

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 #29

April 1987



SOURCE CSU Stateline

DATE April 1987

SUBJECT Barlow Der Mugrdechian

PAGE 1 of 1

CSU STATELINE

Honors and Recognitions

BARLOW DER MUGRDECHIAN, lecturer in Armenian studies, CSU Fresno — elected secretary of the Administrative Council of the National Society for Armenian Studies.

THE ARMENIAN OBSERVER

Oral History Symposium by CSUF

FRESNO — The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization and the Zoryan Institute are sponsoring a one-day symposium on "Armenian Oral History" on Saturday, April 25, 1987 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Old Science Building Room 121 on the CSUF campus. Guest speakers for the symposium are: Dr. Donald E. Miller, USC School of Religion; Taline Voskeritchian Salibian, Ph.D., a teacher at Holy Martyrs Armenian Ferrahian High School in Los Angeles; Dr. Rouben Adalian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program at the American Armenian International College, La Verne; and Salpi Haroutinian Ghazarian, West Coast Coordinator of the Zoryan Institute, Los Angeles. Among the topics discussed

will be the status of Armenian Oral History, its importance, its implications for research and teaching, its impact on interviewee and interviewer, and its

long term historical significance. There will be free admission to the symposium and the public is welcomed.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRESNO

APRIL 3 — Friday, Diana Der Hovanessian, award-winning poet from Cambridge, Mass. will be honored by the CSUF Armenian Studies Program and Hamazkayin Cultural Association. Social Hall of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church. Reception. No admission charge.

APRIL 25 — Saturday, Oral History Symposium, sponsored by the CSUF Armenian Studies Program, Armenian Students Organization, and the Zoryan Institute. CSUF Old Science Room 121. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Daily Collegian

DATE April 1, 1987

SUBJECT Der Hovanessian.

PAGE 1 of 1

The *Daily Collegian*

California State University, Fresno

Poet **Diana Der Hovanessian** of Cambridge,
Massachusetts
author of Anthology of Armenian Poetry

and Poet **Wendy Rose** of Fresno
in conjunction with the Ethnic Studies Program

"A Celebration of Ethnic Writing"

sponsored by the
Armenian Studies Program and the
Armenian Students Organization and the
Native-American Studies Program

Thursday, April 2, 1987 12:30 p.m.
-2:00 p.m.

CSU Fresno Upstairs Cafeteria
Room 200

Reception to follow. Admission is free and everyone is invited.

CALENDAR

The American Society for
Personnel Administration will
sponsor a pizza night for all Human
Resource Management Majors
Thursday at 6 p.m. at Me 'n Eds,
located at First and Bullard.

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; New YorkDATE April 2, 1987SUBJECT Armenian Oral HistoryPAGE 1 of 1

Fresno State U. & Zoryan Institute Sponsors of Symposium on History

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ian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program at the American Armenian International College, La Verne; and Salpi Haroutunian Ghazarian, West Coast Coordinator of the Zoryan Institute, Los Angeles.

Among the topics discussed will be the status of Armenian Oral History, its importance, its implications for research and teaching, its impact on interviewee and interviewer, and its long term historical significance.

There will be free admission to the symposium and the public is welcomed.

4UB**ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE California Courier; Los AngelesDATE April 2, 1987SUBJECT Armenian Oral HistoryPAGE 1 of 1**The California
COURIER****Armenian Groups
To Sponsor Oral
History Symposium**

FRESNO — The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization and the Zoryan Institute are co-sponsoring a one-day symposium on "Armenian Oral History" on April 25, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Old Science Building, room 121, on the CSUF campus.

Guest speakers for the symposium are: Dr. Donald E. Miller, USC School of Religion; Taline Voskeritchian Salibian, Ph.D., a teacher at Holy Martyrs Armenian Ferrahian High School in Los Angeles; Dr. Rouben Adalian, director of the Armenian Studies Program at the American Armenian International College, La Verne; and Salpi Haroutinian Ghazarian, West Coast coordinator of the Zoryan Institute, Los Angeles.

Among the topics discussed will be the status of Armenian Oral History, its importance, its implications for research and teaching, its impact on interviewee and interviewers, and its long term historical significance. Admission is free.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**FRESNO**

APRIL 3 — Friday. 8 p.m. Diana Der Hovanessian, award winning poet from Cambridge, Mass. will be honored at a program and reception sponsored by the CSUF Armenian Studies Program and Hamazkayin Armenian Cultural Association. Social Hall of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church. Reception. No admission charge.

APRIL 25 — Saturday. ORAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM. Sponsored by the CSUF Armenian Studies Program, Armenian Students Organization, and the Zoryan Institute. CSUF Old Science Room 121. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Armenian Weekly; New York.

DATE April 4, 1987

SUBJECT Armenian Oral History

PAGE 1 of 1

Fresno St. Armenian Studies Dept. Sponsors Oral History Symposium

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The Daily Collegian

California State University, Fresno

Armenian studies can benefit all

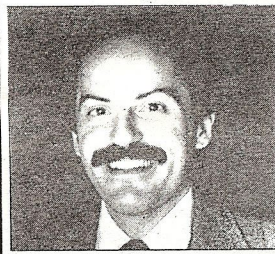
By Mike Butwell
Staff Writer

People of all races can learn from the Armenian experience, said Armenian Studies instructor Barlow Der Mugrdechian who cur-

ARMENIA



Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian



First of a five-part series

rently heads the program at CSUF.

"Armenians are important people we can learn from. If you learn about Armenians, you learn about people. You learn about discrimination and how to succeed," he said.

Fresno is a city with a large Armenian population, so it comes as no surprise that Armenian history and culture are taught at CSUF.

Armenian classes have been offered on campus since 1960, but the actual Armenian Studies Program was not introduced until 1976 under Dr. Dickran Kouymjian. Presently, there are four courses being taught.

Kouymjian, who was named CSUF's Outstanding Professor of the Year in 1986, is on a Fulbright Scholarship and doing research in Soviet Armenia. He is CSUF's only full-time Armenian professor, but in his absence, Der Mugrdechian has filled in for him.

"The program is one which really has gained both national and international recognition," said Der Mugrdechian, a native of Fresno who graduated from CSUF in 1979. "Because of the efforts of Dr. Kouymjian in the past 10 years and people assisting him, we've seen a tremendous growth in the program.

"It (Armenian studies) is a difficult field to be successful in," he said, "because there are so few jobs available. It is one in which I've made a lot of personal sacrifices."

Der Mugrdechian received his master's degree in Modern Armenian Literature from UCLA in 1983 and came back to CSUF two years later. He is currently working on

obtaining his Ph.D., having passed all his qualifying exams.

He feels his classes have a lot to offer and is enthusiastic about the teaching of Armenian background. "There are a lot of benefits to the university. Benefits like learning of the Armenian experience — such as the Genocide of 1915, where one-and-a-half million Armenians were killed.

"The Armenians were living in what's now today's Turkey, and the Soviet Union, for some 2,500 years," Der Mugrdechian said. "In 1915, during World War I, Turks took advantage and tried to eliminate Armenians living there.

"The main benefit is letting people know how Armenians survived that and came to prosper in America."

Der Mugrdechian does not feel there is as much a problem with discrimination against Armenians in America today, but said it was a problem in the past.

"It's pretty much disappeared now. But, there's still some residue," Der Mugrdechian said. "But that's where Armenians have something to offer to other ethnic groups since they've felt the effects. They (Armenians) should be on the forefront in fighting discrimination."

According to Der Mugrdechian, the first Armenians migrated to Fresno in 1881, and a vast majority of them came during the genocide. It was a struggle at first for Armenians in America, but it was not something they could not overcome.

"Every new immigrant seems to face the

same problems that Armenians did," Der Mugrdechian said. "It wasn't particularly an Armenian problem. It was a question of Armenians being like other ethnic groups.

"Armenians changed simply because Armenians became educated and were able to pull themselves up. Armenians were able to adapt rather easily like most ethnic groups do. It's a process, though, which is a degrading one."

Looking to the future, Der Mugrdechian is excited about the goals set for the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF.

"The future is very strong," Der Mugrdechian said. "We're looking to add more classes and are starting a campaign for an endowed chair. It's a community-wide campaign to gather \$300,000 for a permanent position in Armenian Studies."

Der Mugrdechian would like to see the William Saroyan class, about Fresno's famous Armenian author, to become available as a general education course and would also like to see classes offered on the Armenian experience in America.

The Armenian Studies Program will be enhanced by the addition of the Leon S. Peters Building next fall. The building will bring larger office space and the program will begin doing more research projects, he said.

One change Der Mugrdechian would like to see is to have "all ethnic studies programs offer a major in their program." Presently, only a minor is available in ethnic studies.

In general, Der Mugrdechian is also enthusiastic about discussing the future of the Armenian race at large. "The future in America is good. Armenians have all the opportunities to remain Armenian that they need. It's a free society so they can learn language and take classes.

More importantly, Armenians are able to see historic wrongs which have been perpetuated against them. The question of identity is also important, since Armenians are outside of their historic land, he said.

"The (Armenian) message is a universal one: Be aware of and be proud of your cultural heritage and realize and appreciate your branch of the human race."

Oral History Analysis at CSUF/Zoryan One-Day Symposium on Apr. 25

FRESNO — The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program, Armenian Students Organization, and the Zoryan Institute are sponsoring a one-day symposium on Armenian Oral History. The Symposium will take place on Saturday, April 25, 1987 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Old Science Building Room 121 on the CSU Fresno campus.

There will be four parts in the symposium, two in the morning session and two in the afternoon session. Barlow Der Muqrdechian, Acting Director of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program will moderate the sessions.

Dr. Donald Miller of the USC School of Religion will speak on "The Status of Oral History Research," based on questionnaire developed by the Zoryan Institute. Dr. Miller will discuss the some two thousand interviews which have been conducted throughout the Diaspora, and the present status of their access and availability.

Salpi Haroutinian Ghazarian, West Coast Coordinator of the Zoryan Institute, will speak on the subject "Oral History as a Human Experience," concentrat-

ing on the effects of interviews on both interviewee and interviewer.

Taline Voskeritchian Salibian, Ph.D., a teacher at the Holy Martyrs Armenian Ferrahian High School, will discuss the "Uses of Oral History in Education." She will discuss the use and effectiveness of Oral History as method and as medium. Salibian will share examples of students' work from Ferrahian High School to demonstrate the potential of the oral history method in teaching basic structural and sequential thinking skills, analysis, inquiry, and writing.

Dr. Rouben Adalian, Chairman of the Armenian Studies Department at the American Armenian International College, will speak on "The Use of Oral History in Research," which addresses the uses of the oral history materials gathered in the Armenian community specifically pertaining to the issue of documenting the Armenian genocide. Sample videotapes will be shown to illustrate the methods of analyzing the details of the Genocide process with the intention of developing a quantitative approach to the sum of the tragic episodes recounted by the

Armenian survivors.

Many of the survivors of the Armenian genocide live in Fresno and have been interviewed by the Zoryan Institute or other Armenian institutions. Relatives and friends of these survivors will learn about the great value of these recorded histories. Educators should find this symposium to be of particular interest as well.

The symposium is free of charge and the community is welcome. For information or directions please call the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF at (209) 294-2669/2832.

Asbarez

ENGLISH EDITION

One-Day Symposium on Oral History at CSUF Campus Sat. April 25

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SOURCE Nor Gyank; Glendale

DATE April 16, 1987

SUBJECT Armenian Oral History.

PAGE 1 of 1

upcoming events

1 Day Symposium Of Arm. Oral History

The California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization and the Zoryan Institute are sponsoring a one-day symposium on Armenian Oral History on Saturday, April 25, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Old Science Building Room 121 on the CSUF campus.

Guest speakers for the symposium are: Dr. Donald E. Miller, USC School of Religion; Taline Voskeritchian Salibian, Ph.D., a teacher at Holy Martyrs Armenian Ferrahian High School in Los Angeles; Dr. Rouben Adalian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program at the American-Armenian International College, La Verne; and Salpi Haroutinian Ghazarian, West Coast Coordinator of the Zoryan Institute, Los Angeles.

Among the topics discussed will be the status of Armenian Oral History, its importance, its implications for research and teaching, its impact on interviewee and interviewer, and its long term historical significance.

There will be free admission to the symposium and the public is welcomed.

SOURCE The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles DATE April 15, 1987
SUBJECT Exhibit/Lecture of Armenian-Americans. PAGE 1 of 1

Historic Family Album Photo Exhibit/Lecture at CSUF

FRESNO — "Armenians Through the Camera's Eye" is an exhibit of historic photographs, reproduced from the family albums of Armenian-Americans and will be presented in a slide presentation/lecture by Ruth Thomasian of Project SAVE (Watertown, MA) in Fresno, on Friday, May 1 at 12:00 noon in the California State University, Fresno College Union Room 312 and on Sunday May 3, at 3:00 p.m. in the Armenian General Benevolent Union Hall. Admission is free to both events.

Thomasian has chosen photographs dating from 1859 to 1981, chronicling the lives of the Armenians who lived in the Ottoman Empire. Photographs are especially treasured by Armenian Americans. They refresh the memories of forsaken family, friends and homeland.

Ruth Thomasian began Project SAVE in 1975 while working with older-generation Armenian-Americans. Tracking down old photographs, she was able to identify, and date people and places. The project is intended to "record Armenian history through the photograph." Since 1975 Thomasian has devoted much of her time to col-

lecting, reproducing and documenting an estimated 1700 old photographs donated or loaned to her by Armenians, most of them from the Boston and New York areas.

Ruth Thomasian's trip to California will include a stop at UCLA on April 30. Her trip is cosponsored by the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program, Armenian Students Organization, and the UCLA Armenian Students Association. For more information please call the CSUF Armenian Studies Program at (209) 294-2669.

SOURCE The California Courier; Los Angeles.

DATE April 16, 1987

SUBJECT Armenian History.

PAGE 1 of 1

Symposium On Oral History To Be Held At Fresno State

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Barlow Der Mugrdechian, acting director of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program, will moderate the sessions. Dr. Donald Miller of the USC School of Religion will speak on "The Status of Oral History Research," based on questionnaires developed by the Zoyan Institute. Salpi Haroutinian Ghazarian, West Coast coordinator of the Zoryan Institute, will speak on the subject "Oral History as a Human Experience."

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Deukmejian Visits Fowler Sees Raisins And Khnamis

By Eli Setencich

FOWLER — For couple of hours, they forgot all about the price of raisins.

The governor was in town, the biggest deal to hit Fowler since the passenger trains quit stopping.

Inside the National Raisin Co. plant near the railroad tracks, they had it so tidy you could have eaten their Champion raisins off the floor. Carlotta, Katherine and Jane, the Bedrosian brothers' wives, had made sure the place was fit for a favorite son.

Besides, this governor was like family. "He is khnami," said Elizabeth Bedrosian, mother of Ernie, Kay and Ken, who are the Carringtons of Fowler, and their sister, Clara Bousian, who's a school teacher.

"In-laws," she said proudly, noting that her grandson — Kay Bedrosian' son, Michael — is married to Marina, a niece of the governor's, which helps explain why George Deukmejian picked a relatively small, independent raisin packing plant to showcase his farm export policy.

Nor did it hurt that Ernie Bedrosian happens to be the export chairman of then California Raisin Advisory Board, the folks that brought the world the dancing raisins of prime time television.

Police Chief Jim Martin was wearing a bright red Champion raisins cap. "Never had a governor here before," he said. "We appreciate it." Even Mayor Roland Hill and other members of the City Council came out, he said.

So did a bunch of other local folks, like Art Kandarian, who farms 200 acres and delivers his raisins to the Bedrosian plant and Richard Ermoian, a retired barber. "And I'm a Democrat," said the barber.

He probably wasn't the only one in the crowd. Fowler Democrats are one of the reasons there's a Republican governor. "We vote for the man," Art Kandarian said.

Inside the plant, the ladies working on the sorting line were wearing hairnets and lipstick. The men's work clothes were freshly laundered. After the governor's tour, the machinery would be

shut down and they would go home.

But now all was humming and spotless, even the raisins, which were being sprayed by water as they made their way from the stemmer down the conveyor belt and eventually to their packages.

Somebody wanted to know if they were washing off the poison. "No," said Kay Bedrosian, "the dirt."

"It's not every day a governor comes to Fowler," he told the crowd. "It's a highlight for this community of what — 2,000?"

Police Chief Martin said, "Three thousand zero 48. The last future we got. And we're growing."

Ernie Bedrosian was talking raisins. "Brown nuggets of natural energy," he called them. They're selling better, he said, particularly in places like Taiwan.

Small world. Taiwan is also where the bright red Champion caps the chief and others were sporting came from. Call it fair trade.

After the governor finished saying how much better everything is since he became governor, Ernie Bedrosian gave him just what he wanted.

"A Champion raisin jogging suit for a champion governor," Ernie Bedrosian said. Just in case he gets the notion to do some running.

George Deukmejian grinned a favorite son grin and everybody applauded. Elizabeth Bedrosian, the matriarch, said it was like a family get-together. "We are khnami," she said, in case anybody forgot. —Fresno Bee

SOURCE Asbarez; Glendale

DATE April 18, 1987

SUBJECT Slide presentation/lecture by Ruth.

PAGE 1 of 1

Asbarez

ENGLISH EDITION

Project SAVE in Fresno, May 1 and May 3

FRESNO, Calif. - "Armenians Through the Camera's Eye" is an exhibit of historic photographs, reproduced from the family albums of Armenian-Americans and will be presented in a slide presentation/lecture by Ruth Thomasian of Project SAVE in Fresno, on Friday, May 1 at 12:00 noon in the California State University, Fresno College Union Room 312 and on Sunday May 3, at 3:00 p.m. in the Armenian General Benevolent Union Hall. Admission is free to both events.

Thomasian, from Watertown, Massachusetts, has selected photographs dating from 1859 to 1981, chronicling the lives of the Armenians who lived in the Ottoman Empire. Photographs are especially treasured by Armenian-Americans. They refresh the memories of forsaken family, friends and homeland.

Ruth Thomasian began Project SAVE in 1975 while working with older-generation Armenian-Americans. Tracking down old photographs, she was able to identify, and date people and places. The project is intended to "record Armenian history through the

photograph." Since 1975 Thomasian has devoted much of her time to collecting, reproducing and documenting an estimated 1700 old photographs donated or loaned to her by Armenians, most of them from the Boston and New York areas.

Thomasian's interest in her heritage found a channel when she and her father traveled to Armenia in 1969. "The trip gave me a starting point," she said. "All my pent-up longing to know about my Armenian background finally came about. I was moved to tears."

The Armenians' reaffirmation of their past and their culture through pictures is particularly significant at Easter time because Easter comes close to the April 24th commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Ruth Thomasian's trip to California will include a stop at UCLA on April 30. Her trip is cosponsored by the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program, Armenian Students Organization, and the UCLA Armenian Students Association. For more information please call the CSUF Armenian Studies Program at (209) 294-2669.

SOURCE The Armenian Weekly; New York

DATE April 18, 1987

SUBJECT Project SAVE

PAGE 1 of 1

Project SAVE Exhibition To Take Place on West Coast

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Fresno State U. Arm. Studies Instructor Discusses Progress

By Mike Butwell

FRESNO, CA — People of all races can learn from the Armenian experience, said Armenian Studies instructor Barlow Der Mugrdechian who currently heads the program at California State University at Fresno (CSUF).

Fresno is a city with a large Armenian population, so it comes as no surprise that Armenian history and culture are taught at CSUF.

Armenian classes have been offered on campus since 1960, but the actual Armenian Studies program was not introduced until 1976 under Dr. Dickran Kouymjian. Presently, there are four courses being taught.

Kouymjian, who was named CSUF's Outstanding Professor of the Year in 1986, is on a Fulbright Scholarship and doing research in Soviet Armenia. He is CSUF's only fulltime Armenian professor, but in his absence, Der Mugrdechian has filled in for him.

"The program is one which really has gained both national and international recognition," said Der Mugrdechian, a native of Fresno who graduated from CSUF in 1979. "Because of the efforts of Dr. Kouymjian in the past 10 years and people assisting him, we've seen a tremendous growth in the program.

"It (Armenian studies) is a difficult field to be successful in," he said, "because there are so few jobs available. It is one in which I've made a lot of personal sacrifices."

Der Mugrdechian received his master's degree in Modern Armenian Literature from UCLA in 1983 and came back to CSUF two years later. He is currently working on obtaining his Ph.D., having passed all his qualifying exams.

He feels his classes have a lot to offer and is enthusiastic about the teaching of Armenian background. "There are a lot of benefits to the university. Benefits like learning of the Armenian experience—such as the Genocide of 1915, where one-and-a-half million Armenians were killed.

"The Armenians were living in what's now today's Turkey, and the Soviet Union, for some 2,500 years," Der Mugrdechian said. "In 1915, during World War I, Turks took advantage and tried to eliminate Armenians living there. The main benefit is letting people know how Armenians survived that and came to prosper in America."

Der Mugrdechian does not feel there is as much a problem with discrimination against Armenians in America today, but said it was a problem in the past. "It's pretty much disappeared now. But, there's still some residue," Der Mugrdechian said. "But that's where Armenians have something to offer to other ethnic groups since they've felt the effects.

They (Armenians) should be on the forefront in fighting discrimination."

According to Der Mugrdechian, the first Armenians migrated to Fresno in 1881, and a vast majority of them came during the genocide. It was a struggle at first for Armenians in America, but it was not something they could not overcome.

"Every new immigrant seems to face the same problems that Armenians did," Der Mugrdechian said. "It wasn't particularly an Armenian problem. It was a question of Armenians being like other ethnic groups.

"Armenians changed simply because Armenians became educated and were able to pull themselves up. Armenians were able to adapt rather easily like most ethnic groups do. It's a process, though, which is a degrading one."

Looking to the future, Der Mugrdechian is excited about the goals set for the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF.

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The California COURIER

Thomasian To Exhibit Historic Photographs

FRESNO — "Armenians Through the Camera's Eye" is an exhibit of historic photographs, reproduced from the family albums of Armenian-Americans and will be presented in a slide presentation/lecture by Ruth Thomasian of Project SAVE (Watertown, Mass.) in Fresno, on May 1 at 12 noon in the California State University, Fresno College Union Room 312 and on May 3, at 3 p.m. in the Armenian General Benevolent Union Hall. Admission is free to both events.

Thomasian has chosen photographs dating from 1859 to 1981, chronicling the lives of the Armenians who lived in the Ottoman Empire.

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For additional information call the CSUF Armenian Studies Program at (209) 294-2669.

4UB

ARMENIAN STUDIES

PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Coast To Coast Armenian Calendar,

DATE April 25, 1987

SUBJECT Oral History Symposium

PAGE 1 of 1

Coast To Coast Armenian
CALENDAR

FRESNO

April 25, 1987 Satur-
day

10:00-3:00pm ORAL HISTORY SYM-
POSIUM. Sponsored by the CSUF
Armenian Studies Program, Armenian
Studies Organization, and the Zoryan
Institute. CSUF Old Science Rm 121.

Armenian Studies Can Benefit All Says Professor

People of all races can learn from the Armenian experience, said Armenian Studies instructor Barlow Der Mugrdechian who currently heads the program at California State University, Fresno.

"Armenians are important people we can learn from. If you learn about Armenians, you learn about people. You learn about discrimination and how to succeed," he said.

Fresno is a city with a large Armenian population, so it comes as no surprise that Armenian history and culture are taught at CSUF.

Armenian classes have been offered on campus since 1960, but the actual Armenian Studies Program was not introduced until 1976 under Dr. Dickran Kouymjian. Presently, there are four courses being taught.

Kouymjian was named CSUF's Outstanding Professor of the Year in 1986, is on a Fullbright Scholarship and doing research in Soviet Armenia. He is CSUF's only full-time Armenian professor, but in his absence, Der Mugrdechian has filled in for him.

"The program is one which really has gained both national and international recognition," said Der Mugrdechian, a native of Fresno who graduated from CSUF in 1979. "Because of the efforts of Dr. Kouymjian in the past 10 years and people assisting him, we've seen a tremendous growth in the program.

"It (Armenian studies) is a difficult field to be successful in," he said, "because there are so few jobs available. It is one in which I've made a lot of personal sacrifices."

Der Mugrdechian received his master's degree in Modern Armenian Literature from UCLA in 1983 and came back to CSUF two years later. He is currently working on obtaining his Ph.D., having passed all his qualifying exams.

He feels his classes have a lot to offer and is enthusiastic about the teaching of Armenian background. "There are a lot of benefits to the university. Benefits like learning of the Armenian experience—such as the Genocide of 1915,

where one-and-one-a-half million Armenians were killed.

"The Armenians were living in what's now today's Turkey, and the Soviet Union, for some 2,500 years," Der Mugrdechian said. "In 1915, during World War I, Turks took advantage and tried to eliminate Armenians living there.

"The main benefit is letting people know how Armenians survived that and came to prosper in America."

Der Mugrdechian does not feel there is as much a problem with discrimination against Armenians in America today, but said it was a problem in the past.

"It's pretty much disappeared now. But there's still some residue," Der Mugrdechian said. "But that's where Armenians have something to offer to other ethnic groups since they've felt the effects. They (Armenians) should be on the forefront in fighting discrimination."

According to Der Mugrdechian, the first Armenian migrated to Fresno in 1881, and a vast majority of them came during the genocide. It was a struggle at first for Armenians in America, but it was something they could not overcome.

"Every new immigrant seems to face the same problem that Armenians did," Der Mugrdechian said. "It wasn't particularly an Armenian problem. It was a question of Armenians being like other ethnic groups.

"Armenians changed simply because Armenians became educated and were able to pull themselves up. Armenians were able to adapt rather easily like most ethnic groups do. It's a process, though, which is a degrading one."

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—Mike Butwell
Daily Collegian, CSUF

Asbarez

CSUF Armenian Studies Program Helpful

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He feels his classes have a lot to offer and is enthusiastic about the teaching of Armenian background. "There are a lot of benefits to the university. Benefits like learning of the Armenian experience—such as the Genocide of 1915, where one-and-a-half million Armenians were killed.

"The Armenians were living in what's now today's Turkey, and the Soviet Union, for some 2500 years," Der Mugrdechian said. "In 1915, during World War I, Turks took advantage and tried to eliminate Armenians living there.

"The main benefit is letting people know how Armenians survived that and came to prosper in America."

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Daily Collegian
April 6

SOURCE Armenian Mirror-Spectator; Watertown DATE April 25, 1987
SUBJECT Ruth Thomasian lectures in Fresno PAGE 1 of 1

Ruth Thomasian To Lecture And Show Slides In Fresno, Los Angeles

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Thomasian has chosen photographs dating from 1859 to 1981, chronicling the lives of the Armenians who lived in the Ottoman Empire. Photographs are especially treasured by Armenian Americans. They refresh the memories of forsaken family, friends and homeland.

Ruth Thomasian began Project SAVE in 1975 while working with older-generation Armenian Americans. Tracking down old photographs, she was able to identify, and date people and places. The project is intended to "record Armenian history through the photograph." Since 1975 Ms. Thomasian has devoted much of her time to collecting, reproducing and documenting an estimated 1,700 old photographs donated or loaned to her by Armenians, most of them from the Boston and New York areas.

Ms. Thomasian's interest in her heritage found a channel when she and her father traveled to Armenia in 1969. "The trip gave me a starting point," she said, "All my pent-up longing to know about my Armenian background finally came about. I was moved to tears."

Ruth Thomasian's trip to California will include a stop at UCLA on April 30. Her trip is cosponsored by the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program, Armenian Students Organization, and the UCLA Armenian Students Association.

THE ARMENIAN OBSERVER

People of all Races Can Learn from the Armenian Experience

By MIKE BUTWELL

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Der Mugrdchian does not feel there is as much a problem with discrimination against Armenians in America today, but said it was a problem in the past.

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SOURCE Nor Gyank:

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THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

April 6, 1987

The California COURIER

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