes for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature at the institution, Kouymjian's work focused around two primary courses. The first was an English course focusing on a series of plays written by local author William Saroyan, entitled "An Armenian Trilogy." The other was a twentieth-century American literature class with a special emphasis on Armenian-American authors.

While Kouymjian says the assignment proved to be eventful for several reasons, the most significant reason was because of the distinct difference he noted between American and Armenian students.

"My students there knew more than my students here," he says. "Of course, my students here don't know much, right?"

"But while I say that, [my students in Armenia] were much less intellectually curious than my students here. They hardly ever spoke up in class and it was difficult to get them to answer up in what we would call

a classroom discussion. American students who know nothing are always ready to talk, right? This is the major difference."

But, Kouymjian is quick to point out the blame should not be placed on American students because their knowledge level is below that of students in other countries, because the level of education in America has been below that of other countries for some time, he says.

"We are a nation that has no shyness about saying things, even if we know absolutely nothing about the subject," he adds. "We are taught to speak up, answer and ask questions. Over there they are more reserved, perhaps because of the political system, even though that is changing a bit with [Soviet leader Mikhail] Gorbachev's *perestroika* and *glasnost*."

In addition to the difference he noted between Soviet and American students, Kouymjian also says he noticed a distinction between the teaching professions in each country.

"Teachers over there have the same value a teacher used to have 40-50 years ago," he says. "A professor is someone of dignity over there; here a professor isn't much of anything."

Perhaps it is because of Kouymjian's concern over the level of education being taught in America that he has practically taken it upon himself to try and establish the Armenian Studies program at CSUF to what he calls "the best of its kind in the country."

He has recently been working on raising money for a future \$300,000 endowment fund that will pay an enhance salary for a department chairperson through capital raised by the interest the endowment money earns. While there are already two other similar endowment plans that have been proposed at the University, Kouymjian says he is hoping the one being raised in the Armenian Studies Department will be the first to actually name a new chairperson this spring.

Thanks to raising over \$150,000 during a fund-raising banquet earlier in the year, Kouymjian says he is hopeful to raise the remaining portion of the \$300,000 endowment before the end of this semester. But until that time, he says he is determined to keep putting in as much time as necessary into making sure the needed financial goal is reached.

"I've always been concerned—always been eager—that Armenian studies be permanently institutionalized here at Fresno State," he says. "At first I thought it could be done some other way than going out and looking for it. Then I realized there was no other way."

Prof. Kouymjian Makes Hard Work Pay Off

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By ANNE DUDLEY
Bee staff writer

A lecture series on genocide and mass killings in the 20th century will be conducted at Fresno State University this semester, beginning with a presentation Feb. 6 on "Deception in the Holocaust" by Holocaust expert Jacob Boas.

The series of public forums, first of its kind at FSU, is funded by the School of Social Sciences, the Armenian studies program and the history department.

Other lectures will be presented on the Ukrainian famine of 1932-33 on Feb. 27, mass killings in Cambodia under General Pol Pot's Communist regime from 1975 to 1978 on April 3, the massacre of Armenians by the Turkish government during World War I on April 24 and the current violence against blacks by blacks in independent African nations on May 8.

All lectures will be free of charge in Room 200 above the cafeteria at FSU. The public is invited. Students may earn one unit of credit by paying \$30 to the Division of Extended Education at FSU.

Peter Klassen, dean of the School of Social Sciences, said that the lectures were important not only for teaching history but also to alert people about atrocities still occurring against humans.

Historians generally attribute 100

See Killings, Page B3

Killings

Continued from Metro page

million deaths in the 20th century to deliberate acts of violence, including wars, Klassen said. A large majority of those deaths were caused by deliberate starvation, genocide and the killing of innocent civilians, he said.

"The idea of mass murder is foreign to our present world," Klassen said, "but no century has been more violent than the 20th century."

"A lot of people in this school [of social sciences] were discussing this and decided to do it, not only to learn what happened but also to alert us all to the fact that the border between civility and barbarism is something very fragile."

Concern has been voiced recently that textbook writers have glossed over recent genocide and mass killings in world history, Klassen said, and there is a movement among some educators to add the study of genocide to the public high school curricula.

In a 1986 speech to the Association of American Publishers, then-Undersecretary of Education Gary L. Bauer faulted textbooks for "seriously misleading" children "about the nature of the Soviet system" and wanted more attention given to violation of human rights, including genocide, in communist nations.

According to an article on world history books' coverage of genocide by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Professor Dan Fleming, genocide authorities generally agreed that the following acts in history should be considered for inclusion in secondary-level history books:

The Turkish genocide, German genocide against Jews and Gypsies during World War II, Soviet purges under Joseph Stalin, Soviet famine in the Ukraine and the elimination of the Kulaks, genocide in Cambodia under Pol Pot, genocide in Uganda under Idi Amin, genocide in Bangladesh by Pakistan government and purges in Indonesia of Communists.

While numerous examples of genocide existed before the 20th century, Fleming writes, English historian Arnold Toynbee believed that this century initiated a new era in genocide using modern technology and organization to carry out mass murders, such as the Germans did against the Jews and Gypsies.

FSU's lecture series will deal with five of those genocides. "Deception of the Holocaust" will be presented by Boas, associate director of the Holocaust Center of Northern California in San Francisco. "The Ukrainian Famine of 1932-33: A Case Study in Genocide," will be presented by James Mace, staff director of the Commission on the Ukrainian Famine in Washington, D.C., and former research associate of the Ukrainian Research Institute of Harvard University.

"Armenian Genocide: Remembrance and Denial" will be presented by Richard Hovhannissian, assistant director of the Von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies at

the University of California at Los Angeles. "Mass Violence in Independent Africa" will be presented by Lewis Gann, senior fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

"Cambodia: A Killing Field Revisited," will be presented by David Hawk, associate of the Columbia Center for the Study of Human Rights and director of the Cambodian Documentation Commission, director of the Khmer Program of the World Conference on Religion and Peace and former executive director of the United States section of Amnesty International.

The Cambodian and Armenian lectures will have added meaning for Fresno-area audience members because of the large number of Cambodians and Armenians who reside in the central San Joaquin Valley.

Klassen said that Fresno-area Cambodians have been invited to participate in the Cambodian presentation.

"We're going to try to bring some human faces [to the lecture series]," Klassen said.

The documentary film about Cambodia under Pol Pot, "The Killing Fields," may be shown the evening of the April 3 lecture, Klassen said. "Harvest of Sorrow," a documentary about the Ukrainian famine, will be shown the night of the Ukrainian lecture on Feb. 27.



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- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer: Hollywood, CA

DATE February 1, 1989

SUBJECT CSUF To Hold Lecture Series On Genocide

PAGE 1 of 1

THE ARMENIAN OBSERVER

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Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Professor of Armenian History and holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA, will be one of five renowned scholars featured in the series. Hovannisian will speak at CSUF at 12 noon on April 24, on the topic "Armenian Genocide Remembrance and Denial."

Jacob Boas, Associate Director of the Holocaust Center

of Northern California, San Francisco, will speak on Feb. 6, on "Deception in the Holocaust."

James Mace, staff Director of the Commission on the Ukrainian Famine, Washington, D.C., will lecture on Feb. 27 on "The Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933: A Case Study in Genocide."

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The forums are open to the public and those interested in receiving credit for the series may register through the ex-

tension program for 1 unit of credit in Armenian Studies 120T or History 129T. Additional readings and other assignments are outlined in the syllabi.

All of the lectures will be held on Mondays at noon, in the Upstairs Cafeteria, Room 200, on the CSUF campus.

For additional information please contact the ASP at (209) 294-2669.



CSUF Sponsors Genocide Forum

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Five renowned scholars will address the theme during the series which will begin in February, in the Upstairs Cafeteria Room 200 on the CSUF campus.

Jacob Boas, Associate Director of the Holocaust Center of Northern California, San Francisco, will open the program Feb. 6 at noon with a lecture, "Deception in the Holocaust."

James Mace, Staff Director of the Commission on the Ukrainian Famine, from Washington D.C., will lecture on Feb. 27 on "The Ukrainian Famine of 1932-33: A Case Study in Genocide."

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Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Professor of Armenian History and holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA, will speak on "Armenian Genocide: Remembrance and Denial," on April 24.



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- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadows, DATE February 2, 1989
N.Y.
SUBJECT Genocide & Mass Killings in the 20th PAGE 1 of 1
Century Can Be Studied at CSUF

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SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator: Watertown, MA DATE February 4, 1989
SUBJECT Prof. Der Mugrdechian's Quote of the Week PAGE 1 of 1

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, commenting on a *Fresno Bee* editorial (January 13, 1989) dealing with the announcement that Turkey would open its Armenian Genocide archives:

"It is far past the time of looking for 'documents' which would exonerate the Turkish government because the documentation is already so overwhelmingly in favor of the charge of Genocide. Presidents of the United States, the Congress, and international bodies have all found the Turkish government responsible for the genocide.

"In paragraph four the editorial states that Armenians may not be satisfied with anything less than an official Turkish apology and an admission that what happened in 1915 was attempted genocide. Does The Bee realize that there is nothing less? The admission of guilt would then need to be followed by the appropriate punishment, to deter future genocides. This would include a return of the occupied Western Armenian lands.

"What Armenians want more than a simple apology is the right to live on the land where their forefathers lived for thousands of years and which was Armenian 2,000 years before the Turks made their appearance in Asia Minor. Why should Armenians be satisfied with less than that? Is there justice for the over 1.5 million Armenians who died in the genocide or the thousands of orphans and destitute refugees who survived?"



CSUF to present forum on genocide & mass killings in 20th century

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SOURCE Asbarez: Glendale, CADATE February 4, 1989SUBJECT Series on "Genocide and Mass Killings in
the 20th Century" To Take Place During the
Spring 1989 SemesterPAGE 1 of 1

CSUF Courses on 20th Century Genocide and Mass Killings

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- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator: Watertown, MA DATE February 11, 1989
SUBJECT Lecture Series on "Genocide and Mass Killings in the 20th Century" at CSUF PAGE 1 of 1

20th Century Mass Killings Lecture Series In Fresno

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Scholar urges efforts to free Armenians

By JIM STEINBERG
Bee staff writer

Earthquake devastation dominated news coverage about Soviet Armenia last year, but longer running political tremors deserve more attention, a Fresno State University Armenian studies scholar said Monday.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, the FSU Armenian Studies program's acting director, urged greater international pressure on Soviet authorities for the release of jailed Karabakh Committee members and other arrested Armenian activists.

He cited hope and disillusionment among Soviet Armenians in Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Both emotions are tied to Gorbachev's evolving position on Soviet Armenian political demands and aspirations.

Soviet Armenians pinned great hopes on Gorbachev's reform movement before the Dec. 7 earthquake, Der Mugrdechian said. Discontent over Soviet relief performance after the earthquake mixed with continuing political demands.

Gorbachev cut short his U.S. visit

See **Armenia**, Page B14

Armenia

Continued from **Metro** page

after the earthquake and hurried to Soviet Armenia. An anxious, hostile crowd surrounded him there, and Gorbachev vented his frustration and anger, accusing Armenian activists of twisting reaction to the earthquake to their own political ends.

Der Mugrdechian cited claims by the Zoryan Institute of Cambridge, Mass., an Armenian think tank, that "Soviet authorities have taken advantage of the chaos following the ... earthquake to repress the national democratic movement in Soviet Armenia."

The Zoryan Institute's project coordinator is Mark Malkasian, formerly of Fresno. Malkasian was studying in Soviet Armenia during the mass protests last year.

Der Mugrdechian said two professors from the University of Yerevan in Soviet Armenia will speak about politics there at noon March 10 in Room 309 of the FSU College Union.

History Professor Ashod Galoyan and Sociology Professor Bagrat Edilian are scheduled to appear.

Der Mugrdechian said that Soviet Armenians find perplexing contradictions in Gorbachev. During mass protests last year, Armenians pinned much of their hopes on Gorbachev for return of the Nagorno Karabakh region of Soviet Azerbaijan to neighboring Soviet Armenia.

The earthquake intervened. Soviet Armenians were dissatisfied with Soviet authorities' earthquake relief efforts and impressed with a grassroots effort by the Karabakh Committee and its supporters.

Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov, a Nobel laureate and human-rights

champion, is among those dissatisfied with Gorbachev's reaction to the Karabakh Committee. He has called the confrontation between Azerbaijan and Armenia "a litmus test" for Gorbachev's ethnic policy.

Gorbachev has removed administration of Nagorno-Karabakh from the Azerbaijan Republic to a committee of Russian ethnics in the Russian Federated State. This is preferable to Armenians, Der Mugrdechian said, because the ethnic roots of Azerbaijanis are Turkish. Armenians were victims of Turkish persecution and massacres.

Der Mugrdechian said that Soviet authorities "are arresting the very people who are reforming their system and putting them in jail."

Gorbachev and other Soviet officials appear to be sensitive to world public opinion, he said, so there is a worldwide effort to raise awareness about the jailed Armenian activists.

They include academics, journalists, scientists and other intellectuals. They face charges of organizing group actions against public order, violating public order in meetings and demonstrations; and violating the equality of rights of nationalities and races. Each charge carries a maximum three-year prison term.

The Soviet Armenian protest movement has sought return of lands taken from the Soviet Armenian republic by Josef Stalin and transferred to Azerbaijan. It also has raised issues of corruption and pollution.

The movement is not separatist, Der Mugrdechian said, although Soviet authorities are acutely concerned that unrest could spread further among the many ethnic minorities that constitute the country.

"We don't know how many" were arrested, Der Mugrdechian said. "Their only crime is that they belong to the movement."

Kouymjian Takes CSUF Armenian Studies To New Academic Standards

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"We are a nation that has no shyness about saying things, even if we know absolutely nothing about the subject," he adds. "We are taught to speak up, answer and ask questions. Over there, they are more reserved, perhaps because of the political system, even though that is changing a bit with [Soviet leader Mikhail] Gorbachev's *perestroika* and *glasnost*."

In addition to the difference he noted between Soviet and American students, Kouymjian also says he noticed a distinction between the teaching professions in each country.

"Teachers over there have the same value a teacher used to have here 40-50 years ago," he says. "A professor is someone of dignity over there; here a professor isn't much of anything."

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By Steven Lashley
The Daily Collegian



SOURCE

The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE

March 2, 1989

SUBJECT

Stanford Students Hear Lecture from Prof.
Der Mugrdechian

PAGE

1 of 1

Stanford Students Hear Lecture

By Armen Hovanessian

PALO ALTO, Calif. - Barlow der Mugrdechian, professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State University, gave a lecture and slide presentation at Stanford University on Jan. 27.

Continued on Page 11

Stanford Students...

Continued from Page 10

Sponsored by the Stanford Armenian Students Association, the evening program was designed to heighten the community's awareness of the political situation in Armenia with special attention on the reunification of Karabagh, and ramifications for Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost policies.

Over 60 people came to hear Prof. Der Mugrdechian related the chronology of the 1988 mass demonstrations and discuss the impact of the popular movement on the Soviet government. He illustrated the lecture with slide pictures he had taken while in Armenia with the Fresno State Summer Armenian Studies Program in Yerevan.

Peppering his talk with personal anecdotes, he sought to dispel certain myths. He argued that the Yerevan government was not initially receptive to the call for the reunification of Karabagh, but because of the widespread support, was forced to come around, reluctantly. Further, he claimed that the now-removed Armenian communist leaders (notably First Secretary Karen Demirjian) prohibited Armenian historians and scholars from countering Azerbaijani claims to Karabagh. Before ending his lecture, Der Mugrdechian encouraged the audience to write letters to their congressmen in support for the release of Armenian political prisoners in the Soviet Union, especially the Karabagh Committee members.

Peter Pashigian, treasurer for the Stanford ASA, presented Prof. Der Mugrdechian with a book as a token of appreciation, following the lecture.



SOURCE The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadows, N.Y. DATE March 2, 1989

SUBJECT Armenian Cooking Class at CSUF PAGE 1 of 1

Calif. State University Offers Courses in Armenian Studies This Spring

FRESNO, Calif. - The California State University Fresno Armenian Studies Program is offering a one unit course, Armenian Studies 120T-Armenian Cooking, on Friday, March 3, and Saturday, March 10, 1989.

The two-day course will concentrate on a practical approach to cooking Armenian food and will include hands-on experience in food preparation. Comprehensive recipes will provide the students the basis for menu preparation. An explanation of the foods and regional specialties will also be discussed.

Mrs. Eva Shahanian of Fresno will be the main instructor for the course. She is a nurse and a teacher by profession and has taught Armenian cuisine and cooking at the American-Armenian International College. Mrs. Shahanian is also active in the First Armenian Presbyterian Church. Other guests for the weekend will be Sammie Ganimian of Hye Quality Bakery in Fresno and Mrs. Norma Der Mugrdachian.

Barlow Der Mugrdachian, Acting Director of the Armenian Studies Program, will be the overall coordinator for the course.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadows, N.Y. DATE March 2, 1989

SUBJECT Prof. Der Mugrddechian Lectures at Stanford University PAGE 1 of 1

Lecture/Slide Presentation Given at Stanford

STANFORD, Calif. - Sponsored by the Stanford Armenian Students' Association, Barlow Der Mugrddechian, Professor of Armenian Studies at the California State University, Fresno, gave a lecture and slide presentation at Stanford University on January 27, 1989. The evening program was designed to heighten the community's awareness of the political situation in Armenia with special attention on the reunification of Karabagh and its ramifications for Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost policies.

Over 60 people came to hear Prof. Der Mugrddechian relate the chronology of the June 1988 mass demonstrations and discuss the impact of the popular movement on the local and Soviet government. He showed slides of the demonstrations he had taken while in Armenia with the California State University, Fresno, Summer Armenian Studies program.

While peppering his talk with personal anecdotes, he sought

to dispel certain myths that have been circulating in the Diaspora community. He argued that the local government was not initially receptive to the call for the reunification of Karabagh but because of the widespread support, was forced to come around, albeit reluctantly. Furthermore, he claimed that the now-removed Armenian Communist leaders (most notably Karen Demirjian) prohibited Armenian historians and scholars from countering Azerbaijani claims to Karabagh. Before ending his lecture, the Professor encouraged the audience to write letters to their congressmen in support for the release of Armenian political prisoners, especially the Karabagh Committee members.

Peter Pashigian, Treasurer for the Stanford ASA, presented Prof. Der Mugrddechian with a book as a token of appreciation. Following the lecture, the Stanford group hosted a social event for all Bay Area ASA members.

SOURCE The California Courier: Glendale, CADATE March 2, 1989SUBJECT Armenian Cooking Course Starts at CSUFPAGE 1 of 1

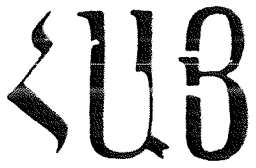
Cooking Course Starts at CSUF

FRESNO - The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program is offering a one-unit course, Armenian Studies 120T — Armenian Cooking, on March 3 and March 10.

The two-day course will concentrate on a practical approach to cooking Armenian food and will include hands-on experience in food preparation. Comprehensive recipes will provide the students with the basis for menu preparation and an explanation of the foods and regional specialties will also be discussed.

Eva Shahenian of Fresno will be the main instructor for the course. She is a nurse and a teacher by profession and has taught Armenian cuisine and cooking at the Armenian-American International College in La Verne. Other guests for the classes will be Sammie Ganimian of Hye Quality Bakery in Fresno and Mrs. Norma Der Mugrdichian.

The course will meet at 4:00 p.m. in the Art-Home Economics Building, Room 105 at the CSUF campus.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Asharez: Glendale, CA

DATE March 4, 1989

SUBJECT Armenian Cooking Course at CSUF

PAGE 1 of 1

Arm. Cooking Course at CSUF

The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program is offering a one-unit course, Armenian Studies 120T-Armenian Cooking, on Saturday, March 10.

The two-day course will concentrate on a practical approach to cooking Armenian food and will include hands-on experience in food preparation. Comprehensive recipes will provide the students the basis for menu preparation, and an explanation of the foods and regional specialties will also be provided.

Mrs. Eva Shahenian of Fresno will be the main instructor for the course. She is a nurse and a teacher by profession and has taught Armenian cuisine and cooking at the American-Armenian International College. Mrs. Shahenian is also active in the First Armenian Presbyterian Church. Other guests for the weekend will be Sammie Ganimian of Hye Quality Bakery in Fresno and Mrs. Norma Der Mugrdechian.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting director of the Armenian Studies Program will be the overall coordinator for the course. The course will meet at 4 p.m. in the Art-Home Economics Building, Room 105 on the campus of CSUF. For more information, call the ASJP at 294-2669. ☐

SOURCE The Armenian Observer: Hollywood, CADATE March 8, 1989SUBJECT Professors Bagrat Edilian and Ashot Galoyan PAGE 1 of 1
To Talk at CSUF About Armenia

Fresnans to Hear Edilian and Galoyan

FRESNO — Professors Bagrat Edilian and Ashot Galoyan of Yerevan State University will be guests of the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization, March 9 to 11.

On Friday, March 10, at 12 noon, they will participate in a panel discussion, "Armenia and Perestroika: Social and Political Developments in Soviet Armenia." Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Acting Director of the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF will moderate the panel, which will be held in Room 309 of the University Student Union.

Later that evening, Edilian and Galoyan will meet with the Valley Armenian community in an informal presentation at

7:30 p.m. in the Kasper Hovannisian Hall of the Armenian Community School of Fresno. A reception will follow.

Bagrat Edilian is a political scientist who specializes in the sociology of the current national-democratic movement in Soviet Armenia, national relations in the USSR, and sociological analysis of the content of democracy in socialism and capitalism. During 1988-89, he is an IREX visiting scholar in the United States at the University of Kansas in the Fall and at the University of Southern California in the Spring.

Ashot Galoyan is a lecturer in the department of history at the Yerevan State University and is visiting the United States on a

one-year IREX program. His interests are in the field of the history of the Trans-Caucasus, 1917-1921 and the Western sources relating to that period. He spent the fall of 1988 at the University of Michigan working with Dr. Ronald Suny and is spending January-June of this year working with Dr. Richard Hovannisian at UCLA.

The public is cordially invited to both presentations. Admission is free to both and more information is available through the Armenian Studies Program at 294-2669.

Scholar Urges Efforts to Free Armenians

Earthquake devastation dominated news coverage about Soviet Armenia last year, but longer running political tremors deserve more attention, a Fresno State University Armenian studies scholar said Monday.

Barlow Der Mugrddechian, the FSU Armenian Studies program's acting director, urged greater international pressure on Soviet authorities for the release of jailed Karabagh Committee members and other arrested Armenian activists.

He cited hope and disillusionment among Soviet Armenians in Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Both emotions are tied to Gorbachev's evolving position on Soviet Armenian political demands and aspirations.

Soviet Armenians pinned great hopes on Gorbachev's reform movement before the Dec. 7 earthquake, Der Mugrddechian said. Discontent over Soviet relief performance after the earthquake mixed with continuing political demands.

Gorbachev cut short his US visit after the earthquake and hurried to Soviet Armenia. An anxious, hostile crowd surrounded him there, and Gorbachev vented his frustration and anger, accusing Armenian activists of twisting reaction to the earthquake to their own political ends.

Der Mugrddechian cited claims by the Zoryan Institute of Cambridge, Mass., an Armenian think tank, that "Soviet authorities have taken advantage of the chaos following the... earthquake to repress the national democratic movement in Soviet Armenia."

The Zoryan Institute's project coordinator is Mark Malkasian, formerly of Fresno. Malkasian was studying in Soviet Armenia during the mass protests last year.

Der Mugrddechian said two professors from the University of Yerevan in Soviet Armenia will speak about politics there at noon March 10 in Room 309 of the FSU College Union.

History Professor Ashod Galoyan and Sociology Professor Bagrat Edilian are scheduled to appear.

Der Mugrddechian said that Soviet Armenians find perplexing contradictions in Gorbachev. During mass protests last year, Armenians pinned much of their hopes on Gorbachev for return of the Nagorno Karabagh region of Soviet Azerbaijan to neighboring Soviet Armenia.

The earthquake intervened. Soviet Armenians were dissatisfied with Soviet authorities' earthquake relief efforts and impressed with a grassroots effort by the Karabagh Committee and its supporters.

Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov, a Nobel laureate and human-rights champion, is among those dissatisfied with Gorbachev's reaction to the Karabagh Committee. He has called the confrontation between Azerbaijan and Armenia "a litmus test" for Gorbachev's ethnic policy.

Gorbachev has removed administration of Nagorno-Karabagh from the Azerbaijan Republic to a committee of Russian ethnics in the Russian Federated State. This is preferable to Armenians. Der Mugrddechian said, because the ethnic roots of Azerbaijanis are Turkish. Armenians were victims of Turkish persecution and massacres.

Der Mugrddechian said that Soviet authorities "are arresting the very people who are reforming their system and putting them in jail."

Gorbachev and other Soviet officials appear to be sensitive to world public opinion, he said, so there is a worldwide effort to raise awareness about the jailed Armenian activists.

They include academics, journalists, scientists and other intellectuals. They face charges of organizing group actions against public order; violating public order in meetings and demonstrations; and violating the equality of rights of nationalities and races. Each charge carries a maximum three-year prison term.

The Soviet Armenian protest movement has sought return of lands taken from the Soviet Armenian republic by Josef Stalin and transferred to Azerbaijan. It also has raised issues of corruption and pollution.

The movement is not separatist, Der Mugrddechian said, although Soviet authorities are acutely concerned that unrest could spread further among the many ethnic minorities that constitute the country.

"We don't know how many" were arrested, Der Mugrddechian said. "Their only crime is that they belong to the movement."

SOURCE Nor Gvank: Glendale, CADATE March 9, 1989SUBJECT Armenian Cooking Class Offered at CSUFPAGE 1 of 1

Armenian Cooking Course

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The two day course will concentrate on a practical approach to cooking Armenian food and will include hand-on experience in food preparation. Comprehensive recipes will provide the students the basis for menu preparation and an explanation of the foods and regional specialties will also be discussed.

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Barlow Der Mugerdechian, Acting Director of the Armenian Studies Program will be the overall coordinator for the course. The course will meet at 4:00 p.m. in the Art-Home Economics Building, Room 105 on the campus of CSUF. For more information, call the ASP at 294-2669.

Fresno Scholar Urges Efforts to Free Armenians Jailed in Moscow

FRESNO - Earthquake devastation dominated news coverage about Soviet Armenia last year, but longer running political tremors deserve more attention, a Fresno State University Armenian studies scholar said last week.

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Der Mugrdechian said that Soviet authorities "are arresting the very people who are reforming their system and putting them in jail."

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The movement is not separatist, Der Mugrdechian said, although Soviet authorities are acutely concerned that unrest could spread further among the many ethnic minorities that constitute the country.

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By Jim Steinberg
Fresno Bee



SOURCE

The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE

March 9, 1989

SUBJECT

Soviet Armenian Professors Will Lecture at
CSUF on "Perestroika"

PAGE

1 of 1

Soviet Armenian Professors Will Lecture at CSUF on 'Perestroika'

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On March 10, at 12:00 noon, they will participate in a panel discussion, "Armenia and Perestroika: Social and Political Developments in Soviet Armenia."

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Acting Director of the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF will moderate the panel, which will be held in Room 309 of the University Student Union.

Later that same evening, Professors Edilian and Galoyan will meet with Valley Armenian community members in an informal presentation at 7:30 p.m. in the Kasper Hovannisian Hall of the Armenian Community School of Fresno. A reception will follow the program.

Bagrat Edilian is a political scientist who specializes in the sociology of the current national-democratic movement in Soviet

Armenia, national relations in the USSR, and sociological analysis of the content of democracy in socialism and capitalism. During 1988-89 he is an IREX visiting scholar in the United States at the University of Kansas in the Fall and at the University of Southern California in the Spring.

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Admission to both events is free.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Nor Gvank: Glendale, CA

DATE March 9, 1989

SUBJECT Prof. Der Mugrdechian Lectures at Stanford
University on Karabagh

PAGE 1 of 1

Stanford Armenian Students Association Press Release

By Armen Hovanessian

Sponsored by the Stanford Armenian Students Association, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Professor of Armenian Studies at the California State University, Fresno gave a lecture and slide presentation at Stanford University on January 27, 1989. The evening program was designed to heighten the community's awareness of the political situation in Armenia with special attention on the reunification of Karabagh and its ramifications for Gorbachev's *perestroika* and *glasnost* policies.

Over 60 people came to hear Professor Der Mugrdechian relate the chronology of the June 1988 mass demonstrations and discuss the impact of the popular movement on the local and Soviet government. He showed slides of the demonstrations he had taken while in Armenia with the Cal. State Univ. Fresno Summer Armenian Studies Program.

While peppering his talk with personal anecdotes, he sought to dispel certain myths that have been circulating in the Diaspora community. He argued that the local Communist government was not initially receptive to the call for the reunification of Karabagh but because of the widespread support, was forced to come around, albeit reluctantly. Furthermore, he claimed that the now-removed Armenian Communist leaders (most notably Karen Demirjian) prohibited Armenian historians and scholars from countering Azerbaijani claims to Karabagh. Before ending his lecture, the Professor encouraged the audience to write letters to their congressmen in support for the release of Armenian political prisoners, especially the Karabagh Committee members.

Peter Pashigian, Treasurer for the Stanford ASA, presented Prof. Der. Mugrdechian with a book as a token of appreciation. Following the lecture, the Stanford group hosted a social event for all Bay Area ASA members.

Armenian visitors praise reforms

They say activists
jailed in Karabakh
not persecuted

By JIM STEINBERG
Bee staff writer

Two Soviet Armenian scholars visiting Fresno on Friday expressed wonder and excitement over new political freedoms in their country and counseled patience to Armenian nationalist sympathizers in the Soviet Union and United States.

Political scientist Bagrat Edilian and history lecturer Ashot Galoyan, both Yerevan State University faculty members, were guests of the Fresno State University Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization. They discussed Armenia and *perestroika*, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of restructuring Soviet society.

The two conceded decades of government deception, falsified history and a disintegrating economy. In light of all that, they said, Gorbachev and other reformers deserve patience and cooperation from Armenians and others.

Edilian and Galoyan showed little sympathy for jailed Karabakh Committee members, arrested when protests followed the Dec. 7 earthquake in Soviet Armenia.

Sympathizers, including Nobel Prize-winning physicist Andre Sakharov as well as American supporters, accuse Soviet authorities of repressing Armenian activists.

Barlow Der Mugardehian, acting Armenian studies director, said last month that arrested Karabakh Committee members' "only crime is that they belong to the movement" for reforms in Soviet Armenia. Specifically, Armenian activists want transfer of the historically Armenian Nagorno-Karabakh region of Moslem Soviet Azerbaijan back to Soviet Armenia.

But Galoyan and Edilian rejected claims of Soviet persecution.

Edilian said he had received

Armenians

Continued from Page B1

letters three days ago from Armenian colleagues who were "very moved" because Gorbachev has given Armenians "everything we need. There is no question the government and people are together at this moment."

Karabakh Committee members made "a few stupid mistakes," he said. They linked jurisdictional questions about Nagorno-Karabakh to other governmental questions, and they antagonized ethnic Russians.

They also violated curfew, a clear violation of law, Edilian said.

Galoyan said that Armenians understand that *perestroika* "gave us new possibilities. ... I believe the Armenian people can appreciate Gorbachev's policies."

The reforms taking place are "really exciting for Soviet people," Edilian said. "Some don't even believe it."

He summarized the reforms as being an effort to return Soviet government to more democratic principles expected under Lenin and lost under Stalin. The "new generation of Soviet leaders" realized that the country faced crisis.

In just over three years, Edilian said, Soviet government changed the balance between the centralized government economy and free-market forces. There are now more than 1,000 private cooperatives. Trade is permitted among them and among Soviet republics. Trade with Europe is expanding.

But a twofold increase in productivity over the last two years is "not enough. ... We need to see results very soon."

Agricultural production remains a painful shortcoming, Edilian said.

Books, newspapers and magazines discuss issues with freedom



Fresno Bee/Ralph V. Thronebery

Soviet Armenians Ashot Galoyan, left, and Bagrat Edilian speak at Fresno State University.

The scholars discussed Armenia and *perestroika*, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of restructuring Soviet society.

impossible to imagine three years ago, he said. New associations, "even political," have sprung up. They are allowed "even when they oppose official policy of the party and government."

The Soviets are establishing two free-market zones, one near Finland and aimed at Europe and the other near Vladivostok by the Sea of Japan.

Galoyan said *glasnost*, openness, moves faster than *perestroika*, restructuring.

"We falsified history," he said. "That's the problem. ... Now we want to have answers."

The fresh look at Soviet history has encouraged many among the

country's 100 nationalities to look into origins of their present political life. This has happened in Soviet Armenia.

Armenians and others are searching for their roots, Galoyan said. He called it "wonderful," the freedom to search for true history, which five years ago was a crime.

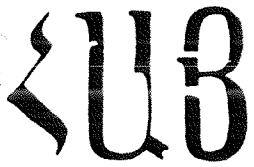
The two scholars agreed that the Soviet reform movement could survive even if Gorbachev failed.

"This time the changes are very deep," Edilian said. "I don't like to personalize it" to Gorbachev. Although pro-Stalinist Soviet conser-

vatives fight change, they offer no alternative to rescue the country from crisis.

But if there is no demonstrable improvement of the economy in five years, he said, *perestroika* could be in trouble.

Galoyan said after the session adjourned that Gorbachev was more result than cause of forces for change in Soviet society. He said Gorbachev and more conservative Soviet elements served as "a dialectic," referring to the theory of history in which a conflict of opposing forces yields a new status quo.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator: Watertown, MA DATE March 18, 1989
SUBJECT Prof. Der Mugrdechian Talks On Artzakh At Stanford Gathering PAGE 1 of 1

Barlow Der Mugrdechian Talks On Artzakh At Stanford Gathering

Sponsored by the Stanford Armenian Students Association, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Professor of Armenian Studies at the California State University, Fresno gave a lecture and slide presentation at Stanford University on January 27. The evening program was designed to heighten the community's awareness of the political situation in Armenia with special attention on the reunification of Artzakh and its ramifications for Gorbahev's policy of openness and economic restructuring.

Over 60 people came to hear Professor Der Mugrdechian describe the June and July 1988 mass demonstrations and discuss the impact of the popular movement on the local and Soviet governments. He showed

slides of the demonstrations he had taken while in Armenia with the California State University Fresno Summer Armenian Studies program.

While peppering his talk with personal anecdotes, he sought to dispel certain myths that have been circulating in the Diaspora. He argued that the local government was not initially receptive to the call of the reunification of Artzakh but because of the widespread support, was forced to come around, albeit reluctantly.

Peter Pashigian, treasurer for the Stanford ASA, presented Prof. Der Mugrdechian with a book as a token of appreciation. Following the lecture, the Stanford group hosted a social event for all Bay Area ASA members.