

office

# California State University, Fresno



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM  
Fresno, California 93740

**NEWS SERVICE**



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

Release #23

November 1986

SOURCE Armenian Action; FresnoDATE Vol 8, No. 1 Nov. 1986SUBJECT CSUF Arm. Studies Program and Dr. Kouymjian PAGE 1 of 1

## ASP 10th ANNIVERSARY

The Armenian Studies Program marked its first decade under the direction of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian at a banquet on the California State University, Fresno campus Monday evening October 27. A full house crowd of 150 students, faculty, and members of the Fresno Armenian community listened to Dr. Peter Klassen, Dean of Social Sciences, Richard Francois, Development officer of the university, and Barlow Der Mugerdechian, master of ceremonies discuss the progress and achievements of the program during the past ten years. Dr. Harold Haak, President of the university officially presented Professor Kouymjian with a plaque citing him as the recipient of this year's Outstanding Professor of the University award. The President also read the commencement tribute to Dr. Kouymjian given in his absence before an audience of 15,000 in Bulldog Stadium last May. In his remarks of thanks, Professor Kouymjian discussed the significance of his Program to the entire university. He pointed out that courses in the history, culture and language of Armenia have been taught to nearly 2,000 students since 1976-7. He concluded by announcing the establishment of an endowment fund for a permanent chair of Armenian Studies at CSUF. Mr. Der Mugerdechian then called upon the representatives of four Armenian organizations who turned over checks totally nearly \$10,000 toward the newly established fund. Details and photographs will be found in the next issue of Hye Sharzhoom.

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# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE CSUF Monday Report

DATE Vol. 62, No. 10 Issue 1466

SUBJECT Dr. Kouymjian and Barlow Der Mugerdechian

PAGE 1 of 1

## Professional Activities

DICKRAN KOUYMIJIAN (Armenian Studies) spoke on "University Education and the Athlete" to the Board of Trustees of the Bulldog Foundation on October 14. . . . BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN (Armenian Studies) spoke and showed slides on "Armenians in the Diaspora--The Case of the Armenians of Jerusalem" at the luncheon meeting of the Armenian General Benevolent Union of Fresno on October 8.





# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Monday Report

DATE Vol.62 #14 Issue 1469

SUBJECT Barlow Der Mugrdechian

PAGE 1 of 1

## Professional Activities

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN (Armenian Studies) gave an illustrated presentation on "Armenia" to the Armenian Friendship Committee's 66th Anniversary Banquet November 16.





SOURCE The Fresno Bee

DATE Oct. 5, 1986

SUBJECT CSUF Dr. Kouymjian will talk on Saoyan  
Art

PAGE 1 of 1

## Saroyan lecture at Met Sunday

Dickran Kouymjian will discuss the drawings and paintings of William Saroyan as part of the University Downtown series Sunday at 4 p.m. in the Lyles Theatre of the Fresno Metropolitan Museum.

The lecture will focus on the Fresno author's hundreds of paintings and thousands of drawings, illustrated by color slides.

### «Jerusalem 1986» A study tour in the Holy City

July 26, 1986 marked the return to the United States of a group of seven Armenian-Americans who had departed for Jerusalem one month earlier. Head-quarters for «Jerusalem 1986» was the historic Monastery of St. James in the Armenian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Sponsored in part by the California State University, Fresno Armenian Students Organization and with the support of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the study tour, led by California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program instructor Barlow Der Mugrdchian, included a thirty day stay in the Holy City of Jerusalem with tours throughout Israel. Among the stops were the Sea of Gallilee, Tel-Aviv, Jaffa, the Dead Sea, and Masada.

The main focus of the groups study program was the study of Armenian history, culture, and language with particular emphasis on the life of the Diasporan Armenian, drawing on the experiences and knowledge of the local Jerusalem Armenian community. The teachers, seminars, discussions, and classes were organized through the auspices of the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Religion played a central role in «Jerusalem 1986», concentrating on Jerusalem as the historic home of the world's three great monotheistic religions. As the religious center of the Christian world and at the same time a center for Armenian Christians and the Armenian Church, invaluable insights were gained into the coexistence of the many religious institutions in Jerusalem. The young Armenians

participated in services at the great shrines of Christendom including the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem, and the Cathedral of St. James.

In addition, «Jerusalem 1986» took a hand in the preservation of the Armenian cemetery of the Holy Saviour on Mt. Zion through their efforts in the cleaning restoration of the tombstones. Working diligently and quickly much work was completed in the recording of historic information from the tombstones, as well as the general work of restoration. This project demonstrated the commitment of the «Jerusalem

1986» participants to maintaining the centuries long presence of Armenians in Jerusalem and to show that Diaspora Armenians had the major role in the present position of the Armenian quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem.

«Jerusalem 1986» was the first trip of its kind organized from the Fresno area, focusing primarily on the educational impact of Jerusalem. The program was organized with the intent of strengthening ties between the Old City of Jerusalem and other parts of the Diaspora. The ties gained between Armenians living in scattered parts of the globe will forge a new Armenian consciousness.



# Saroyan expert will teach in Yerevan

By Irwin Speizer

McClatchy News Service

FRESNO — A new book of previously unpublished William Saroyan plays, just released by the Fresno State University Press, will have its overseas debut in Soviet Armenia next spring.

Dickran Kouymjian, director of the university's Armenian Studies Program and editor of the new Saroyan book, plans to use the collection of three Saroyan plays as the textbook for a course he will teach as a Fulbright scholar in Yerevan, Soviet Armenia.

"My project is simply to teach Saroyan to the Armenians," Kouymjian said.

The highly competitive Fulbright program is part of an exchange of scholars between U.S. and foreign universities.

Kouymjian applied for a Fulbright award while compiling and editing the new collection of plays by the late Saroyan, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author. Titled "An Armenian Trilogy," the book consists of three previously unpublished plays by Saroyan that focus on the Armenian experience.

According to Kouymjian, Saroyan is an extraordinarily popular author in the Soviet Union, particularly in Soviet Armenia.

"I think Saroyan is the most published American writer in the Soviet Union," Kouymjian said. "They like Saroyan's ability to speak about the common man and his rebellion against materialism."

Kouymjian has visited the Soviet Union four times, the last time as part of a delegation carrying Saroyan's ashes for burial at the Pantheon of Armenian Immortals in Yerevan, Soviet Armenia.

Kouymjian, a friend of Saroyan

and an acknowledged expert on the author's life and work, for years has taught a Saroyan course at Fresno State University similar to the one he will offer at Yerevan State University.

Saroyan took a personal interest in Kouymjian's course in Fresno, and occasionally slipped Kouymjian copies of unpublished plays to be used as part of the class. Afterward, the writer would call Kouymjian for a report.

"He would ask what the class thought," Kouymjian said. "Ultimately, he gave me 30 or 40 plays."

From that group of plays, Kouymjian selected and edited three for "An Armenian Trilogy." The FSU Press secured publication rights for the book from the William Saroyan Foundation, and Kouymjian wrote a 38-page introduction.

Saroyan wrote the three plays between 1971 and 1979.

The first, titled "Armenians," is set in Fresno. The second play, called "Bitlis" after the Turkish town that was Saroyan's ancestral home, is based on a trip Saroyan made there. The third play, "Haratch," is named after the Armenian daily newspaper of France, and is set in its offices.

The settings and characters in all three books are based on real places and people, and Kouymjian has included photographs in the book of the sites and individuals involved.

In addition to the Saroyan course, Kouymjian plans to teach a class at the Yerevan university on other Armenian-American writers. Kouymjian's stay in Soviet Armenia will last one full semester, from next February to June. The books used in the class will be in English.



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## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Fresno Bee

DATE October 21, 1986

SUBJECT CSUF Celebrates Anniversary

PAGE 1 of 1

! The **Armenian Studies Program** at Fresno State University will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a banquet at 7 p.m. Monday in the FSU Residence Dining Facility. Dickran Kouymjian, coordinator of the program, will be honored at the banquet as the FSU Outstanding Professor of 1986. Tickets are \$20 per person and must be purchased in advance. Reservations: 294-2669 or 294-2832.

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter ; New York

DATE October 23, 1986

SUBJECT CSUF Arm. Studies Anniversary

PAGE 1 of 1

## Calif. State U. Fresno Arm. Studies to Mark Tenth Anniversary Oct. 27

FRESNO, Ca. - The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program will celebrate its tenth anniversary with a gala banquet on Monday October 27, 1986 at 7:00 p.m. in the CSUF Residence Dining Facility. The evening will begin with a reception given in honor of California State University, Fresno Outstanding Professor for 1986, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, when CSUF President Dr. Harold Haak will present the award to him.

The Armenian Studies Program has engaged in a decade of dynamic activity with the most extensive program of undergraduate education in the discipline of Armenian Studies in the United States. Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Coordinator of the ASP, came to CSU Fresno in academic year 1976-1977, and is both an outstanding instructor and at the same time is a scholar with international repute.

In the fall of 1985-1986, Barlow Der Mugardechian, a candidate of Philosophy Armenian Literature, at UCLA joined the program as the Armenian language instructor and advisor to the Armenian Students Organization. He is a graduate of California State University, Fresno and brings his enthusiasm and insight to the program.

The CSUF Armenian Studies Program offers a minor in Armenian Studies through a varied selection of courses including Armenian language, history, art, architecture, films, and literature. The ASP and the Armenian Students Organization publish the oldest continuously published student newspaper in the United States, **Hye Sharzhoom/Armenian Action**.

Actively involved in the life of the university and the community, the Armenian Program plays a role as the center for intellectual discourse in Fresno, sponsoring forums, symposia, and lectures. Numerous international figures of the Armenian world have been guests at the ASP, enjoying the interplay with the active students.

Reservations for the reception and the dinner can be made by calling (209)294-2669/2832. Donation is \$20.00 per person and there will be no tickets at the door.



# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Selma Enterprise

DATE October 23, 1986

SUBJECT CSUF Arm. Studies Anniversary and honor  
to Dr. Kouymjian.

PAGE 1 of 1

## ' Outstanding professor

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State University will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a banquet at 7 p.m. Monday at the FSU residence dining facility. The evening will begin with a reception in honor of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, 1986 outstanding professor at FSU. Reservations for the reception and dinner may be made by calling 294-2669. The cost is \$20 per person. No tickets will be available at the door.



SOURCE Nor Gyank; Glendale

DATE October 23, 1986

SUBJECT CSUF Arm. Studies Anniversary

PAGE 1 of 1

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARM. STUDIES AT CSUF

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SOURCE Nor Gyank; GlendaleDATE October 23, 1986SUBJECT CSUF Dr. Kouymjian Professor of the YearPAGE 1 of 1

## Prof. Kouymjian Named Outstanding Professor

FRESNO, CA—Dr. Dickran K. Kouymjian, professor of ethnic studies and coordinator of Armenian Studies, has been named the Outstanding Professor for 1986 at California State University, Fresno.

Kouymjian was born to Armenian American parents in Romania, but grew up in Chicago and Racine, Wisconsin. He earned a B.A. degree in European cultural history from the University of Wisconsin, Madison; a master's degree in Arab studies at the Ph.D. in Armenian studies at Columbia University, New York.

Kouymjian said he earned the first doctorate in Armenian studies ever granted in the U.S.

For the past 25 years, Kouymjian has been teaching Near Eastern and Armenian history and art as well as western humanities at universities in this country and abroad.

In 1976, Professor Kouymjian was sent to the Libyan Arabic Republic by UNESCO in Paris to advise the Libyan Department of Antiquities on the cleaning, preservation and study of ancient and medieval coins.

Currently, the CSUF Outstanding Professor is working at his home in Paris on several historic and literary publications.

## Armenian Studies Program at Fresno to Celebrate Its 10th Anniversary

The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program will celebrate its tenth anniversary with a gala banquet on Monday, October 27, 1986, at 7:00 p.m. in the CSUF Residence Dining Facility. The evening will begin with a reception given in honor of California State University, Fresno Outstanding Professor for 1986, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, when CSUF President Dr. Harold Haak will present the award to him.

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# THE ARMENIAN OBSERVER

## SAS Banquet to Feature Leading Armenian Scholars

BELMONT — Leading scholars in the field of Armenian Studies including Richard G. Hovannisian (UCLA), Avedis Sanjian (UCLA), Nina Garsoian (Columbia) and Robert Thomson (Harvard) are scheduled to address the Society of Armenian Studies Anniversary Banquet on November 21st at the Armenian Library and Museum of America in Belmont, Mass.

A major highlight of the evening will be the viewing of the Museum's newly-opened exhibit of the Paul Bedoukian Collection of Rare Coins and Artifacts. The cocktail reception is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. followed by a lavish dinner at 7:30 p.m. to be emceed by SAS Chairman Dickran Kouymjian of California State University, Fresno. Lucy Der Manuelian of Tufts University is serving as Banquet Committee Chair. The Society will hold its Annual Meeting during the Middle East Studies Association's conference on November 20th at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel. As in previous years, specialists in various fields of Armenian Studies will make

presentations at SAS sponsored panels that are open to the public.

Tickets for the November 21st Banquet priced at \$30 for

members and \$40 for non-members are available from Helen Suhagian at (617) 646-2722 or Levon Marashlian at (818) 240-1000 ext. 404.

SOURCE The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles

DATE Oct. 29, 1986

SUBJECT Armenian Ann. Nov. 16

PAGE 1 of 1

October 29, 1986, The Armenian Observer, Page 9

### Fresno to Observe Armenia Anniversary, Nov. 16

FRESNO — The Armenian Friendship Society of Fresno will be commemorating the 66th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Armenia with a banquet on Sunday November 16th, 1:00 p.m. at the Fresno AGBU Hall, 1720 Fulton Street.

The featured speaker of the day will be the well known author and civic leader Antranig Antreassian, a former editor of the **Nor Or** semi-weekly newspaper as well as the daily **Baikal** in Boston.

In addition to Mr. Antreass-

ian, CSUF professor of Armenian language and history Barlow Der Mugrdichian will be presenting a slide show on Soviet Armenia.

For further information call Jriar Jabaghourian 431-0171 or Aram Arax 222-0283.

## S.A.S. Event Features Noted Scholars

BELMONT, Mass. - Leading scholars in the field of Armenian Studies, including Richard G. Hovannisian (UCLA), Avedis Sanjian (UCLA), Nina Garsoian (Columbia) and Robert Thomas (Harvard), are scheduled to address the Society of Armenian Studies Anniversary Banquet on November 21st at the Armenian Library and Museum of America in Belmont, Mass.

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# ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ ARMENIAN ACTION

## KOUMJIAN RECEIVES FULBRIGHT

Professor will teach at  
Erevan University next Spring

By Hye Sharzhoom Staff

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno has been granted a Fulbright Lectureship at Erevan State University in Armenia during the Spring semester 1987. Dr. Kouymjian will teach a course on William Saroyan and the Armenians, using as the major text his new book *William Saroyan: An Armenian Trilogy*.

No where is Saroyan more loved and honored than in Armenia. Half of his cremated ashes are buried there in the Gomidas Pantheon for famous Armenians. Kouymjian, a close friend and confidant of the writer in the years just before his death, accompanied Saroyan's remains to Armenia in 1982.

For many years he has been teaching courses on William Saroyan at Fresno State. In applying for the Fulbright he was motivated by the feeling that both undergraduate and graduate students at Erevan University, especially those majoring in English literature and foreign languages, should have the opportunity of an organ-

ized course on Saroyan. Though many of Saroyan's most popular plays, novels, and stories have been translated into Armenian and Russian (Kouymjian thinks he may be the most translated American writer in the Soviet Union), his later memoirs are only vaguely known and the enormous quantity of unpublished works totally unknown. He wants to correct this situation.

The project of publishing a number of plays written in Saroyan's last years and devoted to the Armenians living in exile, was already discussed by the author and professor Kouymjian in 1980. A conjunction of appropriate circumstances allowed publication by the young university press established at Cal. State Univ., Fresno through the efforts of its Director Dr. Joseph Satin, Dean of the School of Humanities. Dr. Kouymjian, Director of the University's Armenian Studies Program, had been teaching courses on Saroyan and had in his possession copies of a number of plays given to him by Saroyan for class use and eventual publication. Kouymjian selected three of these and brought them together as a trilogy.

SOURCE Armenian Action; Fresno

DATE Vol 8, No. 1 Nov. 1986

SUBJECT CSUF Dr. Kouymjian will teach in Erevan  
University in Armenia.

PAGE 2 of 2



**1986-87 ASO Executive: Left to right; Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Coordinator Armenian Studies; Greg Eritzian, Treasurer; Shant Bedoyan, President; Lynette Zerounian, Vice President; and Yvonne Sahagian, Secretary.**

The three plays in *An Armenian Trilogy--Armenians, Bitlis, Haratch--* are concerned primarily with what it's like to live as an Armenian in the Diaspora, outside of and cut off from the historic homeland. Dr. Kouymjian hopes to reveal to the students in Armenia how a committed writer like Saroyan saw the fate of his exiled nation.

Professor Kouymjian also plans to teach a course or seminar on younger Armenian-American authors who address diasporan problems. That course will be focused on Michael Arlen's *Passage to Ararat*, Peter Najarian's *Voyages and Daughters of Memory* and several other contemporary writers and poets.

Dr. and Mrs. Kouymjian will be in Armenia from February through May. When he returns he promises to teach a course on Soviet Armenian life and problems to his American students.



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SOURCE Armenian Mirror-Spectator; Watertown

DATE Nov. 1, 1986

SUBJECT CSUF Armenian Studies Anniversary honoring Dr. Kouymjian.

PAGE 1 of 1

# The Armenian Mirror-Spectator

## Fresno Armenian Studies Program 10th Anniversary

The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program celebrated its tenth anniversary with a gala banquet on Monday, October 27, at 7 pm in the CSUF Residence Dining Facility. The evening began with a reception given in honor of California State University, Fresno Outstanding Professor for 1986, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, and CSUF president Dr. Harold Haak presented the award.

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In the fall of 1985-1986, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, a Candidate of Philosophy in Armenian Literature at UCLA joined the program as Armenian language instructor and advisor to the Armenian Students Organization. He is a graduate of California State University, Fresno and brings his enthusiasm and insight to the Program.

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Actively involved in the life of the university and the community, the Armenian Studies Program plays a role as the center for intellectual discourse in Fresno, sponsoring forums, symposia, and lectures.

## Society of Armenian Studies Anniversary Banquet Set for November 21st

The Society for Armenian Studies will mark its founding anniversary with a reception and banquet on Friday, November 21, 1986, at the Armenian Library and Museum of America in Belmont, Mass.. Several prominent guests, founding members and holders of chairs in Armenian studies from across the U.S. will attend this gala event. Leading scholars in the field of Armenian Studies including Richard G. Hovannisian (UCLA), Avedis Sanjian (UCLA), Nina Garsoian (Columbia) and Robert Thomson (Harvard) are scheduled to address the Society of Armenian Studies Anniversary Banquet.

One of the major highlights of the evening will be the viewing of the Museum's newly-opened exhibit of the Paul Bedoukian Collection during the reception scheduled for 6:00 p.m., to be followed by a lavish dinner, in the Museum's Nahigian Hall, at 7:30 p.m., to be emceed by SAS Chairman Dickran Koumjian of California State University, Fresno.

The Society was founded in 1974 by a group of scholars from the universities of California, Columbia and Harvard on the invitation of Professor Richard G. Hovannisian. Its aims are to promote the development of Armenian studies as an academic discipline and to facilitate the exchange of scholarly information pertaining to Armenian studies around the world.

The Society will hold its An-

nual Meeting during the Middle East Studies Association's conference on November 20th at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel. As in previous years, specialists in various fields of Armenian Studies will make presentations at SAS sponsored panels that are open to the public.

Beginning with an initial membership of forty, the Society currently has close to two hundred members. These include most U.S. scholars who are directly and professionally involved in the teaching and research of all aspects of Armenian studies. Many scholars whose main interests lie outside of Armenian studies have also joined the Society.

The programs of the Society include the sponsorship of panels at conferences and symposia and publication of the Newsletter, the Annual Bibliography of Articles in Armenian Studies, the Occasional Papers, the SAS Journal and the Directory of Armenian Scholars. Currently, a college-level textbook on Armenian history is in preparation under the editorship of Professor Hovannisian.

Tickets for the November 21st banquet priced at \$30.00 for members and \$40.00 for non-members are available from Helen Sahagian at (617) 646-2722. Because of the tremendous interest in this historic event, you are urged to make your reservations immediately.





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Meshag

MESHAG PUBLISHING REPORT

No. 5, 1986

1302 North Wishon Avenue, Fresno, California 93728

Phone (209) 266-8351

## Turkey and the Armenian Atrocities

By Edwin M. Bliss

Rev. Edwin M. Bliss, **Turkey and the Armenian Atrocities**, reprint edition of the original 1896 publication with a new preface by Dikran Kouymjian, Meshag Publishing (Fresno, 1982), 574 pages and 48 plates. \$20.00 available from Meshag Publishing, 1302 N. Wishon, Fresno, CA 93728.

This somewhat neglected study by missionary scholar Edwin Bliss presents in a clear and scholarly manner the steps which led up to the 1894-1896 massacres and describes in prophetic terms the carefully orchestrated Turkish government plan which unfortunately will be relived in even more brutal terms during the 1915-18 Armenian Genocide. It should remind all apologists for the deeds of the Turkish state in 1915 that twenty years earlier the same state was already engaged in systematically planned atrocities. It should also silence all critics who suggest that the Ottoman Bank seizure in August of 1896 was the cause of these massacres..

REV. EDWIN M. BLISS

## TURKEY and The Armenian Atrocities



since Bliss' book was sent to press before the incident even took place. The worst of the atrocities had already occurred before the incident.

(Hye Sharzhoom), Fresno

SOURCE Nor Gyank; GlendaleDATE Nov. 6 1986SUBJECT S.A.S BanquetPAGE 1 of 1

## SAS Banquet To Feature Leading Armenian Scholars

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# The California COURIER

## Dr. Dickran Kouymjian To Teach Course On Saroyan In Armenia

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"I think Saroyan is the most published American writer in the Soviet Union," Kouymjian said. "They like Saroyan's ability to speak about the common man and his rebellion against materialism."

Kouymjian has visited the Soviet Union four times, the last time as part of a delegation carrying Saroyan's ashes for burial at the Pantheon of Armenian Immortals in Yerevan, Soviet Armenia.

A friend of Saroyan's and an acknowledged expert on the author's life and work, Kouymjian for years has taught a Saroyan course at FSU similar to the one he will offer at Yerevan State University.

Saroyan took a personal interest in Kouymjian's course at FSU and occasionally slipped Kouymjian copies of unpublished plays to be used as part of the class. Afterward, Saroyan would call Kouymjian for a report.

"He would ask what the class thought," Kouymjian said. "Ultimately, he gave me 30 or 40 plays."

From that group of plays, Kouymjian selected and edited three for "An Armenian

Trilogy." The FSU Press secured publication rights for the book from the William Saroyan Foundation and Kouymjian wrote a 38-page introduction.

Saroyan wrote the three plays over a nine-year period, from 1971 to 1979.

In addition to the Saroyan course, Kouymjian plans to teach a class at the Yerevan university on other Armenian-American writers. Kouymjian's stay in Soviet-Armenia will last one full semester from next February to June. The books used in the class will be in English.

The publication of the book and announcement of Kouymjian's Fulbright award comes on the 10th anniversary of the FSU Armenian Studies Program.

—By Irwin Speizer  
Fresno Bee

SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator; Watertown

DATE Nov. 12, 1986

SUBJECT Scholars of Armenian Studies

PAGE 1 of 1

**The Armenian Mirror-Spectator**

*Scholars To Address Society Of  
Armenian Studies Anniversary Banquet*

Leading scholars in the field of Armenian Studies, including Richard G. Hovannisian (UCLA), Avedis Sanjian (UCLA), Nina Garsoian (Columbia) and Robert Thomson (Harvard) are scheduled to address the Society of Armenian Studies Anniversary Banquet on November 21, at the Armenian Library and Museum of America in Belmont, MA.

A major highlight of the evening will be the viewing of the Museum's newly-opened exhibit of the Paul Bedoukian Collection of Rare Coins and Artifacts. The cocktail reception is scheduled for 6 pm, followed by dinner at 7:30 pm, to be emceed by SAS chairman Dickran Kouymjian of California State University, Fresno. Dr. Lucy Der Manuelian of Tufts University is serving as Banquet Committee chair.

The Society will hold its An-

nual Meeting during the Middle East Studies Association's conference on Thursday, November 20 at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel, Copley Square. As in previous years, specialists in various fields of Armenian Studies will make presentations at SAS-sponsored panels that are open to the public.

The Society for Armenian Studies was founded in 1974 to promote the development of Armenian Studies as an academic discipline and to facilitate the exchange of scholarly information pertaining to Armenian studies around the world.

Tickets for the November 21 Banquet, priced at \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members are available from Helen Sahagian (617) 646-2722, or Levon Marashlian (818) 240-1000 ext. 404.



## Prof. Dickran Kouymjian to Speak on Saroyan in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — Prof. Dickran Kouymjian will appear at the AGBU Center on Friday, Nov. 14th, at 8:00 p.m., upon the invitation of the Armenian Alumni Association. The topic of his lecture is "William Saroyan on the Armenians." The public is invited.

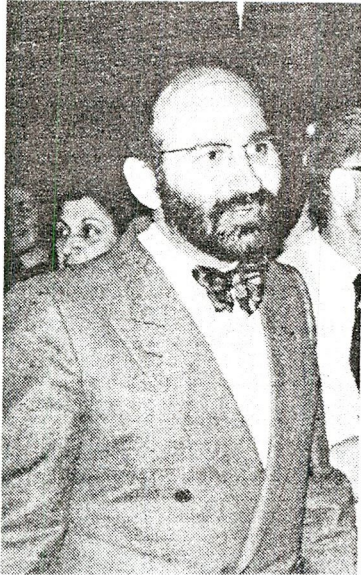
Born in 1934, in Romania, Dickran Kouymjian was educated in Chicago and Racine, Wisconsin. He received his bachelor's degree in European cultural history from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

In 1959, he launched his teaching career, as an instructor of English literature and humanities at the American University of Beirut, consequently earning his M.A. and the doctorate in Near Eastern Languages and Literature.

After several appointments as lecturer in Near Eastern studies at Columbia University and at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, he accepted a joint appointment as Associate Professor of Armenian history and art at AUB in 1971, where he stayed for four years.

Having left the tumultuous conditions in Beirut, Kouymjian moved to Paris to teach Classical and Near Eastern art history at the American College, meanwhile producing prolifically about the subjects of his persevering studies.

In 1977 he was called from Paris to fill the newly-created professorship in Armenian studies and be the first director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno. During the past decades, he has developed the major undergraduate program in Armenian studies in the U.S.,



the only one that has focused on art, architecture, and literature.

Among his many extracurricular activities, the most prominent is probably the organization of an international symposium and festival at CSUF to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first publication of "David of Sassoun," the Armenian folk epic.

Two years later, he mounted a two-week William Saroyan Festival at the university.

Along with the many responsibilities of his tenured position, Dickran Kouymjian serves on a number of editorial boards. He is also the founder and current chairman of the William Saroyan Society.

This May, Prof. Kouymjian was awarded a Fulbright lectureship to the Soviet Union, where he will be teaching courses on William Saroyan and Armenian-American writers at Yerevan State University in the spring semester 1987.



ARMENIAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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## A LECTURE "W.SAROYAN ON THE ARMENIANS"

BY

**PROF. DICKRAN KOUYMJIAN**  
DIRECTOR OF ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CAL. STATE UNIV. FRESNO

**NOV. 14Th, 8:00Pm**

AT THE

**AGBU CENTER**

589 N Larchmont Blvd. L.A.

PROF. KOUYMJIAN WILL AUTOGRAPH HIS BOOK ON SAROYAN

FREE ADMISSION

# The California COURIER

## Leading Armenian Scholars To Speak At SAS Banquet

BOSTON — Leading scholars in the field of Armenian Studies including Richard G. Hovannisian (UCLA), Avedis Sanjian (UCLA), Nina Garsoian (Columbia) and Robert Thomson (Harvard) are scheduled to address the Society of Armenian Studies Anniversary Banquet on Nov. 21 at the Armenian Library and Museum of America in Belmont Mass.

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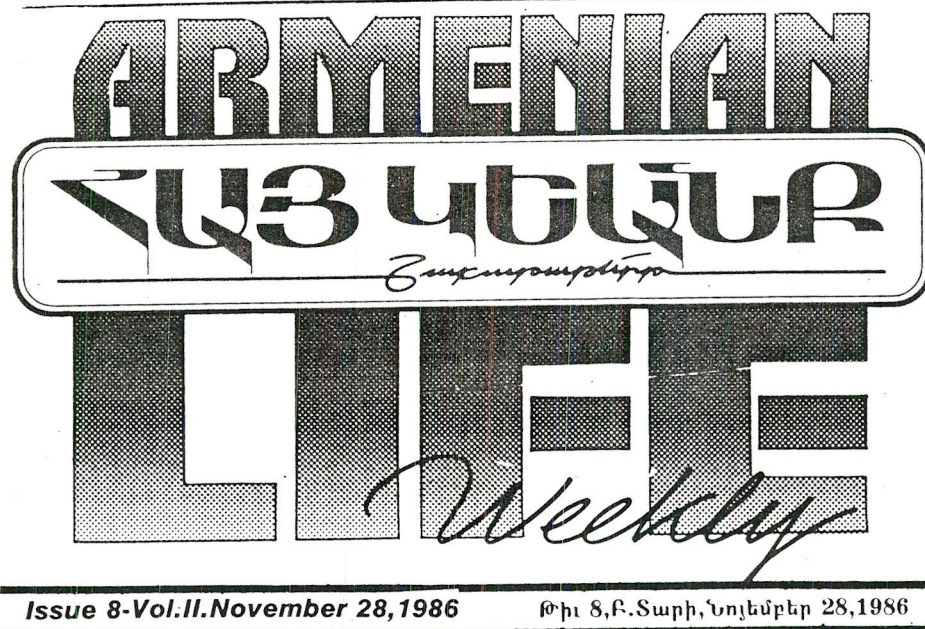
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## Kouymjian gets award at banquet

By Paul Worthington

The Outstanding Professor of the Year Award was bestowed upon CSUF Professor Dickran Kouymjian Monday Oct. 27 at a banquet of the Armenian Studies Program.

Kouymjian, a professor in the Armenian Studies Department, was named professor of the year during May commencement exercises, but was out of the country at the time.

University President Harold Haak belatedly presented Kouymjian with the award at the recent banquet attended by approximately 150 people.

The next morning, Kouymjian watched as Greg Abramian pulled out a dent in the back of the professor's old blue Chevrolet station wagon that had

prevented the power window from going up. "This goes on all the time," Kouymjian said of the student's help. "We have a family arrangement."

Kouymjian's ties with his students are close and he said the award had particular significance for him because the nomination for Outstanding Professor was put in by his students, not a department, as he said is usually the case...

"It is a double endorsement. It is not just from my peers in the faculty," who he said approved the award, "but from my students as well."

Before going to fix the station wagon, Kouymjian was on the phone for half an hour to New York, speaking with the book review editor for the New York Times. They were discussing the possibility of Kouymjian writing an

article on the book of plays by William Saroyan just published by the university Press. Kouymjian compiled and edited the book as well as writing the lengthy introduction.

He will take the book as a text to Soviet Armenia next February. Kouymjian will be teaching at the University of Erevan in the capitol of Soviet Armenia on Fulbright Lecturship.

The Fulbright Award is competitive, Kouymjian said. A bulletin is circulated throughout the world, he said, telling which countries there are lecturships available.

Trying to think of something different so as to compete with the other applicants, Kouymjian said he thought, what could be better than teaching Saroyan in the land where his ashes are interred? Kouymjian had himself taken the famous writer's remains to the area as requested in his will. Now he would teach the author's writings there as well.

Although he applied after





**Nominated by his students, Professor Dickran Kouymjian is CSUF's Professor of the Year.**

deadline, the commission in Washington D.C. accepted him. Kouymjian said he found out about the Soviet approval before the people in Washington through his contacts at the Erevan University.

Before he goes to Soviet Armenia, Kouymjian said he will start fundraising for a permanently endowed chair for the Armenian Studies program. It would be the second on campus, he said; the business school set one up last Semester. When you have an endowed chair, you guarantee the permanency of the department, Kouymjian said. With the funds, he said he would set up a research position.

He also wants to increase the awareness of the general student body of the Armenian studies program.

"The majority of my class in Armenian Studies 110 are non-Armenians," he said.

More students would take the class, he said, if they knew of "the excitement and vigor in the Armenian Studies program, and the universal values taught in it. The study of our history is the study of all human civilization, for practical reasons,"

Kouymjian said, citing the presence of the culture in early Biblical times.

"We were there at the beginning and we are still here," he said. "Our history is an interesting one." He added that it is often the non-Armenian students who get most caught up in the drama of the Armenian people's history. ■