



**California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program  
5245 N. Backer Ave. M/S PB 4  
Fresno, California 93740-8001**

## **Armenian Studies Program News Service**

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

**Spring 2003**

**Vol. 18 Release #78  
January 2003-June 2003**



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Sonoma State University : Rohnert Park, CA

DATE: Annual 2003

SUBJECT: Dr. Kouymjian participates in Conference

PAGE: 1 of 1



20th Annual Sonoma State University

# Holocaust Lectures

February 4 - May 27, 2003/Tuesdays 4-5:40 p.m.

Warren Auditorium and The Cooperage  
Free Public Lectures - Open to All

SSU students: SOCI 305: Perspectives on the Holocaust and Genocide, counts as upper-division General Education credit under GE category D5, and towards the B.A. Degree in CJA, English, Global Studies, History, Liberal Arts, Nursing, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology

## Witnessing, Resisting, And Preventing Genocide

February 4: Introduction to the Series- Faculty Panel  
Major Concepts and Definitions

Myrna Goodman, Ph.D., Ilka Hartmann, M.A., Joel Neuberger, MLIS

February 11: Historical Background and Videos: "Master Race 1933" and "The Genocide Factor"

Myrna Goodman, Ph.D., Ilka Hartmann, M.A., Joel Neuberger, MLIS

February 18: Historical Overview of the Holocaust

Elaine Leeder, Ph.D. Sonoma State University

February 25: Survivors' Panel

Lucille Eichengreen and Lillian Judd

March 4: Myths of Race and the Influence of Racism on Genocide.

Michael Thaler, M.D., M.A. San Francisco

March 11: When Does Genocide End? The Armenian Case

Dickran Kouymjian, Ph.D., Director, Armenian Studies Program, CSU Fresno

March 18: The North American Indian Experience: The Bloody Island Massacre

Edward Castillo, Ph.D., Sonoma State University

March 25: Why Wasn't Auschwitz Bombed?

Michael Berenbaum, Ph.D., Director, Sigi Ziering Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Ethics

Robert L. Harris Memorial Lecture. The Cooperage

April 1: Voices of the Shoah: The Sonderkommando Uprising

Mikko Alane, Historical Content Supervisor, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation

April 7-11: Spring Recess

April 15: The Sociology of Genocide

Myrna Goodman, Ph.D., Sonoma State University

April 22: Resisting the Holocaust in Denmark

Knud Dyby, Novato

April 29: Genocide in Rwanda

Mathilde Mukantabana, M.S.W. President, Friends of Rwanda Association.

May 6: Rethinking the Holocaust

Yehuda Bauer, Ph.D., Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. The Cooperage

May 13: Facing Current Genocides

Jerry Fowler, Staff Director, Committee on Conscience, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Washington, D. C.

May 20: Legacies of the Holocaust: Second Generation Panel

Rhonda Findling, Blair Pleasant, Julia Silverberg, Elaine Leeder, Ph.D. Moderator

May 27: What Have We Learned?

Faculty/Student Panel

The Holocaust Lecture Series is sponsored by Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust at Sonoma State University, the Paul V. Benko Holocaust Education Endowment and the Sonoma State University Holocaust Study Center. Credit is available to community participants. Call (707) 664-4076/4296

Study the past to prevent the future

Prevent the escalation of prejudice into genocide

**ARCHIVE**

 SOURCE: AMAA News : Paramus, NJ

 DATE: Jan, Feb, March 2003

 SUBJECT: Fresno State Levonian Scholarship

 PAGE: 1 of 1

## *Rose and Yervant Hovhanness Levonian Educational Fund*

by Joyce Abdulian\*

Fresno State University has been one of the five beneficiaries of the **Rose and Yervant Hovhanness Levonian Educational Fund** which provides scholarships for deserving Armenian students since 1985. Yervant Hovhanness Levonian was my uncle.

Each time I receive the *Hye Sharzoom* list of scholarship recipients, I feel great joy knowing so many students at Fresno State University are benefiting from Uncle Ed's life and generosity.

Yervant Levonian was my mother's brother. He was born in Aintab, Turkey to Hovhanness and Dudu Levonian, wealthy landowners and exporters of apricots and pistachios. He came to the United States prior to the Armenian Genocide in 1915 and settled in Fresno. His parents, a sister (my mother), and a brother struggled through the hardships of the deportation of the Genocide and finally arrived exhausted and destitute in Aleppo, Syria.

Yervant's brother Levon fondly known as "*Toh Levon*" opened a school in Aleppo for all the refugee children and was revered by all for his compassion and skill as a teacher, musician, and administrator. The funding for this school came from the sale of his mother's (my grandmother's) gorgeous gold jewelry which she was able somehow to conceal on her arduous journey across the Syrian Desert. (I prize having the only two matching bracelets remaining from her large collection.)

Yervant and his bride, Rose Gagosian, opened a small grocery store, Peacock Market, on Belmont St. They would eventually trade their way up to a third larger market located near Belmont and Blackstone. They worked long and hard for their living and lived in a modest house behind the store. Uncle worked and saved eventually buying some fruit orchards and after WWII a new home.

He lived a happy but frugal life that consisted of work, friends, relatives, and his lovely wife Rose.

He was like a surrogate father to me, being that my father died when I was an in-



*Rose & Yervant Hovhanness Levonian.*

fant. Going to Fresno from Los Angeles over the old winding 2 lane Grapevine was the biggest adventure for us especially during winter snow storms. I can still remember reaching in the jelly bean jar at the store for a special treat.

It was to this house behind the store that my mother, Zekie Levonian arrived after suffering life through the Genocide. An accomplished pianist and accustomed to the privileged life, she began working long hours in the hot Fresno packing houses and helping with cooking chores in the Levonian household which now held two more brothers and their families.

When uncle became ill a few years after the passing of Aunt Rose, he asked my husband, Dr. H. Jack Abdulian, and myself for advice as to the disbursement of his money.

Being that he was childless, we advised him to leave it all to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). We knew his money would be handled properly and increased substantially due to their expertise in these areas. This he did and designated Fresno State as one of the recipients. The rest is history.

Many of Fresno State students are now benefiting from my Uncle Ed's generosity. It is our hope that the students will appreciate it and use their knowledge wisely. Perhaps in turn, they may help a student someday. This will be uncle's greatest legacy. □

\* This article has appeared in *Hye Sharzoom*, the organ of Fresno State University Armenian Studies Program.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE: January 2-9, 2003

SUBJECT: Dr. Kouymjian publishes Album of Armenian Paleography PAGE: 1 of 1

## Album of Armenian Paleography Published

Michael E. Stone, Dickran Kouymjian (CSUF), and Henning Lehmann, *Album of Armenian Paleography*, Aarhus: Aarhus University Press, 2002, 556 pages in folio (375x280 mm), 220 plates in color. ISBN 87 7288 5564. 1520 DKK / □ 217 / £126.75 / \$253.

The Album of Armenian Paleography, compiled and edited by Michael E. Stone, Dickran Kouymjian, and Henning Lehmann, provides a comprehensive selection of some 192 definitely dated, handwritten texts, sampled from among the 31,000 manuscripts preserved in the major public collections of Europe, the Middle East, the former USSR and North America. These were chosen to reflect the range of Armenian manuscript hands from the earliest dated codices of the ninth century to the cursive script of the nineteenth century. Added to them were a handful of early lapidary inscriptions of fifth-seventh centuries, and at the other chronological pole, some specimens of the handwriting of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Armenian scholars and intellectuals. Other important paleographic documents, some undated, illustrate the preliminary chapter by Dickran Kouymjian devoted to the history of Armenian paleography.

Each selected manuscript is illustrated by a high-quality color facsimile of a typical folio page, and is accompanied by an alphabet table drawn from letters appearing on that page and a sample transcription of several lines. These alphabet tables were not traced or drawn by hand as was customary in earlier paleographic works. They were generated electronically from a scan of the page itself under the supervision of Michael Stone. Finally, each entry has a bibliography of important earlier paleographic literature on the manuscript and comments on important features.

The 192 individual alphabet strips were also combined into a series of chronologically arranged tables for all 38 Armenian letters. These are found at the end of the volume and provide a visual history of the subtle changes in letter forms over a thousand year period. They are also intended to assist in the dating of undated Armenian manuscripts or fragments.

Rather than take a dogmatic position on various questions concerning the development of Armenian writing, the authors have tried to present as much information as possible as a resource for future monographs on individual hands, schools, and regions. Kouymjian's detailed history of Armenian paleography presents all major and most minor books and articles on the subject. Much attention is given to the presentation of the ideas of the early pioneers of Armenian paleography whose works were published exclusively in Armenian.

The research and printing of the Album was supported by The Carlsberg Foundation of Copenhagen with smaller grants from The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation of Fresno, California, The Research Fund of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The National Endowment for the Humanities, and a Technology Research Grant, CSUF.



## ARCHIVE

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**A Visual History of Letter Forms**

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The dated manuscripts were selected dominantly from the three major repositories: the Mas'toc' Matenadaran, Institute of Ancient Manuscripts in Erevan; the Armenian Patriarchal Library in Jerusalem; and the Library of the Mekhitarist Fathers on the island of San Lazzaro in Venice. Other choice manuscripts were included from well-known collections in Baltimore, Dublin, London, Paris, Tübingen, Leiden, and Vienna. All photographs are new, taken especially for the Album. Thanks to the large format of the volume it has been possible to show virtually all specimens in actual size. In addition, each facsimile page is accompanied by a colour enlargement of one line of the text, enabling the reader to study the lettering in even greater detail.

Rather than take a dogmatic position on various questions concerning the development of Armenian writing, the authors have tried to present as much information as possible as a resource for future monographs on individual hands, schools, and regions. Dickran Kouymjian's detailed history of Armenian paleography presents all major and most minor books and articles on the subject. Much attention is given to the presentation of the ideas of the early pioneers of Armenian paleography whose works were published exclusively in Armenian: Yakob Tas'ean, Garegin Yosep'ean, Hr'ac'ea Ac'arean, Karo L-afadaryan and As'ot Abrahamyan. Michael Stone's analysis of the mutation of Armenia writing

considers the various scripts as groups but also each letter individually. Whenever possible Michael Stone avoided using the traditional Armenian terms for the scripts — erkat'agir, bologir, notrgir, s'l-agir — preferring very neutral and universally-used terms such as minuscule and majuscule.

**The Evolutionary Process**

In a separate section, computerized tables are used to show changes in the forms of individual letters. By following the development of letter shapes, it is possible to discern the evolutionary process of the Armenian scripts in a far more detailed and sophisticated manner than the traditional division of the Armenian hands into types: erkat'agir, bologir, notrgir, s'l-agir, thereby providing much more precise datings than those previously available to scholars. The foundations are thus laid for a better understanding of the chronology of Armenian manuscripts and the literature and art they contain.

This volume will be an indispensable tool for any serious student of Armenian language, literature, and art, and its innovative approach to the study of lettering will be of interest to both paleographers and codicologists.

The research and printing of the Album was supported by The Carlsberg Foundation of Copenhagen with smaller grants from The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation of Fresno, California, The Research Fund of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The National Endowment for the Humanities, and a Technology Research Grant, California State University, Fresno.

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## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: **Armenian Reporter: Paramus, NJ** DATE: **January 4, 2003**  
 SUBJECT: **Kouymjian and Der Mgrdechian attend Harvard Conf.** PAGE: **1 of 2**

## Major Conference on Armenian Studies Held at Harvard and NAASR Center – Part I of

BELMONT, MA - A who's who from the Armenian Studies community, including scholars and representatives of organizations from across the United States and overseas, gathered for the conference "Rethinking Armenian Studies: Past, Present, and Future" on October 4-6 at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, and at the Headquarters of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) in Belmont, MA. The conference was co-sponsored by NAASR and the Harvard Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

Over the course of the conference's three days, five sessions were held, in which numerous important aspects of the field of Armenian Studies were analyzed, discussed, and occasionally debated. It was the largest scholarly gathering ever to devote itself to an analysis of the discipline and was the first time in memory that all of the active chairholders in Armenian Studies in America were gathered in one place. Conference sessions were attended by the conferees as well as other members of the Armenian scholarly community and many members of the Armenian community at large, some of whom had traveled cross-country to attend the sessions.

### OPENING SESSION: THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY CHAIRS

The opening session of the conference, "The Role of the University Chairs," was held on Friday, October 4, at the Harvard Divinity School. NAASR Board Chairman Nancy R. Kolligian offered a welcome to the assembled scholars and audience members, and longtime NAASR Board Member and

By Marc A. Mamigonian



Scholars at NAASR Conference on Armenian Studies

Bentley College Chancellor Gregory H. Adamian gave opening remarks. NAASR "was the catalyst that spawned the Armenian Studies chairs and programs at the university level," he commented, "and we hope that the next half-century will be even more productive and the higher educational establishment recognizes the place of Armenian Studies."

Serving as Chairman for the panel was NAASR's founding chairman

and current

Board Chairman Emeritus, Manoog S. Young. After commenting on the enormous strides made in Armenian Studies since the establishment of NAASR and the birth of the Armenian Studies movement in America in the mid-1950s, Young read a statement by retired Harvard Professor of Iranian Studies Rich-

ard N. Frye, who had championed the establishment of Armenian Studies at the university level in the early 1950s, but was unable to attend the conference. Taking to task those who have attacked the Armenian Studies chairs, Prof. Frye wrote that "a permanent professorship ensures continuity," and "it should be obvious that the establishment of chairs

in Armenian Studies at leading universities in the U.S. has lifted Armenians from a minority ghetto status to an honored place on the stage of world civilization" and inspired other groups, such as Ukrainians and Assyrians.

The "Role of the University Chairs" panel featured current chairholders Kevork B. Bardakjian (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), Lucy Der Manuelian (Tufts University), Richard G. Hovannisian (University of California, Los Angeles), Dickran Kouymjian (California State University, Fresno), James R. Russell (Harvard University), and past chairholder Robert W. Thomson (Oxford University).

### PERMANENCE OF CHAIRS A KEY

Prof. Bardakjian, echoing comments made by Prof. Frye, stressed the impact of the chairs, because "unlike ordinary professorships, whose fate may be uncertain in that deans may reassign such positions or abolish them altogether, chairs are permanent." Citing the proliferation of endowed chairs and programs — there are now 15 in the United States — Prof. Bardakjian stated that "this indicates the growing significance and widening scope of Armenian Studies."

Bardakjian enumerated the responsibilities of a chairholder, which at minimum include research and teaching, but which in reality extend well beyond that. Noting that it is impossible for him to teach all of the

*Continued on p. 12*



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Reporter : Paramus, N.J.

DATE: January 4, 2003

## S1 Major Conference on Armenian Studies Held at Harvard and NAASR Center – Part I of II - Continued from p. 11

courses in which students have shown interest, he stressed the importance of "joint appointments to promote interdisciplinary and comparative studies ... and the integration of Armenian into the larger field of the region, as well as the introduction of Armenian into comparatively newer fields ... where, practically speaking, there is no Armenian representation." He also suggested that, in light of the ever-expanding field, "the time has come to consider the founding of centers of Armenian Studies with at least three full-time faculty" to conduct and supervise research.

ARMENIAN STUDIES  
AS CRUSADE

Prof. Lucy Der Manuejian struck the theme of bringing Armenian culture to people who might not otherwise encounter it, stating that "I consider when you are in Armenian art and architecture that you're on a crusade — a crusade to have the corpus of Armenian art and architecture receive from scholars the attention it deserves." "Too often," Prof. Der Manuejian continued, "the subject is overlooked; it is omitted from general art history books and reference texts, [and is] absent in the curriculum of art history departments of most universities." All of this, she pointed out, in spite of its importance to "the history of art, the history of the Christian Church, medieval politics, economic history, trade, the Silk Route, and so forth."

More dangerous even than the ignoring of Armenian art and architecture is the fact that they are "sometimes misrepresented, misattributed to other cultures, their history distorted, and in some cases the monuments defaced" or destroyed. This is most particularly the case with Armenian monuments within the borders of modern Turkey. In view of this, Prof. Der Manuejian stated, "The role of the Tufts chair is not only to teach ... and to do research, but in my view to do as much outreach as possible, [and] focus on working in as many different aspects of the field of art history as possible."

THE NEED TO  
OVERCOME ISOLATION

Prof. Richard G. Hovannissian offered pointed and insightful remarks drawn from his long experience as a chairholder at UCLA. Although, as he stated, he has produced 9 Ph.D.'s in Armenian Studies since becoming a chairholder, or better than one every four years, after the "initial wave [of intense interest] in the 1970s, then the field became much smaller," and "over the last ten or fifteen years I'm dealing with one or two students at a time." Part of the problem faced by the field — and one that was frequently touched on throughout the conference — is that "Armenian Studies is very insular; we are very isolated even in the field of Middle Eastern Studies," and "Armenian Studies is not regarded as equally important." As a result, Hovannissian said, "I continuously face ... indifference and prejudice against Armenian Studies," one result of which is the difficulty in obtaining funds to support graduate students.

Hovannissian underlined the point made by Prof. Der Manuejian that "we need to do more outreach to the community" — both the general Armenian community and the wider

scholarly community. In an age of increased academic specialization, he emphasized that, contrary to that trend, Armenian Studies students should pursue a wide range of knowledge and not become "over focused" on strictly Armenian topics. This broad-based approach will not only make them better scholars but also will improve their marketability as they seek employment in academia, where purely Armenian Studies positions are few.

CHAIRS AS PART OF  
DIASPORA

Prof. Dickran Kouymjian provided a thumbnail sketch of the history of Armenian Studies since the 19th century, observing that "Armenian language, literature, and history have been studied in areas outside the borders of Armenia for nearly two centuries; indeed, in terms of modern scientific methodology, Armenian Studies had their genesis in exile. In some respects, the post-World War II interest in Armenian Studies in the Diaspora is merely a continuation of this process." However, "only in recent decades have Armenians with a secular education devoted themselves in significant numbers to this rigorous field," particularly in the United States.

A key element in the growth of Armenian Studies in America and the establishing of the chairs has been "the failure of Armenians as a group to receive aid or encouragement from the international community of nations in their quest for justice. Perhaps, some thought, by supporting university level studies, knowledge about the Armenian Genocide and the culture that was destroyed by it would be advanced." Although, as Prof. Kouymjian noted, full recognition has not been realized through the creation of the chairs, the "clear and documented historical record of what happened [which] is fundamental for coherent and effective political action" has been generated by them; and as such the chairs remain a focal point of the Armenian community's various concerns.

MARGINALIZATION AND  
COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS

Prof. James R. Russell, who served as a co-organizer of the conference, gave an account of the Harvard chair that was both optimistic and critical. "We have no separate scholarship fund in the Near East department for Armenian Studies and have to compete with bigger, more powerful sub-disciplines. It is very often I find I'm in the same sort of boat as Richard Hovannissian is." Nonetheless, he seeks to extend Armenian Studies at Harvard by teaching courses outside of the discipline per se. "The purpose of these is to serve the needs of a broad humanistic education, and also to acquaint students with the Near Eastern field as a discipline closer to the democratic Western heritage of America and more accessible than they might have thought."

Russell cautioned the audience against the "conspiracy theories, xenophobia, and ultra-nationalist pseudo-science [which] have come increasingly into the mainstream of Armenology in the Armenian Republic" and which have found sympathetic outlets in some of the diasporan press, where paranoia and anti-Semitism have been notably

present. "It is a task of the community to set its house in order because these trends are in the end suicidal," he warned. Although Prof. Russell declines to debate such issues, he stated that "I will help with my pen what I still believe to be the great majority of Armenians to expose and destroy the sort of people who are not only dragging our field, but possibly the community itself" into dangerous territory.

NEED FOR A BROAD  
PERSPECTIVE

Prof. Robert W. Thomson approached the issue of the role of the chairs by first defining Armenian Studies as "the investigation of the past or present with a view to gaining a better understanding of the meaning of that experience in as broad a perspective as possible." In America, this line of investigation generally takes place within a university, and Thomson emphasized the importance of undergraduate study.

As had Prof. Hovannissian, Prof. Thomson advocated a broad-based approach to Armenian Studies that encourages students to reach their own conclusions and does not serve as "a way for politicians or other interested groups to propagate their own agendas." "What remains to be accomplished," Prof. Thomson added, "is a broader public understanding about Armenia and the place of Armenian history and culture as a component of human civilization." He concluded that "rational inquiry is our method; collaboration is the means of progress; interdependence of thought is our aim."

SECOND PANEL:  
THE ROLE OF  
ORGANIZATIONS

The conference continued on Saturday, October 5, at the Harvard Divinity School, with "The Role of Organizations, Institutions, and Research Centers," featuring Rouben Adalian (Armenian National Institute), Aram Arkun (Zohrab Information Center), Barlow Der Mugrdchian (California State University, Fresno), Gerard J. Libaridian (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), Dennis R. Papazian (University of Michigan, Dearborn), and Ruth Thomasian (Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives). Isabel Kaprielian (California State University, Fresno) was scheduled to appear but was unable to attend. Marc A. Marnigonian of NAASR served as chairman for the panel.

DISSEMINATION OF  
RELIABLE INFORMATION

Rouben Adalian focused on the role of the Armenian National Institute in assembling and disseminating reliable information pertaining to the Armenian Genocide. "The quantity of information about Armenia is quite considerable; and hence, how to navigate it, how to locate the knowledge [and] the scholarship that has application to the situations that arise in Washington" is the crucial issue, since "the demand for basic information about Armenia, Armenian issues, and in the case of ANI the Armenian Genocide itself, is quite staggering."

Since ANI could not exist without the scholarship provided by the chairs and other scholars, Adalian emphasized the need for cooperative relations between organizations

such as ANI and scholars at universities and other research centers. Sounding a note that would be struck by all of the panel's participants, he also noted the need for collaboration among the Armenian organizations and the sharing of information.

GREATER ACCESSIBILITY  
NEEDED

Aram Arkun pointed out the difficulty in evaluating the performance of the Armenian organizations since there is no independent and objective source of appraisal. The number of active organizations, he observed, may be seen as indicative of their strength; yet, as he pointed out, earlier in the 20th century there were even more, though smaller, organizations that served the needs of the community as it was then constituted.

While lamenting that none of the Armenian organizations are primarily research organizations, mainly due to underfunding, Arkun praised the strength of the individual collections of the organizations which are of great value to researchers. What is needed is greater accessibility to the collections and increased communication and collaboration among the organizations to eliminate needless duplication of labor.

IMPORTANCE OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
ORGANIZATION

Barlow Der Mugrdchian, President of the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS), gave "a 28-year view" of the organization and its activities. "The SAS became a forum for Armenologists to share their research with each other and with scholars outside of the discipline," he explained. Also, it "has been an essential factor in the very direction that Armenian Studies has taken, whether in the area of publications or in organizing or co-sponsoring conferences and symposia."

Among the SAS's many activities and publications, one which Der Mugrdchian discussed has become increasingly important as a means of communication among those in the field: the SAS e-mail list. The list allows members to be "informed of important developments in real time" and "accelerate research by putting relevant people in contact."

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES  
NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

Prof. Gerard Libaridian spoke about his experiences in establishing the Zoryan Institute, although, as he emphasized, he could not speak for its current activities because he is no longer associated with it. "The basic concept of the institute was to establish a center where you discuss contemporary issues ... in an interdisciplinary manner." After the establishment of NAASR and the early Armenian Studies chairs had legitimized the field in American universities, Libaridian explained, Zoryan sought to go beyond historical issues to approach contemporary issues using "political science theory, social psychology, certainly anthropology, and international relations" and to "not be satisfied with knowing what happened, but try to see what one can do with what one knows."

One of the primary goals of the Zoryan Institute was to analyze the dynamics of the Armenian Diaspora in all its many contradictions. This

proved to be difficult because of the reluctance of benefactors to fund this work. Libaridian described the "silent struggle" between those who viewed Armenian Studies as merely an affirmation of Armenian civilization and those who wanted to be analytical and critical. This dichotomy is still a critical issue today, he said, and he sees "a lack of the definition of issues beyond the partisan, beyond the political, and beyond the immediate ... That discourse is yet to begin."

IMPORTANCE OF WORLD  
WIDE WEB

Prof. Dennis Papazian, Director and Founder of the Armenian Research Center in Dearborn, Michigan, focused on the role of organizations in general, which "have not only played a valuable role in the production of Armenian scholarship, they have also given valuable support in the maintenance of Armenian scholarship at various universities throughout America," and specifically discussed the role of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan, Dearborn.

In addition to maintaining a large and important library, the Armenian Research Center has also, among other things, hosted scholars-in-residence who have performed original research there, the most recent of whom was the Turkish scholar Tamer Akcam. As other participants had, Papazian stressed the vital role the world wide web will play in the future development of the research centers, which "must establish web sites and make as much material available as possible."

DOCUMENTATION AND  
ILLUSTRATION

Ruth Thomasian, Founder and Executive Director of Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, gave a brief history of the organization, noting that although "we exist outside of academia, we have been and continue to be heavily invested in educational efforts." Project SAVE, which was established in 1976, is home to some 25,000 photographs and 1,500 hours of oral history tapes.

"Our mission includes using our photographs to promote knowledge of Armenian history and culture, which includes a very broad range of studies: cultural anthropology, folk-life, sociology, genealogy, women, and all kinds of history," Thomasian explained. As the multidisciplinary approach to Armenian Studies as described by numerous scholars throughout the conference becomes more prevalent, such resources as Project SAVE will become more a part of the Armenian Studies mainstream, and Thomasian expressed the hope that "we will continue to provide ways for it to be examined and studied."

Reports on the panels "Relations Between Armenian Studies in the U.S. and Armenia," "Integrating Armenian Studies with Other Disciplines," and "The Future of Armenian Studies" will appear subsequently.

More information about the conference or NAASR and its programs for the furtherance of Armenian studies, research, and publication may be had by calling 617-489-1610, faxing 617-484-1759, e-mailing [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org), or writing to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ DATE: January 4, 2003  
 SUBJECT: Kouymjian & Der Mugrdechian attend Conference PAGE: 1 of 5

## Major Conference on Armenian Studies

### Held at Harvard and NAASR Center – Part I of II

BELMONT, MA - A who's who from the Armenian Studies community, including scholars and representatives of organizations from across the United States and overseas, gathered for the conference "Rethinking Armenian Studies: Past, Present, and Future" on October 4-6 at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, and at the Headquarters of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) in Belmont, MA. The conference was co-sponsored by NAASR and the Harvard Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

Over the course of the conference's three days, five sessions were held, in which numerous important aspects of the field of Armenian Studies were analyzed, discussed, and occasionally debated. It was the largest scholarly gathering ever to devote itself to an analysis of the discipline and was the first time in memory that all of the active chairholders in Armenian Studies in America were gathered in one place. Conference sessions were attended by the conferees as well as other members of the Armenian scholarly community and many members of the Armenian community at large, some of whom had traveled cross-country to attend the sessions.

#### OPENING SESSION: THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY CHAIRS

The opening session of the conference, "The Role of the University Chairs," was held on Friday, October 4, at the Harvard Divinity School. NAASR Board Chairman Nancy R. Kolligian offered a welcome to the assembled scholars and audience members, and longtime NAASR Board Member and

By Marc A. Mamigonian



Scholars at NAASR Conference on Armenian Studies

Bentley College Chancellor Gregory H. Adamian gave opening remarks. NAASR "was the catalyst that spawned the Armenian Studies chairs and programs at the university level," he commented, "and we hope that the next half-century will be even more productive and the higher educational establishment recognizes the place of Armenian Studies."

Serving as Chairman for the panel was NAASR's founding chairman

and current

Board Chairman Emeritus, Manoog S. Young. After commenting on the enormous strides made in Armenian Studies since the establishment of NAASR and the birth of the Armenian Studies movement in America in the mid-1950s, Young read a statement by retired Harvard Professor of Iranian Studies Rich-

ard N. Frye, who had championed the establishment of Armenian Studies at the university level in the early 1950s, but was unable to attend the conference. Taking to task those who have attacked the Armenian Studies chairs, Prof. Frye wrote that "a permanent professorship ensures continuity," and "it should be obvious that the establishment of chairs



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ DATE: January 4, 2003  
SUBJECT: Kouymjian & Der Mugerdechian attend conference PAGE: 2 of 5

in Armenian Studies at leading universities in the U.S. has lifted Armenians from a minority ghetto status to an honored place on the stage of world civilization" and inspired other groups, such as Ukrainians and Assyrians.

The "Role of the University Chairs" panel featured current chairholders Kevork B. Bardakjian (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), Lucy Der Manuelian (Tufts University), Richard G. Hovannisian (University of California, Los Angeles), Dickran Kouymjian (California State University, Fresno), James R. Russell (Harvard University), and past chairholder Robert W. Thomson (Oxford University).

### PERMANENCE OF CHAIRS A KEY

Prof. Bardakjian, echoing comments made by Prof. Frye, stressed the impact of the chairs, because "unlike ordinary professorships, whose fate may be uncertain in that deans may reassign such positions or abolish them altogether, chairs are permanent." Citing the proliferation of endowed chairs and programs — there are now 15 in the United States — Prof. Bardakjian stated that "this indicates the growing significance and widening scope of Armenian Studies."

Bardakjian enumerated the responsibilities of a chairholder, which at minimum include research and teaching, but which in reality extend well beyond that. Noting that it is impossible for him to teach all of the

courses in which students have shown interest, he stressed the importance of "joint appointments to promote interdisciplinary and comparative studies ... and the integration of Armenian into the larger field of the region, as well as the introduction of Armenian into comparatively newer fields ... where, practically speaking, there is no Armenian representation." He also suggested that, in light of the ever-expanding field, "the time has come to consider the founding of centers of Armenian Studies with at least three full-time faculty" to conduct and supervise research.

### ARMENIAN STUDIES AS CRUSADE

Prof. Lucy Der Manuelian struck the theme of bringing Armenian culture to people who might not otherwise encounter it, stating that "I consider when you are in Armenian art and architecture that you're on a crusade — a crusade to have the corpus of Armenian art and architecture receive from scholars the attention it deserves." "Too often," Prof. Der Manuelian continued, "the subject is overlooked; it is omitted from general art history books and reference texts, [and is] absent in the curriculum of art history departments of most universities." All of this, she pointed out, in spite of its importance to "the history of art, the history of the Christian Church, medieval politics, economic history, trade, the Silk Route, and so forth."

More dangerous even than the ignoring of Armenian art and architecture is the fact that they are "sometimes misrepresented, misattributed to other cultures, their history distorted, and in some cases the monuments defaced" or destroyed. This is most particularly the case with Armenian monuments within the borders of modern Turkey. In view of this, Prof. Der Manuelian stated, "The role of the Tufts chair is not only to teach ... and to do research, but in my view to do as much outreach as possible, [and] focus on working in as many different aspects of the field of art history as possible."

### THE NEED TO OVERCOME ISOLATION

Prof. Richard G. Hovannisian offered pointed and insightful remarks drawn from his long experience as a chairholder at UCLA. Although, as he stated, he has produced 9 Ph.D.'s in Armenian Studies since becoming a chairholder, or better than one every four years, after the "initial wave [of intense interest] in the 1970s, then the field became much smaller," and "over the last ten or fifteen years I'm dealing with one or two students at a time." Part of the problem faced by the field — and one that was frequently touched on throughout the conference — is that "Armenian Studies is very insular; we are very isolated even in the field of Middle Eastern Studies," and "Armenian Studies is not regarded as equally important." As a result, Hovannisian said, "I continuously face ... indifference and prejudice against Armenian Studies," one result of which is the difficulty in obtaining funds to support graduate students.

Hovannisian underlined the point made by Prof. Der Manuelian that "we need to do more outreach to the community" — both the general Armenian community and the wider scholarly community. In an age of increased academic specialization, he emphasized that, contrary to that trend, Armenian Studies students should pursue a wide range of knowledge and not become "over focused" on strictly Armenian topics. This broad-based approach will not only make them better scholars but also will improve their marketability as they seek employment in academia, where purely Armenian Studies positions are few.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ DATE: January 4, 2003  
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**CHAIRS AS PART OF  
DIASPORA**

Prof. Dickran Kouymjian provided a thumbnail sketch of the history of Armenian Studies since the 19th century, observing that "Armenian language, literature, and history have been studied in areas outside the borders of Armenia for nearly two centuries; indeed, in terms of modern scientific methodology, Armenian Studies had their genesis in exile. In some respects, the post-World War II interest in Armenian Studies in the Diaspora is merely a continuation of this process." However, "only in recent decades have Armenians with a secular education devoted themselves in significant numbers to this rigorous field," particularly in the United States."

A key element in the growth of Armenian Studies in America and the establishing of the chairs has been "the failure of Armenians as a group to receive aid or encouragement from the international community of nations in their quest for justice. Perhaps, some thought, by supporting university level studies, knowledge about the Armenian Genocide and the culture that was destroyed by it would be advanced." Although, as Prof. Kouymjian noted, full recognition has not been realized through the creation of the chairs, the "clear and documented historical record of what happened [which] is fundamental for coherent and effective political action" has been generated by them; and as such the chairs remain a focal point of the Armenian community's various concerns.

**MARGINALIZATION AND  
COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS**

Prof. James R. Russell, who served as a co-organizer of the conference, gave an account of the Harvard chair that was both optimistic and critical. "We have no separate scholarship fund in the Near East department for Armenian Studies and have to compete with bigger, more powerful sub-disciplines. It is very often I find I'm in the same sort of boat as Richard Hovannisian is." Nonetheless, he seeks to extend Armenian Studies at Harvard by teaching courses outside of the discipline per se. "The purpose of these is to serve the needs of a broad humanistic education, and also to acquaint students with the Near Eastern field as a discipline closer to the democratic Western heritage of America and more accessible than they might have thought."

Russell cautioned the audience against the "conspiracy theories, xenophobia, and ultra-nationalist pseudo-science [which] have come increasingly into the mainstream of Armenology in the Armenian Republic" and which have found sympathetic outlets in some of the diasporan press, where paranoia and anti-Semitism have been notably present. "It is a task of the community to set its house in order because these trends are in the end suicidal," he warned. Although Prof. Russell declines to debate such issues, he stated that "I will help with my pen what I still believe to be the great majority of Armenians to expose and destroy the sort of people who are not only dragging our field, but possibly the community itself" into dangerous territory.

**NEED FOR A BROAD  
PERSPECTIVE**

Prof. Robert W. Thomson approached the issue of the role of the chairs by first defining Armenian Studies as "the investigation of the past or present with a view to gaining a better understanding of the meaning of that experience in as broad a perspective as possible." In America, this line of investigation generally takes place within a university, and Thomson emphasized the importance of undergraduate study.

As had Prof. Hovannisian, Prof. Thomson advocated a broad-based approach to Armenian Studies that encourages students to reach their own conclusions and does not serve as "a way for politicians or other interested groups to propagate their own agendas." "What remains to be accomplished," Prof. Thomson added, "is a broader public understanding about Armenia and the place of Armenian history and culture as a component of human civilization." He concluded that "rational inquiry is our method; collaboration is the means of progress; independence of thought is our aim."

**SECOND PANEL:  
THE ROLE OF  
ORGANIZATIONS**

The conference continued on Saturday, October 5, at the Harvard Divinity School, with "The Role of Organizations, Institutions, and Research Centers," featuring Rouben Adalian (Armenian National Institute), Aram Arkun (Zohrab Information Center), Barlow Der Mugrdechian (California State University, Fresno), Gerard J. Libaridian (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), Dennis R. Papazian (University of Michigan, Dearborn), and Ruth Thomasian (Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives). Isabel Kaprielian (California State University, Fresno) was scheduled to appear but was unable to attend. Marc A. Mamigonian of NAASR served as chairman for the panel.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ DATE: January 4, 2003  
SUBJECT: Kouymjian & Der Mugrdechian attend conference PAGE: 4 of 5

**DISSEMINATION OF  
RELIABLE INFORMATION**

Rouben Adalian focused on the role of the Armenian National Institute in assembling and disseminating reliable information pertaining to the Armenian Genocide. "The quantity of information about Armenia is quite considerable; and hence, how to navigate it, how to locate the knowledge [and] the scholarship that has application to the situations that arise in Washington" is the crucial issue, since "the demand for basic information about Armenia, Armenian issues, and in the case of ANI the Armenian Genocide itself, is quite staggering."

Since ANI could not exist without the scholarship provided by the chairs and other scholars, Adalian emphasized the need for cooperative relations between organizations such as ANI and scholars at universities and other research centers. Sounding a note that would be struck by all of the panel's participants, he also noted the need for collaboration among the Armenian organizations and the sharing of information.

**GREATER ACCESSIBILITY  
NEEDED**

Aram Arkun pointed out the difficulty in evaluating the performance of the Armenian organizations since there is no independent and objective source of appraisal. The number of active organizations, he observed, may be seen as indicative of their strength; yet, as he pointed out, earlier in the 20th century there were even more, though smaller, organizations that served the needs of the community as it was then constituted.

While lamenting that none of the Armenian organizations are primarily research organizations, mainly due to underfunding, Arkun praised the strength of the individual collections of the organizations which are of great value to researchers. What is needed is greater accessibility to the collections and increased Communication and collaboration among the organizations to eliminate needless duplication of labor.

**IMPORTANCE OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
ORGANIZATION**

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, President of the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS), gave "a 28-year view" of the organization and its activities. "The SAS became a forum for Armenologists to share their research with each other and with scholars outside of the discipline," he explained. Also, it "has been an essential factor in the very direction that Armenian Studies has taken, whether in the area of publications or in organizing or co-sponsoring conferences and symposia."

Among the SAS's many activities and publications, one which Der Mugrdechian discussed has become increasingly important as a means of communication among those in the field: the SAS e-mail list. The list allows members to be "informed of important developments in real time" and "accelerate research by putting relevant people in contact."

**CONTEMPORARY ISSUES  
NEED TO BE ADDRESSED**

Prof. Gerard Libaridian spoke about his experiences in establishing the Zoryan Institute, although, as he emphasized, he could not speak for its current activities because he is no longer associated with it. "The basic concept of the institute was to establish a center where you discuss contemporary issues ... in an interdisciplinary manner." After the establishment of NAASR and the early Armenian Studies chairs had legitimized the field in American universities, Libaridian explained, Zoryan sought to go beyond historical issues to approach contemporary issues using "political science theory, social psychology, certainly anthropology, and international relations" and to "not be satisfied with knowing what happened, but try to see what one can do with what one knows."

One of the primary goals of the Zoryan Institute was to analyze the dynamics of the Armenian Diaspora in all its many contradictions. This

proved to be difficult because of the reluctance of benefactors to fund this work. Libaridian described the "silent struggle" between those who viewed Armenian Studies as merely an affirmation of Armenian civilization and those who wanted to be analytical and critical. This dichotomy is still a critical issue today, he said, and he sees "a lack of the definition of issues beyond the partisan, beyond the political, and beyond the immediate ... That discourse is yet to begin."

**IMPORTANCE OF WORLD  
WIDE WEB**

Prof. Dennis Papazian, Director and Founder of the Armenian Research Center in Dearborn, Michigan, focused on the role of organizations in general, which "have not only played a valuable role in the production of Armenian scholarship, they have also given valuable support in the maintenance of Armenian scholarship at various universities throughout America," and specifically discussed the role of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan, Dearborn.

In addition to maintaining a large and important library, the Armenian Research Center has also, among other things, hosted scholars-in-residence who have performed original research there, the most recent of whom was the Turkish scholar Taner Akcam. As other participants had, Papazian stressed the vital role the world wide web will play in the future development of the research centers, which "must establish web sites and make as much material available as possible."



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ DATE: January 4, 2003  
SUBJECT: Kouymjian & Der Mugrdechian attend conference PAGE: 5 of 5

**DOCUMENTATION AND  
ILLUSTRATION**

Ruth Thomasian, Founder and Executive Director of Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, gave a brief history of the organization, noting that although "we exist outside of academia, we have been and continue to be heavily invested in educational efforts." Project SAVE, which was established in 1976, is home to some 25,000 photographs and 1,500 hours of oral history tapes.

"Our mission includes using our photographs to promote knowledge of Armenian history and culture, which includes a very broad range of studies: cultural anthropology, folk-life, sociology, genealogy, women, and all kinds of history," Thomasian explained. As the multidisciplinary approach to Armenian Studies as described by numerous scholars throughout the conference becomes more prevalent, such resources as Project SAVE will become more a part of the Armenian Studies mainstream, and Thomasian expressed the hope that "we will continue to provide ways for it to be examined and studied."

Reports on the panels "Relations Between Armenian Studies in the U.S. and Armenia," "Integrating Armenian Studies with Other Disciplines," and "The Future of Armenian Studies" will appear subsequently.

More information about the conference or NAASR and its programs for the furtherance of Armenian studies, research, and publication may be had by calling 617-489-1610, faxing 617-484-1759, e-mailing [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org), or writing to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: New Life Armenian / English Weekly: Glendale, CADATE: January 9, 2003SUBJECT: Kouymjian publishes "Album of Paleography"PAGE: 1 of 1**ALBUM OF ARMENIAN  
PALEOGRAPHY  
PUBLISHED**

YEREVAN-A new Album of Armenian Paleography, compiled and edited by Michael E. Stone, Dickran Kouymjian and Henning Lehmann, was published by Aarhus University Press (Denmark). It provides a comprehensive selection of some 192 definitely dated, handwritten texts, sampled from among the 31,000 manuscripts preserved in the major public collections of Europe, the Middle East, the former USSR and North America.

These were chosen to reflect the range of Armenian manuscript hands from the earliest dated codices of the ninth century to the cursive script of the nineteenth century. Added to them were a handful of early lapidary inscriptions of fifth-seventh centuries, and at the other chronological pole, some specimens of the handwriting of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Armenian scholars and intellectuals. Each selected manuscript is illustrated by a high-quality color facsimile of a typical folio page, and is accompanied by an alphabet table drawn from letters appearing on that page and a sample transcription of several lines.

These alphabet tables were not traced or drawn by hand as was customary in earlier paleographic works. They were generated electronically from a scan of the page itself under the supervision of Michael Stone. Finally, each entry has a bibliography of important earlier paleographic literature on the manuscript and comments on important features.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE: January 16, 2003

SUBJECT: Tom Bozigian teaches Dance class

PAGE: 1 of 1

## CSUF Presents Workshop on Armenian Dance

FRESNO - The Division of Extended Education at California State University, Fresno is offering a two-day workshop on Armenian Dance. This workshop provides students with an introduction to traditional Armenian dance. Participants will learn authentic Armenian dances from various regions of historic Armenia and a historical background on the development of Armenian dance.

The class will be held on Jan. 31, from 5 - 10 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 1, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The instructor is Tom Bozigian. The fee for the course is \$50 non-credit.

For additional information and registration forms, contact the Division of Extended Education at 559-278-0333. Pre-registration is recommended, as class size is limited.

The Division of Extended Education offers continuing education courses, workshops, seminars, and travel study programs, all of which are open to the public. For a catalog of Spring 2003 courses, call 559-278-0333.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Asbarez: Glendale, CA

DATE: January 18, 2003

SUBJECT: Dr. Merguerian Lectures at Bullard High School

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## Fresno High Schoolers Attend Armenian Genocide Assembly

On the morning of December 5, several hundred students at Bullard High School in Fresno attended a special assembly dedicated to the Armenian Genocide. It was the first time such a formal program had been held at the school.

Dr. Barbara J. Merguerian, Henry S. Khandazian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, during the fall semester, spoke about the lessons of the Armenian genocide to the students, most of whom were in social studies classes where they were learning about the events of World War I.

John Chookasian, special education teacher at the school, chaired the assembly and described the harrowing events experienced by his family members during the Genocide. He also provided students with an example of Armenian culture by playing a selection on the duduk, an instrument with a haunting and melancholy sound. Mr. Chookasian directs the Chookasian Concert Ensemble, which specializes in Armenian folk music. Students entered the assembly to the music of the Ensemble's CD's "Echoes of the Past" and "Avantagan."

The program also included parts of the video "The Armenian Genocide," prepared by filmmaker J. Michael Hagopian specifically for schoolroom use.

"I wish that more programs of this kind could be offered to students, so that they could better understand the events of World War I and the Armenian Genocide," Dr. Merguerian asserted after the program. "It's

important for students to recognize in society the danger signals that might lead to genocide, and to learn from the lessons of history."

She also thanked the teachers and administration at Bullard High School for their cooperation in making the assembly possible.

The assembly came about after Chookasian approached the school's Political Science department, suggesting that they organize a formal "Armenian Genocide Assembly" in conjunction with their World War I studies.

The department agreed to the plan, supported by Bullard High School teachers and staff members, including principal Tim Belcher, vice-principal Daniel Robinson, activities director Laurie Momjian, and Social Studies teacher Mark Stevens. In order to accommodate all the Social Studies students, as well as other interested pupils, two Genocide assemblies were held, one after the other.

Comprehensive packets about the Armenian Genocide, with articles, maps, and pictures, were prepared by Mr. Chookasian for all of the social studies students. The packets included copies of the California State Board of Education approved "Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide. Additional material was provided to teachers.

Subsequent to the program, a large number of students approached Dr. Merguerian and Mr. Chookasian to express their thanks and appreciation for this opportunity to learn more about this significant event in modern history.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter : Paramus, N.J.

DATE: January 18, 2003

SUBJECT: Kouymjian &amp; Der Mugrdechian attend conference

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## NEW ENGLAND NEWS - NEW ENGLAND NEWS - NEW ENGLAND NEWS

**Major Conference on Armenian Studies Held at Harvard and NAASR Center — Part II of II**

By Marc A. Mamigonian

BELMONT, MA — The conference on "Re-thinking Armenian Studies: Past, Present, and Future," co-sponsored by NAASR and the Harvard Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, continued on October 5-6 at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, and at the Center of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) in Belmont, MA.

The afternoon sessions at the Harvard Divinity School commenced with the panel "Relations Between Armenian Studies in the U.S. and Armenia," featuring Kevork B. Bardakjian (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), George Bournoutian (Iona College, NY), Robert H. Hewsen (Rowan University, NJ), Richard G. Hovannisian (University of California, Los Angeles), Albert Stepanyan (Yerevan State University), and Robert W. Thomson (Oxford University). James R. Russell of Harvard served as chairman of the session.

**CONFLICT THE RESULT OF HISTORICAL FORCES**

Prof. Kevork Bardakjian began by explaining some of the basic reasons why differences of approach and methodology might exist between Armenian Studies scholars in the West and those in Armenia. "We must remember that political culture was institutionalized under Soviet rule, and 'scholarship' was also institutionalized — there was a state policy to follow." Therefore, "putting scholarship in the service of national policy" is common throughout the region. Such factors, combined with the inevitable "reaction to political threats" facing the Armenian Republic, make the occasional conflicts with scholars in the Republic understandable, though not justifiable, Bardakjian stated.

"Most of my colleagues have been attacked in a very unprofessional and vulgar way" as "traitors" or "foreign agents," Bardakjian continued, although he feels that this is nonetheless a distinctly minority view. The best way to overcome these problems is through personal contact with colleagues in Armenia — joint projects, publications exchanges, student and faculty exchanges. Greater understanding of each other's work and circumstances will in the end prevail.

**OBJECTIVITY RATHER THAN PROPAGANDA**

Prof. George Bournoutian noted the irony of his presence on the panel since, although he has been teaching Armenian history for a

quarter of a century, "I have never been invited to a conference in Armenia; I have not received an honorary degree from Armenia; I have not been elected to the Armenian Academy of Sciences ... And I have not been published in any newspaper or academic journal in Armenia."

Nonetheless, Bournoutian delivered an eloquent rebuttal to charges against him and Armenian-American scholars in general made by one Armen Aivazyan in Armenia. These charges have as their basis the belief "that Armenian-American historians ... have damaged Armenian territorial claims to Karabagh, Cilicia, Nakhichevan, Ganja, and Turkish Armenia" and "questioned culturally sensitive dates," such as that of the conversion of Armenia to Christianity. While he finds the anger "understandable, given the denial of the Armenian Genocide by the Turks, Azeris, and their supporters in the West" and the general disregard for Armenian issues, still it is the scholars' objectivity — even when that clashes with the interests of Armenian nationalism — that "separates us from the propagandists."

**STRONG OPPOSITION TO PERSONAL ATTACKS**

Prof. Robert Hewsen registered his strong objections to "denunciations of a personal nature of a kind virtually unknown and certainly unacceptable in Western academic circles," some of which target the ethnic background of non-Armenian Armenian Studies scholars, who are branded as "odars" and thus unqualified. If one has objections to a scholar's work, he said, one presents them in a scholarly and reasoned manner. "In too many cases," those who attack American scholars "show themselves to be provincial and unsophisticated in their worldview, and above all unfamiliar with the norms of accepted Western scholarship," he continued, and their attacks are "foolish and self-defeating."

As Prof. Bardakjian had previously noted, these attacks have their roots in a Soviet-era mentality. While noting the important and enduring work done by some scholars in Armenian Studies under Soviet rule, Hewsen observed that what the Soviets termed "bourgeois nationalism" was suppressed and all national histories were viewed through the same Marxist-Leninist lens. However, with the advent of independence, nationalism has reasserted itself in Armenian Studies. The problem is, Hewsen stated, it is "a nationalist interpretation of a distinctly outdated kind." He,

too, voiced the opinion that those bringing these attacks are a minority and the most effective weapon against them is greater exposure to each other's works and methods.

**DEBT TO SCHOLARS IN ARMENIA ACKNOWLEDGED**

Prof. Richard Hovannisian emphasized the positive, stressing "our great indebtedness" to scholarship in Armenia, including especially that done under the Soviets. Even when factoring in the ideological limitations under which these scholars worked, he noted that his own work had been made stronger through exposure to their work and their perspective.

The current controversy — one in which Hovannisian has been involved through his willingness to publish scholars with whom the hyper-nationalists disagree — comes from their "sense of being threatened." Thus, discussions about the national origins of the Armenian people take on a political urgency to those who feel that any scholar who does not adopt the view that the Armenians are indigenous to historic Armenia is undermining Armenian claims to justice. As others had before him, Hovannisian urged collaboration and discussion. "We should also encourage a new generation of Armenian scholars to study abroad — and not on Armenian subjects, but to study the broader issues of history," he said. "Broadening of perspective will bring us out of this seeming crisis."

**INTERACTION AND COLLABORATION ESSENTIAL**

Prof. Albert Stepanyan looked at the growth of Armenology and discussed the issue of collaboration in the future. Taking Armenian Studies to be "a scientific-information system aimed firstly at the investigation of Armenian (ethnic, group, individual) identity in its active relations with the outer world," Stepanyan saw its true starting point in the 5th century, when the alphabet was invented and writing in Armenian as we know it began. As for its future, "Armenology is to be outlined as a field of collective creative activity."

Stepanyan described the potential of the Internet for the future of Armenian Studies, allowing for easier and instant collaboration. He stressed the need for an "information bank ... with data about all centers of Armenology — their research themes, results, publications, fellows." Armenian scholars working in Armenia today do not interact sufficiently with their colleagues in the U.S. and Europe, he stated, because of the "protraction of transition from Marxism to other intellectual systems, insufficiency of coordination of Armenological studies, [and] poor equipment of research centers with new information technologies." He concluded that exchanges of knowledge and personnel are essential to the future of the field.

**COOPERATION WITH ARMENIA A MUST**

Prof. Robert Thomson took as his starting point the assumption that increased collaboration between Armenian Studies scholars in the West and in Armenia is necessary because "the very extent of the resources, human and material, in Armenia make it impossible for Armenian Studies to be pursued satisfactorily elsewhere without close ties to Armenia itself." He then proposed tangible ways in which these ties can be improved and strengthened.

On the undergraduate level, Thomson stressed in particular the need for total immersion in the Armenian milieu — which is much more possible since independence than in Soviet times. The same is true at the graduate level, but with the added importance of forming relationships with research centers and institutions in Armenia, which are more than willing to assist. The importance of collaboration with one's colleagues in Armenia at all levels — undergraduate, graduate, and professional — was emphasized by Thomson. "Collaboration and mutual understanding between Armenians in Armenia and their colleagues abroad is a vital part" of the process of advancing Armenian Studies worldwide.

**ARMENIA INTO MAINSTREAM OR VICE-VERSA?**

The next panel was "Integrating Armenian Studies with Other Disciplines," with David S. Calonne (Eastern Michigan University), Levon Chorbajian (University of Massachusetts, Lowell), Moorad Mooradian (Yerevan State University), Marc Nichanian (Columbia University), Michael E. Stone (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), and Bert Vaux (Harvard University). Simon Payaslian of Clark University served as chairman of the session.

Prof. David Calonne began on a lively note by stating that the panel's emphasis on "incorporating Armenian Studies into the mainstream of academic discourse" ... get[s] reality exactly backwards because what has undergone a sea change ... during the past twenty years is precisely American academic discourse itself." Because "the mainstream is no longer the mainstream, some of the issues pre-occupying many Armenian scholars in the past which appeared to be marginal — the diaspora, genocide, multiculturalism, the question of the assimilation into American life — these concerns are now at the very center of academic life."

As Calonne pointed out, though, it still remains for Armenian-American literary works to find a place in courses where they would be relevant and important. He gave a short list of texts that "are important not only for their aes-

Continued on p. 14



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter : Paramus, N.J.

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## NEW ENGLAND NEWS - NEW ENGLAND NEWS - NEW ENGLAND NEWS

## Major Conference on Armenian Studies Held at Harvard and NAASR Center - Continued from p. 13

thetic fitness, but they also help students see the ways Armenian-American writers were ahead of their time in defining many of the debates concerning multiculturalism which presently preoccupy us." It is vital for Armenian Studies programs "to reach out to students [and act] not as an isolated preserve but rather as a central way towards self-knowledge."

## ARMENIAN STUDIES PART OF LARGER DISCOURSE

Prof. Levon Chorbajian made a similar observation to Calonne's, noting the growth of area studies in the past several decades and the general increase in interest in non-Western cultures and civilizations. He attributed these to the twin — yet seemingly opposite — factors of the Cold War and the protest movement of the 1960s and 70s. The Cold War led to an increase in the attention paid to countries within the Soviet orbit, while the protest movement caused differences of race and ethnicity to be valued more highly; or, as Chorbajian put it, "being different was center stage."

As a sociologist, Chorbajian deals "with a lot of areas having to do with social change" and has found that there were aspects of his field that could be related to Armenian Studies because although the Armenian experience has unique characteristics, it has many similarities to other groups' experiences. He acknowledged the important role of *Anat* magazine and the Zoryan Institute for creating a forum for the kind of work he has pursued for some 30 years.

## ARMENIAN STUDIES NOT A SINGLE DISCIPLINE

Prof. Moorad Mooradian approached the question by redefining it as "Integrating Armenian Studies with the Traditional Academic Disciplines." He stressed that Armenian Studies is "not an academic discipline," per se, but rather a "field of study that broadly encompasses anything to do with the intellectual analyses of the Armenian nation." Armenian Studies, then, "is as old as antiquity," but as an American academic field it is relatively new.

The concept of integrating Armenian Studies with other disciplines would seem to be non-controversial, Mooradian continued, because the field involves scholars who exist in diverse environments, educated in philosophically different ways, and who are "not bound by rules associated with a single discipline." Furthermore, the field encompasses a relatively small number of scholars "who have wide-ranging, often opposing cultural and philosophical understandings" of the goals of Armenian Studies, "and in the instance of Armenian Studies it becomes a situation where the fewer the number of scholars the more obvious and intense will seem the controversies."

## FROM THE DIASPORA AND FOR THE DIASPORA

Prof. Marc Nichanian disdained the notion that Armenian Studies should or needed to embrace modern so-called "postmodern" theories. Rather, "the only interesting question is 'Can an Armenian [Studies] chair bring about the institutionalizing of modern thought and modern existence among Armenians?'" Emphasizing the diaspora, he observed that "while the chairs of Armenian Studies obviously pertain to the academic world and are answerable to it, they also pertain to a living and singular reality that bears the name of the Armenian diaspora, and they are answerable to it as well."

Discussing his work as a scholar and teacher, Nichanian emphasized the need to overcome the "crisis of reception" of Armenian literature of the 20th century outside of Armenian-language readers and his own efforts to create a space within which such a reception is possible. As a scholar reading from the diaspora for the diaspora, he expressed the opinion that the way to integrate Armenian Studies, as it were, was to find a "universal language beyond nationalism."

## REACHING OUT TO COLLEAGUES

Prof. Michael Stone, continuing the attempt to find a working definition of Armenian Studies, stated that "by its very nature — intellectual, disciplinary, geographical — Armenian Studies embraces a polarity. On the one hand, it could be seen as an independent field of study, yet on the other it can only be pursued as part of the greater context of humane studies." Because Armenian Studies encompasses — or is encompassed by — a number of other disciplines, and if "there is nothing essentially unique about Armenian history as history, then the same methods obtain for the study of Armenian history as for American history, Russian history," and so on.

For Stone, the key factor in raising the profile of and/or integrating Armenian Studies is to reach out to one's colleagues in related fields and get them to see the relevance of Armenian Studies to their work. This can be accomplished by maintaining "the highest possible standards" for one's self and students and to realize that Armenian culture was not created in a vacuum. Involving scholars whose primary focus is not Armenia will broaden the knowledge of Armenian culture, and this will trickle down to the students.

## GETTING OUT OF "THE GHETTO"

Prof. Bert Vaux stated at the outset of his talk that "Armenian Studies, as it currently stands, and Armenian affairs in general, is in a sort of ghetto." As a result of this state of affairs, the "larger question" is "what should the goals of Armenology and of the Armenian community be with regard to universities and their activities?"

Pointing out that, among the assembled group of scholars and audience members, there was only one person who was neither Armenian by birth nor a scholar of Armenian Studies, Vaux stressed the need to overcome the disregard for so-called "minor cultures" in academia. The greatest priority is getting knowledge of Armenian issues to non-Armenians — even basic information such as where Armenia is, the Armenian Genocide, the blockade by Turkey and Azerbaijan, and U.S. policy towards Armenia and the region. Likewise, it is essential to get non-Armenians involved in advancing Armenian issues because of the perceived bias of Armenians. With increased knowledge, the integration of Armenian Studies will logically follow.

## TALK BY AMBASSADOR KIRAKOSSIAN AT BANQUET

On Saturday evening, a banquet was held for the conference participants, guests, and members of the public at the Sheraton Commander Hotel in Cambridge. Following remarks by NAASR Board Chairman Nancy Kolligian and Prof. James Russell of Harvard, His Excellency Dr. Arman Kirakossian, Armenian Ambassador to the U.S., spoke on "Armenian Studies and Its Future."

Noting that "we the researchers are at least 10 years behind the times; we should have begun such deliberations immediately after Armenia regained its independence," Kirakossian nevertheless praised the initiative of the conference and its goals. Acknowledging that "the ideological divisions and battles have deeply affected Armenian Studies," he emphasized the critical role played by American scholars of Armenian Studies in the last half century. He traced the uneven development of Armenian Studies under Soviet rule, recognizing its substantial achievements and noting its outwardly imposed shortcomings. He expressed his regret over the "labeling and name-calling" that has gone on in recent times, pointing out its potential harmfulness not only in academic circles but also for "homeland-diaspora relations."

Picking up where the panel on "Relations Between Armenian Studies in the U.S. and Armenia" had left off, Ambassador Kirakossian, who is himself a historian, urged increased cooperation and collaboration between scholars and the formation of an international association of Armenian Studies. He stated, "Joint

research projects and publications, collaboration on translations, organization of general and specialized conferences and seminars in Armenia and abroad, exchange of information and publications ... will help dissipate the unhealthy climate of mutual accusations and recriminations."

## FINAL SESSION ON FUTURE OF ARMENIAN STUDIES

The final session was held on Sunday morning, October 6, at the NAASR Center in Belmont, MA, and dealt with "The Future of Armenian Studies." This panel featured S. Peter Cowe (University of California, Los Angeles), Dickran Kouymjian, Ina Baghdiantz McCabe (Tufts University), Simon Payaslian, James R. Russell, and Theo M. Van Lint (Oxford University). Dennis R. Papazian (University of Michigan, Dearborn) chaired the session.

Prof. S. Peter Cowe offered "a number of priorities, both practical and theoretical" for the future development of Armenian Studies, stressing the Three C's — "consolidation, communication, and collaboration." Noting that "the process [of establishing chairs at universities] has largely been uncoordinated and dependent on local initiatives," he observed that "a more planned approach would be of greater advantage and be more cost-effective." The establishment of research centers at schools with chairs would allow for increased collaboration and interdisciplinary work and aid "sub-disciplines" like musicology, folklore, and the like.

Cowe pointed to increased communication via the Internet but underlined the need to standardize the Armenian keyboard for font interface and create software to allow scanners to recognize Armenian script as text. Improved communication among Armenian organizations would eliminate the unnecessary duplication of labor. Collaboration is essential, because "Armenology is one discipline, in the final analysis, and hence it is incumbent upon us to learn from the past and shun artificial divisions or the witch-hunt for modern-day heresiarchs."

## SOME GOALS REACHED, OTHERS REMAIN

Prof. Dickran Kouymjian took a brief detour into the past before looking to the future by reading a portion of a paper he wrote 30 years ago on the future of Armenian Studies. Many of the measures he called for then have since been accomplished, but some of the important suggestions made at that time remain topics of discussion, and, indeed, formed the basis of the weekend's conference.

Kouymjian declared that "we must give up the idea of attracting masses of students to Armenian Studies courses ... As desirable as having large enrollments may seem, it would only be a possibility on the undergraduate level at institutions where there are large numbers of Armenians enrolled," and even then, as Prof. Hovhannesian had earlier pointed out, that does not translate into large numbers of graduate students. Although the chairs must continue to be supported, research centers with trained scholars should be the wave of the future, along with exploiting the vast potential of the Internet. The field is still in its infancy, he stressed, and great progress has been made; but future development depends on cooperation and collaboration both in the U.S. and abroad.

## IMPORTANCE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK

Prof. Ina Baghdiantz McCabe stated that "it is crucial for scholars and the diaspora to have good communication about what is happening in the field and what the chairs are and what they do" and that "it should be a source of great pride to have these chairs within some excellent universities." The diaspora has been and will continue to be a key element in Armenian Studies, she said, citing the long tradition of support of scholarship by the Armenian diaspora — not only in America, but worldwide.

Like many of her colleagues, she said, "I

see interdisciplinarity ... as one of the possible avenues" for expanding the field. In fact, since Armenian Studies has always been interdisciplinary by its nature, it "provide[s] a model for the study of history that's much closer to what every history department is now looking at." As the world becomes increasingly globalized, she added, "models that were reserved for diasporic people like the Armenians and the Jews are becoming much more interesting to other historians."

## THEORETICAL VIEW AND A WISH LIST

Prof. Simon Payaslian took a two-pronged approach, first addressing the absence of a theoretical/methodological approach to Armenian history and then presenting a "wish list" for the future. He observed that Armenian historiography has tended to be narrative rather than theoretical/methodological, but "there is a great need for the application of quantitative statistical methods for aggregate data analysis in Armenian history." Furthermore, "we don't really have the tradition of scholarly research in looking at long cycles" in Armenia's long history, and to date "there is no debate in the Armenian scholarly community on such issues."

Payaslian's "wish list" included in-depth scholarly work on such under-studied areas as the post-World War II repatriation to Soviet Armenia, relations between Armenian diasporan communities worldwide, the role of non-governmental organizations, gender and Armenian history, and "serious scholarly analysis" on the role of the Armenian church in modern times.

## A VISIONARY PRESENTATION

Prof. James Russell offered the counterpoint to a weekend of sometimes somber deliberations with a free-wheeling and hilarious mystical "vision" of the next century of Armenian Studies, including "the unearthing of an enormous Zoroastrian temple complex with monumental inscriptions in the pre-Mesrobian script," "submarine excavations of the submerged city of Argisht on the north shore of Lake Van," the elevation of Krapar (classical Armenian) to "the language of international diplomacy," and a NAASR conference in the year 2102 held on the moon. Russell's vision left the audience speechless, leaving session chairman Dennis Papazian to remark "he does have visitations from angels, so I know it must be true."

## DO NOT NEGLECT THE PAST

Prof. Theo van Lint emphasized the urgency of overcoming the notion of "remoteness" that some attach to Armenian Studies since "studying Armenian culture and the Armenian people gives you ... all human experience over at least 2,500 years, which is an enormous richness." The situation is improving, but Armenia must be placed on the "mental map" of people who are now largely or entirely ignorant of its rich heritage.

Himself a scholar of medieval Armenian culture, van Lint said "the Armenian community could benefit from the idea that the Armenian experience is more than post-genocide trauma." He spoke strongly of the importance of classical and middle Armenian studies, which he feels "is eminently important for the preservation of the Armenian cultural heritage. It would be an enormous mistake to forget 1,800 years of Armenian Studies."

## PAPERS TO BE PUBLISHED

All of the panels throughout the weekend featured lively discussions and question-and-answer periods with the audience. The papers from the conference will be published by NAASR in 2003, most likely as a double issue of its *Journal of Armenian Studies*.

More information about the conference or NAASR and its programs for the furtherance of Armenian studies, research, and publication may be had by calling 617-489-1610, faxing 617-484-1759, e-mailing [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org), or writing to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478.



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE: January 27, 2003

SUBJECT: Armenian Studies hold Annual Film Festival

PAGE: 1 of 1

**CSUF ASP Plans  
Armenian Film  
Festival, March 14**

FRESNO - The Armenian Students Organization is planning its Fourth Annual Armenian Film Festival on March 14. The Film Festival is funded in part by the Diversity Awareness Program of the University Student Union.

Short films of an Armenian subject, or short films directed/produced by Armenians are eligible for the Film Festival.

Interested applicants should contact Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program, email [barlowd@csufresno.edu](mailto:barlowd@csufresno.edu) or call 559-278-4930. Videos may be submitted to the Armenian Studies Program, 5245 N Backer Ave PB4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CADATE: January 27, 2003SUBJECT: Dr. Merguerian Lectures at Bullard High SchoolPAGE: 1 of 1

## High School Students in Fresno Attend Armenian Genocide Assembly

FRESNO - On the morning of December 5, several hundred students at Bullard High School in Fresno attended a special assembly dedicated to the Armenian Genocide. It was the first time such a formal program had been held at the school.

Dr. Barbara J. Merguerian, Henry S. Khandazian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, during the fall semester, spoke about the lessons of the Armenian genocide to the students, most of whom were in social studies classes where they were learning about the events of World War I.

John Chookasian, special education teacher at the school, chaired the assembly and described the harrowing events experienced by his family members during the Genocide. He also provided students with an example of Armenian culture by playing a selection on the duduk. Chookasian directs the Chookasian Concert Ensemble, which specializes in Armenian folk music. Students entered the assembly to the music of the Ensemble's CD's "Echoes of the Past" and "Avantagan."

The program also included parts of the video "The Armenian Genocide," prepared by filmmaker J. Michael Hagopian specifically for schoolroom use.

"I wish that more programs of this kind could be offered to students, so that they could better understand the events of World War I and the Armenian Geno-

cide," Dr. Merguerian asserted after the program. "It's important for students to recognize in society the danger signals that might lead to genocide, and to learn from the lessons of history."

She also thanked the teachers and administration at Bullard High School for their cooperation in making the assembly possible.

The assembly came about after Chookasian approached the school's Political Science department, suggesting that they organize a formal "Armenian Genocide Assembly" in conjunction with their World War I studies.

The department agreed to the plan, which was supported by Bullard High School teachers and staff members, including principal Tim Belcher, vice-principal Daniel Robinson, activities director Laurie Momjian, and Social Studies teacher Mark Stevens. In order to accommodate all the Social Studies students, as well as other interested pupils, two Genocide assemblies were held, one after the other.

Comprehensive packets about the Armenian Genocide, with articles, maps, and pictures, were prepared by Chookasian for all of the social studies students. The packets included copies of the California State Board of Education approved "Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide. Additional material was provided to teachers.

Subsequent to the program, a large number of students approached Dr. Merguerian and Chookasian to express their thanks and appreciation for this opportunity to learn more about this significant event in modern history.

**ARCHIVE**

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE: January 27, 2003

SUBJECT: Der Mugrdechian attends SAS Conference

PAGE: 1 of 1

**SAS Holds Annual Meeting in Washington, DC**

WASHINGTON, DC - The Society of Armenian Studies (SAS) held its annual membership meeting on Nov. 23, in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the Annual Conference of the Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA). Founded in 1974, SAS is an international organization that represents more than 200 scholars and teachers involved in the field of Armenian studies. The Secretariat of the Society is headquartered at the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

SAS President Barlow Der Mugrdechian welcomed members to the meeting.

Der Mugrdechian announced the election of George Bournoutian of Iona College and Simon Payaslian of Clark University to the Executive Council, joining continuing members, Hourri Berberian (CSU Long Beach), Levon Chorbajian (Univ. of Massachusetts, Lowell), Der Mugrdechian (CSU Fresno), Christina Maranci (University of Wisconsin, Madison) and Garabet Moumdjian (CSU Northridge). Der Mugrdechian thanked outgoing members of the Executive Council, Richard Hovannissian (UCLA) and Robert Hewsen (Rowan University of New Jersey, Emeritus), for their service to the Society.

The Executive Council also announced the appointment of John Greppin (Cleveland State University) as the new editor of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*.

In addition to the business meeting of the Society, a number of panels and papers with Armenian themes were presented during the three-day MESA meeting. On Nov. 24, there was a panel "Confronting Past and Future: the Armenian Case." Prof. Hovannissian, of UCLA chaired the panel, which included papers from: Richard G. Hovannissian, UCLA, "Armenian Memories of Life and Conflict in the Ottoman Empire;" Rubina Peroomian, UCLA, "The Challenges of the New Century to Capture the Genocide in Art and to Encompass the Echoes of the Surviving People's Collective Psyche;" Joyce Apsel, New York University, "Human Rights and the Internet: Pedagogical Challenges;" Henry Theriault, Worcester State College, "Denial, Absolute Positivism, and a Response from Ibn Khaldun;" Dikran M. Kaligian, Boston College, "The Role of the American Media in the Armenia Case."

Immediately following was a panel on "Sacred and Secular in Dialogue Under the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia (13th-14th centuries)" chaired by Robert H. Hewsen, Rowan University (Emeritus).



Left to right: Dikran Kaligian, Rubina Peroomian, Joyce Apsel, Henry Theriault, Richard Hovannissian after the panel "Confronting Past and Future: the Armenian Case."

Levon Avdoyan, Armenian and Georgian Area Specialist at the Library of Congress, convened and moderated a special meeting of its Armenian Seminar on Nov. 25 to discuss "Armenian American Relations Through the Three Republics." Brief presentations were given by IREX scholar in residence at LOC, Armenuhi Ghambaryan (Institute of History, Erevan) on the First Republic; Robert Hewsen (Rowan College, Emeritus) read Robert Krikorian's (Harvard University) presentation on relations during the Soviet period; Armen Yedigarian (First Councilor, Armenian Embassy,) spoke on contemporary relations from the Armenian government's perspective; Aram Hamparian (Armenian National Committee of America) and Bryan Ardouny (Armenian Assembly of America, Inc.), discussed actions and concerns of Armenian Americans and their respective institutions; Rita Balian (President of the Armenian Educational Council) described and commented on grassroots efforts in Armenia

since independence; and former ambassadors Harry Gilmore and Michael Lemmon offered their perspective. The floor was opened to the 35 attendees from academia, governmental agencies and other associations in the Washington area that resulted in a wide-ranging discussion and sharing of ideas.

Among other papers presented at the conference were those by: Hovann H. Simonian, USC, "The Hemshin of Northeast Turkey: Muslim Armenians or Armenian-Speaking Turks?;" R. Hrair Dekmejian, USC, "Al-Qa'ida: Doctrinal and Historical Roots;" Anny Bakalian, CUNY, "Ethnic Mobilization: Middle Eastern Organizational Response to the Backlash;" Paul J. Kaldjian, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, "'Wearisome' or 'Indispensable': Istanbul's Neighborhood Bazaars, Place and Food Security;" and Elyse Semerdjian, Georgetown University, "Converting Identity: The Armenian and Greek Orthodox Minorities in Ottoman Aleppo."

Varkes and Rita Balian of Crystal Grove, Virginia, invited SAS members for a reception in their home following the SAS annual meeting. The guests were warmly received and enjoyed the hospitality of the hosts, who are very active in the Armenian community.

On the evening of Nov. 24, Armenian Ambassador to the US, Arman Kirakossian welcomed SAS members and community members to a reception held at the Embassy.

The short film "Hokees" by Garine Torossian of Canada was a featured film in the MESA Film Fest.

All meetings and panels were held in the conference hotel, the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, in Washington.



## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB 4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

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### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: First Armenian Presbyterian Church : Fresno, CA

DATE: February 2003

SUBJECT: Amb. Kirakossian keynote speaker at Annual Banquet

PAGE: 1 of 1

### For your Information

H.E. Arman Kirakossian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States, will keynote the 17th Annual Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno. Ambassador Kirakossian will speak on the topic, "Current Developments in Armenia, Armenian Foreign Policy, and U.S.-Armenian Relations." The Banquet, marking the Silver Anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program, will begin with a reception at 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 9, 2003, in the CSUF Residence Dining Facility. Reservations information is available from the ASP Offices, (559) 278-2699.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE: January 27, 2003

SUBJECT: Amb. Kirakossian keynote speaker at Annual Banquet

PAGE: 1 of 1

## Ambassador Kirakossian Will Keynote Feb. 9 ASP Annual Banquet in Fresno

FRESNO – Armenian Ambassador to the US, Arman Kirakossian will be the keynote speaker at the Armenian Studies Program 17th Annual Banquet to be held on Feb. 9, in the Residence Dining Facility on the campus of California State University, Fresno.

The banquet will also celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program.

Ambassador Kirakossian will speak on the topic of "Current Developments in Armenia, Armenian Foreign Policy, and U.S.-Armenian Relations."

Dr. Kirakossian was appointed Armenia's envoy to the US in 1999. Prior to assuming this position, Dr. Kirakossian served as Armenia's Ambassador to Greece from July 1994 to

See ASP Banquet...on Page 2

## ASP Banquet...

Continued From Page 1

October 1999. In March 1999, he also assumed the duties of the Dean of Diplomatic Corps in Athens, Greece.

Before embarking on a diplomatic career at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Kirakossian held several high-level academic positions at the Armenian National Academy of Sciences. He was Associate Director of the Armenian Diaspora Studies Department, 1990-1991 and served on Advisory Panel on Science and International Relations of the Armenian Government from 1986 to 1990. He received a Bachelor's Degree in History and Geography in 1977 and a Master's degree in History of Armenia and International Diplomacy in 1980 from the Armenian State Pedagogical University. In November 1999, he earned the degree of Doctor of Sciences in History. Dr. Kirakossian is the author of several books and more than 100 scientific publications. In addition to his native Armenian, Ambassador Kirakossian is fluent in English and Russian. He is married to Susanna Nazarian and has a son, Aram.

The Armenian Studies Program at CSUF was established in 1976-77 when Dr. Dickran Kouymjian was invited from Paris as Professor of Armenian Studies and Coordinator of the Program. Armenian courses, especially in history, had been initiated by Dr. Louise Nalbandian, who in turn invited Dr. Aram Avakian to offer courses in Armenian culture and coordinate the program. Her tragic death in a traffic accident in 1974 eventually led CSUF to establish a regular program with systematic offerings leading to a minor in Armenian Studies.

The Program houses two endowed positions, the Haig & Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies, held by Prof. Kouymjian, and the Henry Khazadian Kazan Visiting Professor

of Armenian Studies. Barlow Der Mugrdchian and Dickran Kouymjian constitute the core faculty of the Program along with the annual Kazan Visiting Professor, and the permanent Administrative Assistant is Frances Ziegler. The Armenian Students Organization provides students an avenue for organizing activities for students on campus.

The Program administers about a dozen endowments for student scholarships and Program activities, including the recently funded Victorian Kazan Armenian Studies Endowment. Annually it offers tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships from these funds. It also sponsors an important website devoted to Armenian art and its various activities and a Lecture Series which brings a variety of speakers to campus. The Armenian Studies Program currently houses the headquarters of the Society for Armenian Studies and publishes its Newsletter and Journal. Its next goal is to establish a facility for its archives, including the massive art collection of painter-sculptor Varaz Samuelian.

Student recipients of 2002-2003 scholarships and grants will also be recognized at the Banquet, which begins with a reception 4 p.m., followed by dinner and the program at 5 p.m.

Tickets are available at \$50 per person, with a special price of \$15 for Fresno State students.

For more information about the Banquet, contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.

**ARCHIVE**SOURCE: University Journal : Fresno, CADATE: February 2003SUBJECT: Amb. Kirakossian keynote speaker at Annual BanquetPAGE: 1 of 1**Ambassador to speak**

Arman Kirakossian, Ambassador of Armenia to the United States, will be the keynote speaker at the Armenian Studies Program Annual Banquet on Feb. 9 in the Residence Dining Facility. The event, which also celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, will begin with a reception at 4 p.m. followed by dinner and the program at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and \$15 for Fresno State students. Kirakossian will speak on "Current Developments in Armenia, Armenian Foreign Policy and U.S.-Armenian Relations." Student recipients of scholarships and grants will be recognized.

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## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee : Fresno, CA

DATE: February 3, 2003

SUBJECT: Dr. Arra Avakian Donates Library to Fresno State

PAGE: 1 of 2

# Gifts for Posterity



PHOTOS BY ERIC PAUL ZAMORA — THE FRESNO BEE

**TOP:** Arra Avakian, retired professor of Armenian studies at California State University, Fresno, holds a gold-edged Armenian primer he purchased for \$12 in Bucharest, Romania. **ABOVE:** Avakian has donated 60 boxes of literature — about 3,000 books and pamphlets in Armenian history, culture, language and religion — to the Henry Madden Library and the Armenian studies program at Fresno State.

## *Retired professor gives his collection of Armenian literature to Fresno State.*

BY JIM STEINBERG  
THE FRESNO BEE

**A**rra Avakian speaks of his books and the love of learning.

He loves reading, books, Armenian history and culture, and students he met before he retired as a professor of Armenian studies at California State University, Fresno.

So he donated about 3,000 books and pamphlets in Armenian history, culture, language and religion to the Henry Madden Library and the Armenian studies program on campus.

The Madden library is working to catalog the \$40,000 gift, which includes a 19th-century missal (a book of Catholic prayers and readings) and an Armenian-Latin dictionary printed in Constantinople.

Avakian, 90, began his collection after completing his work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where in 1935 he earned his doctor of science degree in the fields of mathematics and physics. The Ottoman Turkish massacres of Armenians had ended less than two decades earlier.

His collection grew through his

careers in engineering and scientific research and as director of eastern operations for the Aerospace Corp. in Washington, which worked with the U.S. Air Force. He continued to expand his collection as he moved into teaching mathematics, Armenian history, culture, art and religion. He picked up books from friends and from second-hand shops during his travel in Europe. He continued to add books when he arrived at Fresno State in 1970.

"He would buy any book he ran  
Please see BOOKS, Page B2



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee : Fresno, CADATE: February 3, 2003SUBJECT: Dr. Arra Avakian Donates Library to Fresno StatePAGE: 2 of 2

## Books: Items collected over several decades

**Continued from Page B1**

across," says his wife, Georgia Avakian, a former teacher and retired employee of the Internal Revenue Service in Fresno.

Love is the word that Marcie Morrison, director of development at the Madden Library, used to describe the connection between Avakian and the books.

"I think it is wonderful when people who are scholars and have a passion for a particular area of interest and research are able share that with the wider community," she said. "They help bring other people the excitement and passion they developed."

Collectors often know more than anyone else about their area of interest, Morrison said. For Avakian to donate his collection to Fresno State's library serves to extend his knowledge to many more people.

"So many Armenian people live in California," she said. "This is a wonderful place to have this collection."

Rare items, particularly valuable books and those requiring special care will reside with the library's special collections, Morrison said. The remainder will be accessible with the main body of library materials.

The Avakians decided it was the right time to donate the books because they are preparing to move from their Fresno home.

"It seemed altogether natural to place the collection at Fresno State," Avakian said of the Madden library. "First, I taught there. Second, I had a very warm relationship with Henry Madden. Third, they needed it."

And a fourth: "I am morally attached to the idea that young Armenian-Americans will be enriched by knowing their heritage," Avakian said. "That has been my own attitude. It makes you happier. Anyone feels good when he recognizes in himself who he is."

► The reporter can be reached at [jsteinberg@fresnobee.com](mailto:jsteinberg@fresnobee.com) or 441-6311.



## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA

DATE: February 5, 2003

SUBJECT: Dr. Levon Chookaszian to Speak

PAGE: 1 of 1

### **Dr. L. Chookaszian to Speak in Fresno February 10**

FRESNO - "The Art of Medieval Armenia and the Balkans" is the topic of Dr. Levon Chookaszian, Chair of the Department of Art History at Yerevan State University on Monday, Feb 10 2003 at 7:30pm at the Haig Berberian Hall, St. Paul Armenian Church.

The event is sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, CSU Fresno and St. Paul Armenian Church.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee : Fresno, CA

DATE: February 10, 2003

SUBJECT: Amb. Kirakossian Keynote Speaker at Annual Banquet

PAGE: 1 of 2

# Envoy upbeat about progress in Armenia

BY MARC BENJAMIN  
THE FRESNO BEE

Twenty-five years ago, at the dawn of Fresno State's Armenian studies program, a Soviet-Armenian diplomat, John Kirakossian, was welcomed here.

To mark the Armenian studies program's 25th anniversary Sunday, Kirakossian's son, H.E. Arman Kirakossian, author, historian and Armenia's ambassador to the United States, gave a gathering of 200 at the university a progress report on democracy and the economy in the new Republic of Armenia.

It was his first visit to Fresno, and in starting his 30-minute presentation at California State University, Fresno, Arman Kirakossian

called this city a "cultural and intellectual center" for Armenians.

"I still remember how impressed [my father] was coming here," he said.

Then he spoke of his homeland. Democracy remains "fragile" in Armenia, he said, but the economic mood is upbeat.

In 2002, Armenia's gross domestic product grew by 12.5% and the country showed a 50% rise in exports, a 16% growth in industrial production and a 42% growth in construction, Kirakossian reported.

In one sector, he said, jewelry production grew by 200% as diamond-polishing companies exported \$150 million worth of stones. Foreign investment in Armenia grew by 12%.

Major privatization projects  
Please see ARMENIA, Page B2



DARRELL WONG — THE FRESNO BEE  
H.E. Arman Kirakossian, Armenia's ambassador to the United States, shakes hands Sunday with Arshalous Avedissian. The author and historian spoke at Fresno State to mark the 25th anniversary of the university's Armenian studies program.

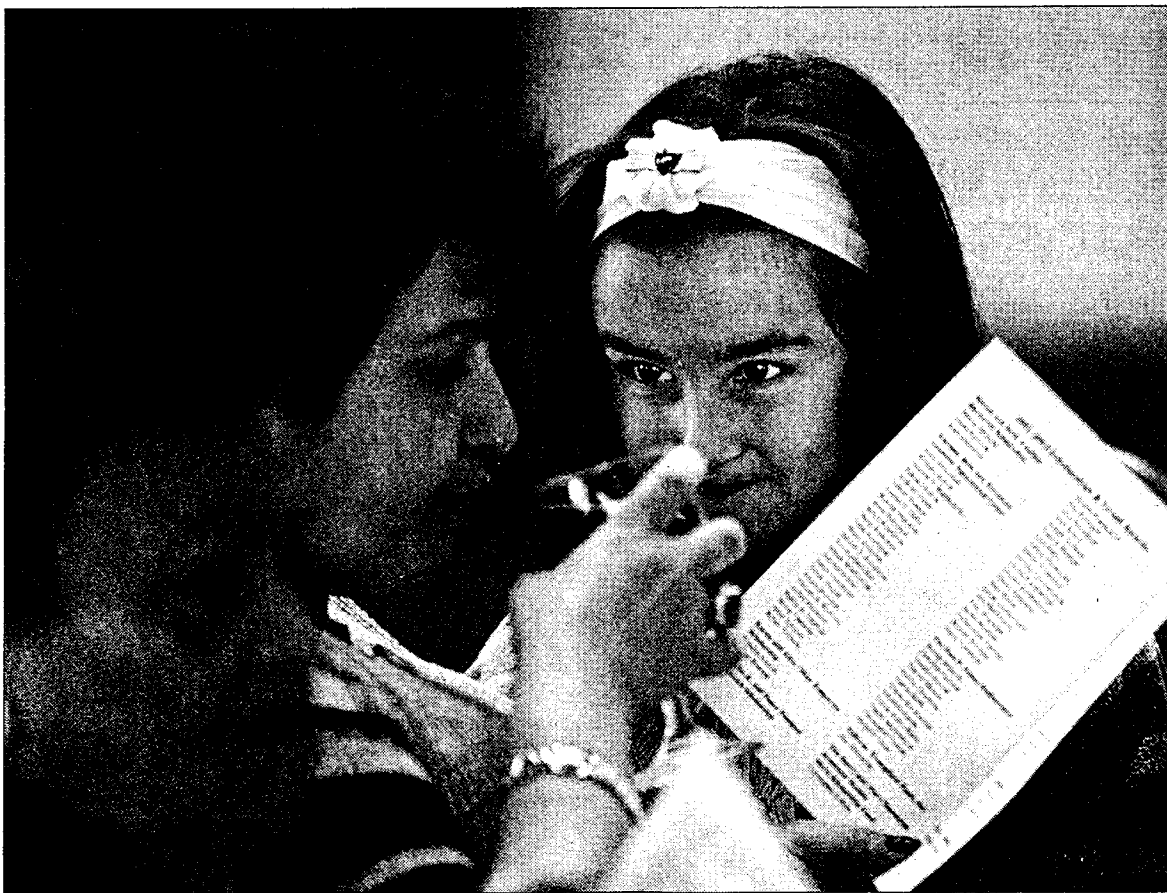
Juan Esparza Loera's column will return.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee : Fresno, CADATE: February 10, 2003SUBJECT: Amb. Kirakossian Keynote Speaker at Annual BanquetPAGE: 2 of 2

# Armenia: Ambassador speaks at Fresno State



DARRELL WONG — THE FRESNO BEE

Magy Avedissian, 5, watches her mother, Margarita Avedissian, take a sip of wine Sunday while she reads a program for the Armenian Studies Program banquet at Fresno State. Armenia's ambassador to the United States spoke to the gathering of 200 people.

**Continued from Page B1**

were started, including an electricity distribution network, which is now managed by Daewoo Engineering. He also cited leasing of Zvartnots International Airport and the "property for debt" deal with the Russian government as successful examples of engaging foreign business in Armenia's economy.

The United States is Armenia's fifth-largest trading partner with exports equaling \$25.5 million from January to October 2002. The Armenian-American Chamber of Commerce organized an exhibit of Armenian products in Glendale during September with more than 70 participants, he said, nearly doubling from the first exhibit in 2001. California also passed legislation to open a California Regional Trade Office in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

But Armenia's democratic values will be tested Feb. 19 when citizens go to the polls and elect one of eight candidates as president.

"Armenia's general direction in the past three years has been positive," Kirakossian said, referring to life after the October 1999 assassinations in the country's parliament.

And because of his country's economic growth, he is optimistic.

"Economic growth and political stability go hand in hand," Kirakossian said.

► The reporter can be reached at [mbejamin@fresnobee.com](mailto:mbejamin@fresnobee.com) or 441-6166.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier : Glendale, CADATE: February 6, 2003SUBJECT: Dr. Chookaszian Gives LecturePAGE: 1 of 1

## Dr. Levon Chookaszian to Speak In Fresno on Armenian Art

FRESNO - Dr. Levon Chookaszian, Chair of the Department of Art History at Yerevan State University, will present an illustrated lecture on "The Art of Medieval Armenia and the Balkans" at 7:30 PM on Feb. 10, in the Haig Berberian Hall of St. Paul Armenian Church. The lecture is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno and St. Paul Armenian Church.

Professor Chookaszian, whose field of specialization is manuscripts and manuscript illumination, is responsible for the reopening of the Chair of Armenian Art at Yerevan State University in 1996.

Dr. Chookaszian is the author of numerous articles and reviews for scholarly journals and

newspapers, as well as numerous entries for encyclopedias. He has traveled frequently to the United States lecturing on Armenian art. He is an expert on Armenian illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages and has recently completed a monograph on Toros Roslin (13th century), the outstanding painter of Medieval Armenia.

Dr. Chookaszian has been a Senior Fellow and Professor of Armenian Art at the Center for Armenian Studies at Yerevan State University and is a member of the National Committee of UNESCO in Armenia.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

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

**ARCHIVE**SOURCE: The California Courier : Glendale, CADATE: February 13, 2003SUBJECT: Dr. Kouymjian Teaches Armenian Film ClassPAGE: 1 of 1

## CSUF Offers Workshop on Armenian Film

FRESNO - The Division of Extended Education at California State University, Fresno is offering a workshop on "Armenian Film." In this workshop, the Armenian experience will be discussed through films by William Saroyan, Rouben Mamoulian, Atom Egoyan, and Sergey Paradjanov.

The class will be held on three Fridays and three Saturdays: Feb. 18, March 7 & 14, from 4 to 10 p.m., and March 1, 8, & 15

from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The course will be held in the Conley Art Building, Room 101 (except on March 15 when it will be held in Room 101 of the Peters Business Building).

The instructor is Prof. Dickran Kouymjian. The fee for the course is \$25 non-credit.

For information and registration forms, contact the school at (559) 278-0333. Pre-registration is recommended.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier : Glendale, CADATE: February 20, 2003SUBJECT: Armenian Tree Project Featured at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 2

## **Presentations in Glendale, Fresno To Feature 'Greening of Armenia'**

WATERTOWN, MA - The Armenia Tree Project (ATP), the Massachusetts-Yerevan-based organization working to regenerate Armenia's forest cover through environmental and eco-

nomie initiatives, is featured at two public discussions in Glendale and Fresno this month.

ATP's Executive Director Jeff Masarjian hopes that "concerned citizens who want to learn more about linking environmental restoration to reducing poverty will bring their questions, expertise and experience to these gatherings." The first event is scheduled in Glendale on February 23, followed by a program in Fresno on February 25.

At both events, Masarjian will report on the various forces that have eroded both forests and family incomes in the past decade. In response, ATP is augmenting its 9-year-old tree-planting program (300,000 fruit and shade trees to date planted at hospitals, schools and orphanages) with more direct, income-producing programs.

ATP launched a pioneering, multifaceted program in the village of Aygut in Gegharkunik Marz last fall. The serious depletion of forest resources

See ATP...on Page 2

**ARCHIVE****SOURCE:** The California Courier : Glendale, CA**DATE:** February 20, 2003**SUBJECT:** Armenian Tree Project Featured at Fresno State**PAGE:** 2 of 2

# ATP...

**Continued From Page 1**

surrounding Aygut is in part due to the region's deep poverty. He will also screen ATP's new four-minute video, "The Greening of Armenia."

Audiences will learn how even the Aygut children are involved in their village's recovery, which will incorporate environmental education, backyard food crops, fruit orchards and tree nurseries.

Masarjian is visiting California to keep the Diaspora informed and involved. He says, "I am especially looking forward to discussing these issues with citizens of Glendale and Fresno, whose high levels of interest, activism and farming backgrounds make their input invaluable for a secure, healthy, independent Armenia."

At both events Masarjian will update audiences on the severe agricultural losses (primarily vineyards and orchards) predicted from this winter's record-setting sub-zero temperatures.

The February 23 event will be held from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Glendale Central Public Library Auditorium, 222 E. Harvard Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; validated parking across the street.

The Fresno event will be held Feb. 25 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at CSUF, hosted by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Student Association in the Alice Peters Auditorium, University Business Center. A reception will follow the event. For more information, call: (559) 278-2669.

Admission is free at both events.

**E-mail your Comments  
to:  
ccourier@compuserve.com**



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror Spectator : Watertown MADATE: February 22, 2003SUBJECT: Armenian Tree Project Featured at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 2

## Glendale/Fresno To Consider Environmental Improvements to Help Armenia

WATERTOWN, Mass. — The Armenia Tree Project (ATP), the Massachusetts/Yerevan-based organization working to regenerate Armenia's forest cover through environmental and economic initiatives, is featured at two public discussions in Glendale and Fresno later this month.

ATP's Executive Director Jeff Masarjian hopes that "concerned citizens who want to learn more about linking environmental restoration to reducing poverty will bring their questions, expertise and experience to these gatherings." The first event is scheduled in Glendale on Sunday, February 23, followed by a program in Fresno on Tuesday, February 25. At both events, Masarjian will report on the various forces that have eroded both forests and family incomes in the past decade. In response, ATP is augmenting its nine-year-old tree-planting program (300,000 fruit and shade trees to date planted at hospitals, schools and orphanages) with more direct, income-producing programs.

ATP launched a pioneering, multifaceted program in the village of Aygut in Gegharkunik Province last fall. The serious depletion of forest resources surrounding Aygut is in part due to the region's deep poverty. Now, tree loss has deepened their problems, creating severe soil erosion and landslides, which have in turn destroyed roads and homes.

Audiences will learn how even the Aygut children are involved in their village's recovery, which will incorporate environmental education, backyard food crops, fruit orchards and tree nurseries. It appears that ATP has landed on fertile ground: a report from Aygut's February 4 community meeting proudly declared: "No other village in Armenia has such

a project! All families will be active agents in the greening of Armenia. Aygut, whose name means "garden," will, we foresee, develop into a real garden and encourage other villages to take good care of the environment."

If successful, Masarjian hopes to replicate ATP's Aygut program in other villages throughout the critical watershed region of Lake Sevan.

Masarjian believes that "Armenia's problems are too big for any one organization to go it alone. Natural resource management must be linked to economic development and job creation, because resources will continue to be depleted so long as other avenues of generating income or energy are closed off. That's why we established a coalition of Diasporan organizations and international aid agencies whose common goal is to increase forest cover from 8 percent to 10 percent a minimally adequate level in 50 years." The Coalition has already met with success, helping to orchestrate a ban on the cutting and sale of Armenian Christmas trees (a typical loss of 50-100,000 trees/year) and all mature trees and firewood from Karabagh.

Masarjian is visiting California to keep the Diaspora informed and involved. He says, "I am especially looking forward to discussing these issues with citizens of Glendale and Fresno, whose high levels of interest, activism and farming backgrounds make their input invaluable.

see TREES, page 7

**"No other village in  
Armenia has such a  
project! All families will  
be active agents in the  
greening of Armenia."**

**ARCHIVE****SOURCE:** The Armenian Mirror Spectator : Watertown MA**DATE:** February 22, 2003**SUBJECT:** Armenian Tree Project Featured at Fresno State**PAGE:** 2 of 2

## **Environmental Improvements To Help Armenia**

TREES, from page 5

The hope is that these early discussions will germinate others and provide ongoing feedback. To be effective, we need to develop a high level of communication and collaboration among supporters of all environmental and social programs working to create a secure, healthy, independent Armenia."

At both events Masarjian will update audiences on the severe agricultural losses (primarily vineyards and orchards) predicted from this winter's record-setting sub-zero temperatures. He will also screen ATP's new four-minute video, "The Greening of Armenia".

To learn more about ATP, visit their website [www.armeniatree.org](http://www.armeniatree.org). The Armenia Tree Project, a fiscally autonomous program of the Armenian Assembly of America, has a full-time staff of 53, 47 of whom are in Armenia.

Admission to both events is free and the public is welcome. The February 23, program will be 1-3 p.m., Glendale Central Public Library Auditorium, 222 E. Harvard Street, 2nd floor.

The event on Tuesday, February 25, will be 7:30-8:30 p.m., hosted by Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Student Association. Alice Peters Auditorium, University Business Center, California State University, Fresno.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Reporter : Paramus, N.J.

DATE: February 22, 2003

SUBJECT: Amb. Kirakossian Keynote Speaker at Annual Banquet

PAGE: 1 of 1

## Ambassador Kirakossian Addresses 25<sup>th</sup>-Anniversary Celebration of Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program

FRESNO - On February 9, 2003, Armenian Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Arman Kirakossian, and Consul General Valeri Mkrtyumian visited Fresno, California for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

Prior to attending the Fresno State event, Ambassador Kirakossian and Mr. Mkrtyumian toured the Armenian sites in Fresno, including the old Armenian district, "David of Sasun" monument, William Saroyan Theater, and memorials to Soghomon Tehlirian and Monte Melkonian, as well as the tomb of William Saroyan in the Ararat Cemetery of Fresno.

The Armenian Studies Program at California State University-Fresno, established in 1977, is one of the prominent academic centers of Armenian Studies in the United States. The program of the 25th anniversary included welcome remarks by the Honorable Chuck Poochigian, California State Senator, Dr. John Welty, President of Fresno State, and Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Chair of Armenian Studies Program, as well as presentation of Armenian Studies scholarship recipients by Dr. Barlow Der Mgrdechian.

Ambassador Kirakossian delivered his keynote presentation on recent developments in Armenia, Armenia's foreign policy and regional security issues. He began by acknowledging the prominent status of Fresno's Armenian community as one of the oldest and most well-established

Armenian communities in the United States. Noting that Fresno was also an important Armenian cultural and educational center, he recalled a personal connection to Fresno and the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State: twenty-five years ago, then-Soviet Armenia's Foreign Minister John Kirakossian, Ambassador Kirakossian's father, visited Fresno and brought home memories of a vibrant community and cultural center.

Ambassador Kirakossian noted the economic and political progress in Armenia, with rise in exports, economic growth, and stability in domestic politics.

He then expressed hope that the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections would further contribute to the democratic process and stability in Armenia. Despite many challenges in the social sector, a stable economic and political environment has allowed Armenia to conduct a responsible foreign policy, Ambassador Kirakossian noted.

While assuring that international recognition of the Armenian Genocide remained on the agenda of the

Armenian government, the Ambassador said Armenia was ready to establish interstate relations with Turkey. Armenia's position on the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict settlement had not changed, he noted, with emphasis on a peaceful and just settlement, but the negotiations process would resume after the electoral season was over in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Ambassador Kirakossian noted the growing U.S.-Armenia relations, especially in the new areas of military and security cooperation, which complemented the hitherto dominant political and economic bilateral agenda.

Congratulating the Armenian Studies Program on its anniversary, Ambassador Kirakossian stressed the importance of cooperation and scientific collaboration between Armenian Studies scholars in Armenia and Diaspora.

Noting his background as an Armenian Studies historian, Dr. Kirakossian promised assistance in strengthening such cooperation and helping establish a tradition for healthy scholarly debate in Armenian Studies.

**ARCHIVE**SOURCE: Nor Gyank : Glendale, CADATE: February 20, 2003SUBJECT: Dr. Arra Avakian Donates Library to Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 1**PROFESSOR OF  
CALIFORNIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY DONATES  
3,000 ARMENIA-  
RELATED BOOKS  
FRESNO LIBRARY**

Professor of California State University Ara Avakian donated about 3,000 books and pamphlets in Armenian history, culture, language and religion to the Henry Madden Library and the Armenian studies program on campus. The Madden library is working to catalog the \$40,000 gift, which includes a 19th-century missal (a book of Catholic prayers and readings) and an Armenian-Latin dictionary printed in Constantinople.

Avakian, 90, began his collection after completing his work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where in 1935 he earned his doctor of science degree in the fields of mathematics and physics.

Collectors often know more than anyone else about their area of interest, Marcie Morrison, director of development at the Madden Library said. For Avakian to donate his collection to Fresno State's library serves to extend his knowledge to many more people.

**ARCHIVE**

 SOURCE: California State University Journal; Fresno, CA

 DATE: March 2003

 SUBJECT: Dr. Arra Avakian Donates Library to Fresno State

 PAGE: 1 of 1


*Dr. Arra S. Avakian displays some of his Armenian books in his home before they were donated to the Madden Library.*

## Avakian donates Armenian books

Dr. Arra S. Avakian, a retired professor of Armenian Studies, has donated his extensive personal library of Armenian materials to the university's Henry Madden Library.

The collection includes an estimated 3,000 books and pamphlets appraised at tens of thousands of dollars.

Dean of Library Services Michael Gorman said the acquisition is an important addition to the Madden Library.

"This is a historic Armenian community and our collections reflect that. Further, we have one of the few Armenian Studies departments in the country and the Library should reflect that," Gorman said.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, who is the Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State, called Avakian's library "specialized and valuable to Armenian studies."

About 60 percent of the books are in English and the others in Armenian. English-language materials will be cataloged and integrated with current Madden Library holdings. Rare or valuable items will be housed in the library's Special Collections. To catalog the Armenian-language works, a cataloger who can read Armenian to transliterate the title pages must be hired. Funds will be sought for that position.

The collection includes a 19th century missal from Venice, an Armenian-Latin dictionary printed in Constantinople and a copy of the first English edition of "The Forty Days of Musa Dagh."

Avakian had a career in scientific research and engineering, especially in aerospace technology, before coming to Fresno State in 1970. He has been deeply involved in Armenian community life and the study of Armenian culture for many years. He is the author of "Armenian Journey Through History," "Armenians in America," "Manual for Choirmasters" and "The Eaglet," a historical novel, plus 10 translations of books from Armenian into English.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Gyank: Glandale, CADATE: March 13, 2003SUBJECT: Dr. Kouymjian Lectures at Sonoma StatePAGE: 1 of 2**ARMENIAN GENOCIDE  
SUBJECT OF LECTURE**

Genocide in Armenia is the subject of a lecture by noted scholar Dr. Dickran Kouymjian at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11 in Warren Auditorium at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, Calif. The program is part of the Holocaust Lecture Series this semester.

In "When Does Genocide End: The Armenian Case," Kouymjian will discuss the Armenian case as the first genocide in the 20th century and as a model for the later genocide of the Jews by the Nazis.

Kouymjian, the director of the Armenian Studies program at California State University Fresno, has extensive background in many issues of Armenian and Middle East societies including Armenian, Islamic, Classical, and Byzantine history and art, Western and Oriental humanities, film, and genocide.

He has also written a dozen books and academic articles that number in the hundreds. Kouymjian has also had an extensive travel career during his 40 years of teaching, including stints in Cairo, Egypt and Beirut Lebanon.

For further information, call Myrna Goodman, Holocaust and Genocide Studies Center, (707) 664-4296.

*Below is the summary of Dr. Kouymjian's remarks to be given that day:*

20TH ANNUAL SONOMA STATE  
UNIVERSITY 2003 HOLOCAUST  
LECTURES

**WHEN DOES  
GENOCIDE END?  
THE ARMENIAN CASE**

**BY DICKRAN KOUYMIJIAN**

"The expected generic answer to the question is "when the killing stops." The Holocaust can be said to have ended with the termination of World War II, or the liberation of the extermi-

"I do not intend to do that in this paper. My interest is in the Armenian genocide, the first of the twentieth century, some say the model for Hitler's Germany in its attempt to liquidate the Jews, but also the Gypsies and other ethnic and social groups.

"The Armenian genocide is unacknowledged, unpunished, unknown, and denied. It began in the spring of 1915 in the Ottoman Empire after the Turks entered World War I on the side of the axis powers, Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

"It was preceded by broadly executed massacres or pogroms against the Empire's Armenian population in 1895-6 and 1909, widely reported in the international press. Western governments called Sultan Abdul Hamid to order during those years and insisted that reforms be initiated to protect the Christian citizens of the state, especially the Armenians.

"Hope that such reforms would take place in the Armenian provinces was high in 1914 on the eve of the Great War, but six months later the plan to wipe out the Armenian population of "Armenia" was put into motion and during the first year of concerted activity throughout the Ottoman state more than a million Armenians were already put to death or dying during the forced marches into the Syria deserts.

"The genocidal process against Armenians continued even after the armistice of 1918; by the time of the establishment of the Turkish Republic under Ataturk in 1923, some 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 Armenians had perished.

"The historical homeland of Armenians, the cradle of its civilization going back to the first millennium B.C.,

**ARCHIVE****SOURCE:** Nor Gyank: Glandale, CA**DATE:** March 13, 2003**SUBJECT:** Dr. Kouymjian Lectures at Sonoma State**PAGE:** 2 of 2

was cleansed of its indigenous Armenian population. Today there are no Armenians in historic Armenia.

"Did then the Armenian genocide end in 1917 or 1923? I think not, unfortunately, for two major reasons:

1) The perpetrators refuse to acknowledge the Genocide and

2) Successive governments of Turkey have continued a genocidal process toward its current and former Armenian citizenry through what one might call a culture genocide, that is, the neglect, even willful destruction, of Armenian cultural monuments and the official government policy of denying the existence of an Armenian presence in what used to be called the Armenian Plateau or eastern Asia Minor.

"The lecture will present the narrative of these events and discuss their consequence at the start of this 21st century."

**ATTENTION TO  
ORGANIZATIONS AND  
INDIVIDUALS**

**Please enclose a \$15 check for  
each photo that you enclose with  
an article.**

**NOR GYANK**



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: LA, CADATE: March 19, 2003SUBJECT: Armenian Studies Program Receives Kazan EndowmentPAGE: 1 of 2

## Victoria Kazan Endowment Fund Gets \$358,000 Gift

**CHRIS TOZLIAN**

FRESNO - With the current talk of budget cuts throughout the whole of the California State University system, it is quite reassuring for the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno to have gracious benefactors. These budget cuts weigh on the minds of professors and administration alike, but from within the Armenian Studies program, things are "looking up."

In 1998, it was announced that Mr. Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan and his wife Victoria would be making their second sizable donation to the Arme-

nian Studies Program at Fresno State. This endowment came in a different form than most: a house in East Quogue, Long Island, New York, which was given to the Armenian Studies Program with the understanding the Kazans would be able to continue to live in it until their deaths.

However, Mr. Kazan, who lives alone in June Beach, Florida and Long Island, decided to buy the house back from the university and give it to members of his family. In September, the house was purchased by Mr. Kazan in an all cash

**Please Turn to Page 10**



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: LA, CADATE: March 19, 2003SUBJECT: Armenian Studies Program Receives Kazan EndowmentPAGE: 2 of 2

## Kazan Fund is Augmented

Continued from Page 1.

deal at the current selling price. The proceeds, \$358,245 net after fees and commissions as well as five years of maintenance paid by the university, has been deposited in the M. Victoria Karagozian Kazan Endowment for Armenian Studies.

This represents by far the largest single gift ever to the Armenian Studies Program, even larger than Mr. Kazan's \$320,000 funding of the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan endowed Visiting Professorship in Armenian Studies. The new endowment is to be used, according to the agreement of 1998, in three ways: to provide scholarship funds, to finance the M. Victoria Karagozian Monograph and Lecture Series, and to help underwrite the administrative and operating expenses of the Armenian Studies Program.

Mr. Kazan has three nieces and nephews within the academic field of social science and humanities, all with PhDs and all dedicated to teaching and research. Mrs. Kazan was also a great proponent of scholarship, and this second endowment has made it possible

to further encourage both research and publications in Armenian studies here at Fresno State.

The Armenian Studies Program is grateful to the Kazans for this latest endowment because its establishment will serve to encourage greater scholarship among students and faculty alike, while remembering one of the Armenian Studies Program's long-time supporters. Henry Kazan has promised Fresno State President Dr. John Welty that he will come to Fresno for the opening of the new Save Mart Center in October of this year to celebrate his 97th birthday.

Mr. Kazan's endowments to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State stem from his desire to encourage the scholarship of college students. Mr. Kazan, after coming to America, received his bachelor's degree in History from New York University, and he then received his law degree from St. John's University. He has said that, if he had the choice, Mr. Kazan would have become a history professor.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier : Glendale, CADATE: March 20, 2003SUBJECT: Armenian Studies Program Receives Kazan EndowmentPAGE: 1 of 1

## Kazan Endowment at Cal State Fresno Funded with Additional \$358,000 Gift

*By Chris Tozlian  
Hye Sharzoom  
Staff Writer*

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However, Kazan, who lives alone in June Beach, Florida and Long Island, decided to buy the house back from the university and give it to members of his family. In September, the house was purchased by Kazan in an all cash deal. The proceeds, \$358,245 net after fees and

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The endowment is named in the memory of Kazan's wife, Victoria, who passed away in October 1997. Mr. and Mrs. Kazan, who have been long-time supporters of the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno, have made the two largest contributions to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. Though life-long residents of New York and Flori-

da, the Kazans chose Fresno State over east coast universities because of its dynamic Armenian Studies Program.

Kazan's endowments to the ASP at Fresno State stem from his desire to encourage the scholarship of college students. After coming to America, Kazan received his bachelor's degree in History from New York University, and he then received his law degree from St. John's University. He has said that, if he had the choice, he would have become a history professor. Kazan has three nieces and nephews within the academic field of social science and humanities, all with PhDs and all dedicated to teaching and research. Mrs. Kazan was also a great proponent of scholarship, and this second endowment has made it possible to further encourage both research and publications in Armenian studies here at Fresno State.

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## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror -Spectator : Watertown, MA

DATE: March 22, 2003

SUBJECT: Armenian Studies Program Receives Kazan Endowment

PAGE: 1 of 1

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By Chris Tozlian

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However, Mr. Kazan, who lives alone in June Beach, Fla. and Long Island, decided to buy the house back from the university and give it to members of his family. In September, the house was purchased by him in an all-cash deal at the current selling price. The proceeds, \$358,245 net after fees and commissions as well as five years of maintenance paid by the university, has been deposited in the M. Victoria Karagozian Kazan Endowment for Armenian Studies.

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SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter : Paramus, NJDATE: March 22, 2003SUBJECT: Armenian Studies Program Receives Kazan EndowmentPAGE: 1 of 2

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**By Chris Tozlian  
Hye Sharzhoom, Staff Writer**

Studies.

This represents, by far, the largest single gift ever to the Armenian Studies Program, even larger than Mr. Kazan's \$320,000 funding of the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan endowed Visiting Professorship in Armenian Studies. The new endowment is to be used, according to the agreement of 1998, in three

ways: to provide scholarship funds, to finance the M. Victoria Karagozian Monograph and Lecture Series, and to help underwrite the administrative and operating expenses of the Armenian Studies Program.

The endowment is named in the memory of Henry Kazan's wife, Victoria, who passed away in October 1997. Mr. and Mrs. Kazan, who have been longtime

*Continued on p. 21*



## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB 4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

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### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter : Paramus, NJ

DATE: March 22, 2003

SUBJECT: Armenian Studies Program Receives Kazan Endowment

PAGE: 2 of 2

### ***M. Victoria Kazan Endowment Funded with \$258,000 Gift - Continued from p. 20***

supporters of the Armenian Studies Program at CSU Fresno, have made the two largest contributions to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. Though life-long residents of New York and Florida, the Kazans chose Fresno State over East Coast universities because of its dynamic Armenian Studies Program. Mr. Kazan's endowments to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State stem from his desire to encourage the scholarship of college students. Mr. Kazan, after coming to America, received his

bachelor's degree in History from New York University, and he then received his law degree from St. John's University. He has said that, if he had the choice, Mr. Kazan would have become a history professor. Mr. Kazan has three nieces and nephews within the academic field of social science and humanities, all with PhDs and all dedicated to teaching and research. Mrs. Kazan was also a great proponent of scholarship, and this second endowment has made it possible to further encourage both research and publications in Armenian studies

here at Fresno State.

The Armenian Studies Program is grateful to the Kazans for this latest endowment because its establishment will serve to encourage greater scholarship among students and faculty alike, while remembering one of the Armenian Studies Program's long-time supporters. Henry Kazan has promised Fresno State President Dr. John Welty that he will come to Fresno for the opening of the new Save Mart Center in October of this year to celebrate his 97th birthday.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: TheArmenian Reporter : Paramus, NJDATE: March 22, 2003SUBJECT: Amb. Kirakossian Keynote Speaker at Annual BanquetPAGE: 1 of 2

## Armenian Studies Program at CSUF Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

FRESNO, CA (Hye Sharzhoom) - On the evening of Sunday, February 9, 2003, Armenian Studies Program faculty, as well as student scholarship recipients and supporters of the program, came together at the Residence Dining Facility to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

Among the distinguished guests were: Arman Kirakossian, the Ambassador of Armenia to the United States; Valery Mkrtoumian, Consul General of the Republic of Armenia to the United States (Los Angeles); Dr. John Welty, President of Fresno State; Dr. Luis Costa, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities; and California State Senator Chuck Poochigian. All were present to honor the success of the Armenian Studies Program.

The banquet began with a re-

By Zhanna Bagdasarov and Alex Bunch

### Staff Writers

ception, which included appetizers and refreshments and provided an opportunity for people to socialize with one another. Following the reception was dinner, during which Dr. Dickran Kouymjian introduced the guests of the evening. To honor the presence of the ambassador, Kouymjian presented a photograph of John Kirakossian, a former Foreign Minister of Armenia and father of Dr. Kirakossian, who was invited to speak at Fresno State twenty-five years ago. The photo was taken by Prof. Kouymjian in 1982 when he returned half of William Saroyan's ashes to Armenia.

Ambassador Kirakossian began his keynote address by explaining how he became interested in foreign affairs and was

offered a position as an ambassador by the first president of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrossian. In addition, his father being a diplomat contributed to the ambassador's interest in political affairs. Dr. Kirakossian also held a position as the first deputy minister to Greece in 1994.

When asked about the relationship between the United States and Armenia and the general posture of Americans towards Armenians, he responded by saying that the United States has a responsibility to support independent republics such as Armenia. "Armenia is important to the United States as the homeland of the Armenian community in Fresno," pointed out the ambassador. In addition to holding the position of ambassador, Dr.

Kirakossian is an author and historian, which are two accomplishments he takes great pride in.

President Dr. John Welty gave a short welcome, saying that the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program was "the best Armenian Studies Program in the United States."

One of the main purposes of the evening was to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program. The Program began in 1977 with the arrival of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian from Paris; he had been a professor of history and Armenian studies at the American University of Beirut until the Lebanese civil war broke out in 1975. Upon his arrival during the spring semester of the 1976-77 academic year, no Armenian courses were being offered. Af-

*Continued on p. 20*

**ARCHIVE****SOURCE:** TheArmenian Reporter : Paramus, NJ**DATE:** March 22, 2003**SUBJECT:** Amb. Kirakossian Keynote Speaker at Annual Banquet**PAGE:** 2 of 2**Armenian Studies Program at CSUF Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Continued from p.19**

ter working as a professor within the Department of History, the Ethnic Studies Program, and later the Department of Foreign Languages, he eventually established an independent Armenian Studies Program in the College of Arts and Humanities and launched a minor in Armenian Studies. Soon, the Armenian Students Organization was reactivated and the newspaper Hye Sharzhoom was founded. The program has been going strong since then with the support and the contributions of many people.

There was a rousing series of guitar selections by Benjamin Hakopyan, a virtuoso from Yerevan, now settled in Fresno.

The banquet concluded with another significant reason for the night, which was to recognize over 60 hard-working Armenian Studies Program students, who have received scholarships for showing interest in the classes having to do with different aspects of Armenia. The scholarships and grants range from \$500 to \$1500, and more than \$40,000 was awarded for the 2002-2003 academic year.

Professor Barlow Der Muqrdechian announced the names of the students present and provided brief background information about the goals and achievements of these students. The recipients were acknowl-



***Distinguished guests and Armenian Studies Program students at banquet celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program at California State University at Fresno***

edged with a round of applause and afterwards photographs were taken.

The banquet was definitely a

successful event. People were extremely satisfied with all the features of the evening. "This was a very nice event, the am-

bassador appeared happy to be where his father has been" and "It was an inspirational evening," were among the comments Dr.

Kouymjian received just after the event.

**ARCHIVE**

 SOURCE: The California Courier : Glendale, Ca

 DATE: March 27, 2003

 SUBJECT: Amb. Kirakossian Keynote Speaker at Annual Banquet

 PAGE: 1 of 1

## Ambassador Kirakossian Keynotes ASP Anniversary Banquet

FRESNO - Armenian Studies Program faculty, as well as student scholarship recipients and supporters of the program celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno on Feb. 9.

Among the distinguished guests were Armenian Ambassador to the US, Arman Kirakossian, Consul General to Los Angeles, Valery Mkrtoumian, Fresno State President Dr. John Welty, and California State Senator Chuck Poochigian.

The banquet opened with a reception, followed by dinner where Dr. Dickran Kouymjian introduced the guests of the evening. To honor the ambassador, Kouymjian presented a photograph of John Kirakossian, a former Foreign Minister of Armenia and father of the Dr. Kirakossian, who was invited to speak at Fresno State 25 years ago. The photo was taken by Prof. Kouymjian in 1982 when he returned half of William Saroyan's ashes to Armenia.

Kirakossian began his keynote address by explaining how he became interested in foreign affairs and was offered a position as an ambassador by the first president of Armenia, Levon Ter



*Ambassador Kirakossian Petrossian.*

Asked about the relationship between the US and Armenia and the general outlook of Americans towards Armenians, he responded by saying that the US has a responsibility to support independent republics such as Armenia. "Armenia is important to the US as the homeland of the Armenian community in Fresno," he pointed out. In addition to holding a position as an ambassador, Dr. Kirakossian is also an author and a historian.

Dr. Welty gave a short welcome noting that the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program was "the best Armenian Studies Program in the United States."

The ASP began in 1977

with the arrival of Dr. Kouymjian from Paris; he was a professor of history and Armenian studies at the American University of Beirut until the Lebanese civil war broke out in 1975. Until his arrival during the 1976-77 academic year, no Armenian courses were being offered. After working as a professor in the Department of History, and later the Department of Foreign Languages, Kouymjian eventually established an independent Armenian Studies Program in the College of Arts and Humanities and launched a minor in Armenian Studies. Soon after, the Armenian Students Organization was reactivated and the news-paper *Hye Sharzhoom* was founded. The program has been going strong since then with the support and the contributions of many people.

The banquet concluded with the recognition of over 60 hard working ASP students, who have received scholarships and grants from \$500 to \$1500. More than \$40,000 was awarded for the 2002-2003 academic year.

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian announced the names of the students present and provided brief background information about the goals and achievement of these students.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer : LA, CADATE: April 2 , 2003SUBJECT: Dr. James Waller Guest SpeakerPAGE: 1 of 1**Dr. Waller to Speak in Fresno on "Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Can Commit Genocide and Mass Killing"**

FRESNO - Dr. James Waller, Professor of Psychology at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington, will present an lecture on his new book "Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Can Commit Genocide and Mass Killing." at 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 10, 2003, in the Industrial Technology Building, Room 101.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, Armenian Students Organization, the Department of Psychology of California State University, Fresno, the Center for the Study of Consciousness, Spirituality, and Culture of the University of California, San Francisco Fresno Medical Education Program, and the Eli Lilly Company.

Copies of "Becoming Evil" will be on sale before and after the talk. The 20th century, dubbed the "Age of Genocide" by some historians, saw more than 60 million people fall victim to state-sponsored terrorism, with ethnic cleansings and other horrific purges in places such as Ottoman Turkey, Germany, Ukraine, Cambodia, East Timor, Rwanda, and the former Yugoslavia.

The litany of atrocities continues into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To date, more than 2 million people have been killed in Sudan's decades-long civil war and an additional 4.5 million have been driven from their homes; and the September 11 terrorist attacks on American soil that claimed approximately 2,830 lives are a painful reminder of the destruction that can be waged by individuals motivated by ideologies or grievances against an existing state.

As the worldwide death toll rises, it is more critical than ever to understand the psychological roots of evil that can lead to mass murder. In his new book "Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Killing" (Oxford University Press), social psychologist and Whitworth psychology professor James Waller draws from seven years of

research to mount an original argument for understanding why political, social and religious groups wanting to commit mass murder are never hindered by a lack of willing executioners.

Written for both scholars and laypeople and drawing on eyewitness accounts from perpetrators, victims and bystanders, "Waller's Becoming Evil" refutes many of the standard explanations for antisocial behavior.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at (818) 278-2669.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier : Glendale, CADATE: April 3 2003SUBJECT: Dr. James Waller Guest SpeakerPAGE: 1 of 1

## Prof. Waller Will Lecture at CSUF On 'Becoming Evil' for Genocide

FRESNO - Dr. James Waller, Professor of Psychology at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington, will present an lecture on his new book "Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Can Commit Genocide and Mass Killing." at 7:30 PM on April 10, in the Industrial Technology Building, Room 101, in the CSUF campus.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, Armenian Students Organization, the Department of Psychology of California State University, Fresno, the Center for the Study of Consciousness, Spirituality, and Culture of the University of California, San Francisco-Fresno Medical Education Program, and the Eli Lilly company.

Copies of "Becoming Evil" will be on sale before and after the talk.

The 20th century, dubbed the "Age of Genocide" by some historians, saw more than 60 million people fall victim to state-sponsored terrorism, with ethnic cleansings and other horrific purges in places such as Ottoman Turkey, Germany, Ukraine, Cam-

bodia, East Timor, Rwanda, and the former Yugoslavia.

In his new book, which is published by the Oxford University Press, Waller draws from seven years of research to mount an original argument for understanding why political, social and religious groups wanting to commit mass murder are never hindered by a lack of willing executioners.

Written for both scholars and laypeople and drawing on eyewitness accounts from perpetrators, victims and bystanders, Waller's book refutes many of the standard explanations for anti-social behavior and presents four ingredients that lead ordinary people to commit acts of extraordinary evil.

"To offer a psychological explanation for the atrocities committed by perpetrators is not to forgive, justify or condone their behavior," Waller states in his preface.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

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

**ARCHIVE**SOURCE: University Journal : Fresno, CADATE: April 2003SUBJECT: Kouymjian & Der Mugrdechian NewsmakersPAGE: 1 of 1

## Newsmakers

Barlow Der Mugrdechian (Armenian Studies) was elected to a second term as president of the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS). SAS is the international body of scholars and teachers of Armenian Studies. The secretariat of SAS is at the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State. Der Mugrdechian is also interim editor of the Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies.

Dickran Kouymjian (Armenian Studies) presented a lecture entitled "When Does Genocide End? The Armenian Case" at the 20th Annual Sonoma State University, 2003 Holocaust Lectures, on March 11.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Mirror-Spectator : Watertown, MADATE: April 5, 2003SUBJECT: Dr. James Waller Guest SpeakerPAGE: 1 of 1

## Dr. James Waller to Speak on 'Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Can Commit Genocide and Mass Killing'

FRESNO, Calif. — Dr. James Waller, professor of psychology at Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash., will present a lecture on his new book *Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Can Commit Genocide and Mass Killing* at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, in the Industrial Technology Building, Room 101. The lecture is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, Armenian Students Organization, the Department of Psychology of California State University, Fresno, the Center for the Study of Consciousness, Spirituality and Culture of the University of California, San Francisco-Fresno Medical Education Program, and the Eli Lilly company.

Copies of *Becoming Evil* will be on sale before and after the talk.

The 20th century, dubbed the "Age of Genocide" by some historians, saw more than 60 million people fall victim to state-sponsored terrorism, with ethnic cleansings and other horrific purges in places such as Ottoman Turkey, Germany, Ukraine, Cambodia, East Timor, Rwanda, and the former Yugoslavia.

The litany of atrocities continues into the 21st century. To date, more than 2 million people have been killed in Sudan's decades-long civil war and an additional 4.5 million have been driven from their homes; and the September 11 terrorist attacks on American soil that claimed approximately 2,830 lives are a painful reminder of the destruction that can be waged by individuals motivated by ideologies or grievances against an existing state.

As the worldwide death toll rises, it is more critical than ever to understand the psychological roots of evil that can lead to mass murder. In his new book, Waller draws from seven years of research to mount an original argument for understanding why political, social and religious groups wanting to commit mass murder are never hindered by a lack of willing executioners.

Written for both scholars and lay people and drawing on eyewitness accounts from perpetrators, victims and bystanders,

Waller's *Becoming Evil* refutes many of the standard explanations for antisocial behavior and presents four ingredients that lead ordinary people to commit acts of extraordinary evil. Waller contends that being aware of our own capacity for inhumane cruelty, and knowing how to cultivate the moral sensibilities that curb that capacity, are the best safeguards we can have against future genocide and mass killing.

"To offer a psychological explanation for the atrocities committed by perpetrators is not to forgive, justify or condone their behavior," Waller states in his preface.

"Instead, the explanation simply allows us to understand the conditions under which many of us could be transformed into killing machines. When we understand the ordinariness of extraordinary evil, we will be less surprised by evil, less likely to be unwitting contributors to evil, and perhaps better equipped to forestall evil."

The lecture is free and open to the public.

**ARCHIVE**

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ DATE: April 19, 2003  
SUBJECT: 88th Genocide Commemoration PAGE: 1 of 1

### ***88<sup>th</sup>-Anniversary Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide at Fresno State***

FRESNO, CA - The Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno will be jointly be sponsoring two on-campus events, in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

At 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, two films will be screened: Roger Kupelian's "Dark Forest" and Denise Gentilini's "The Handjian Family." Following the screening there will be a candlelight vigil on campus. Local Armenian clergy will participate in the vigil. The films will be shown in McLane Hall, Room 162.

At noon on Thursday, April 24, there will be a commemorative event held in the Free Speech area of Fresno State. ASO President Sevag Tateosian will be the master-of-ceremonies for the activity, which will include poetry recitations by students, and presentations by local civic leaders. ASO students will gather around the Armenian Martyr's Monument, which was constructed based on the model located in Yerevan, Armenia. Following the formal program, participants will place flowers at the base of the Monument.

Both commemorative events are open to the public at no charge. For more information or directions, interested persons should contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.

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ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian : Fresno, CA

DATE: April 21 , 2003

SUBJECT: 88th Genocide Commemoration

PAGE: 1 of 1

1915

2003

# 88th Anniversary Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

*Sponsored by the  
Armenian Studies Program  
and the Armenian Students Organization  
of California State University, Fresno*

**Film Showing and Candlelight Vigil**  
• Wednesday, April 23, 2003 • 7:00 PM  
McLane Hall, Room 162

**"Dark Forest" and "The Handjian Story"**

*Director-Roger Kupelian    Director-Denise Gentilini  
The two films, each 45 minutes running time, will be  
screened, followed by the candlelight vigil.*

## Genocide Commemoration

• Thursday, April 24, 2003 • Noon  
Fresno State Free Speech Area

Guest speakers and poetry/presentations read in English  
and Armenian by students from the  
Armenian Students Organization

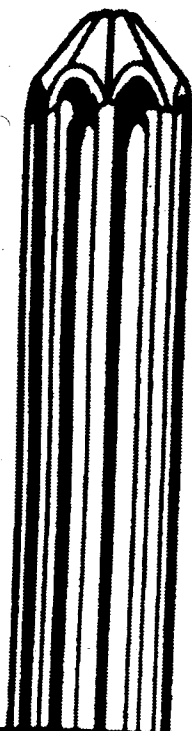
*For more information or directions contact  
the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669*

Partially funded by



**Associated Students**

*California State University, Fresno*





## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee : Fresno, CA

DATE: April 20, 2003

SUBJECT: Armenian Studies Program Annual Film Festival

PAGE: 1 of 1

#### **Armenian films**

Two films will be shown this week to commemorate the Armenian Genocide of 1915. Roger Kupelian's "Dark Forest" and Denise Gentilini's "The Handjian Family" will be screened starting at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Room 162 of McLane Hall at California State University, Fresno. The showings are free.

A commemorative event will be held at noon Thursday in the Free Speech area at Fresno State. There will be speakers and poetry recitations. Afterward, flowers will be placed at the base of the Armenian Martyrs Monument. The happenings are sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno.

— The Fresno Bee

**ARCHIVE**

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee, Fresno, CA DATE: April 24, 2003  
SUBJECT: Genocide Commemoration at Fresno State PAGE: 1 of 1

# Events to recognize Armenian genocide

## CITYVIEW STAFF REPORT

Local Armenian groups are sponsoring three events today to commemorate the Armenian Genocide of 1915, in which 1.5 million Armenian people died.

An art exhibit by Armenian genocide survivor Zabel Basmajian will begin at 11 a.m. today at Fairwinds at Woodward Park, 9525 N. Fort Washington Road.

Basmajian, a native of Chamak, Armenia, will display her paintings and hand-painted dolls. The exhibit is open until 4 p.m.

Details: 434-6444.

At noon today, the Armenian Students Organization and the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, will hold an observance at the free speech area on the campus.

The event includes poetry recitations by students, presentations by local civic leaders and placing flowers at a model of the Armenian Martyrs Monument, the original of which is located in Yerevan, Armenia.

Details: 278-2669.

At 7 p.m. today, the First Armenian Presbyterian Church will hold the Armenian Genocide Commemoration of Central California at the church at 430 S. First St. United State Representative George Radanovich is one of the keynote speakers.

The observance includes a requiem service in the sanctuary followed by the speakers and a piano recital. The evening will conclude with an ethnic fellowship reception hosted by the women's groups of four Armenian churches in Fresno.

Details: 224-2900.

**ARCHIVE**

SOURCE: The California Courier.: Glendale, CA DATE: April 24, 2003  
SUBJECT: Genocide Commemoration Ceremony PAGE: 1 of 1

## CSUF ASO, ASP Plan Observances At CSUF Campus

FRESNO - The Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno will be jointly be sponsoring two on-campus events, in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

At 7PM on April 23, two films will be screened: Roger Kupelian's "Dark Forest," and Denise Gentilini's "The Handjian Family." Following the screening there will be a candle-light vigil on campus. Local Armenian clergy will participate in the vigil. The films will be shown in McLane Hall, Room 162.

At noon on April 24, there will be a commemorative event held in the Free Speech area of Fresno State. ASO President Sevag Tateosian will be the master-of-ceremonies for the activity, which will include poetry recitations by students, and presentations by local civic leaders. ASO students will gather around the Armenian Martyr's Monument which was constructed based on the model located in Yerevan, Armenia. Following the formal program, participants will place flowers at the base of the Monument.

Both commemorative events are open to the public at no charge.

For more information, contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.

## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian: Fresno, CA DATE: April 25, 2003SUBJECT: Genocide Commemoration Ceremony PAGE: 1 of 1

# A Somber Anniversary



Six-year-old Christina Idjian watches as people lay flowers in the Free Speech Area on Friday to mark the 88th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The on-campus ceremony included a speech by District 1 Councilmember Tom Boyajian and poetry readings by Armenian students. *Photo by Jeff Criesi*

**ARCHIVE**

SOURCE: The California Courier: Glendale, CA DATE: May 8, 2003  
SUBJECT: Prof. Bournoutian Speaks at Fresno State PAGE: 1 of 1

## Prof. Bournoutian Will Talk May 16 at CSUF on Russia and Armenian Church

FRESNO - Dr. George Bournoutian, senior professor of Middle Eastern and East European history at Iona College of New York and visiting professor of Armenian history at Rutgers University, will present a lecture on "Russia and the Armenian Church in the 17-19th Centuries: Religion, Politics, and Nation Building" at 7:30 PM on May 16, in the Alice Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191 of the University Business Center on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State and the Armenian General Benevolent Union of Fresno.

Dr. Bournoutian will speak on the Russian Empire and its relations with the Armenian Church in Russia and in Transcaucasia. The talk will examine the rise of the Armenian community in Russia in the 17-18th centuries and its demands for Armenian churches in Russia.

One part of the lecture will focus on the responses of Peter the Great, Empress Anna, Elizabeth and Catherine the Great to these demands. Secondly, the relations of the Russian government with Etchmiadzin and Gandzasar and the great rivalry between the two for the control of the Armenian communities in Russia will be analyzed.

The third part of the talk will focus on the Russian State and the Holy See in the 19th century.

Bournoutian received the first Ph.D. in Armenian History UCLA in 1976. He was born in

Iran and he is the author of 11 books, all of which have received great reviews.

Professor Bournoutian has taught Armenian History at Columbia University, NYU, University of Connecticut, Tufts University, Ramapo College, and Glendale Community College. He has been called the foremost authority on Eastern Armenia from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Relaxed parking will be available in Lots A and J after 7:00 PM the night of the lecture.

For more information on the lecture, contact the Armenian Studies Program at (559) 278-2669.