



**California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
Fresno, California 93740-0004**

Armenian Studies Program News Service

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

Fall 1994

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April 24th Commemoration in Fresno



(L to R) Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Byran Bedrosian, Richard Darmanian, Vatche Semerdjian, Boghos Handian, Ara Sarafian, Bill Sahatdjian

FRESNO, CA - Congressman Calvin Dooley, California State Assemblyman Jim Costa, Fresno City Major Jim Patterson, Supervisor Deron Koligian, and City Councilpersons Esther Padilla and Robert Lung joined more than 700 Armenians at the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church here on Sunday, April 24 to commemorate the 79th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The commemorative activities were organized by the Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley.

Following a requiem service, which was held in the sanctuary of the Church, a civic commemoration was held in the Church fellowship hall at 5:00 p.m. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Chairman of the Armenian Community Council and master of ceremonies of the event, welcomed the guests. The United States national anthem was sung by Dzovig Yaralian, accompanied by Naira Shahsouvorian on the piano. Students of the Armenia Community School of Fresno, under the direction of school principal Assadour Assadourian, sang the Armenian national anthem.

Der Mugrdechian introduced the honored dignitaries, representing most of the political leadership of the San Joaquin Valley. Proclamations recognizing April 24th as a Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide were issued by Pete Wilson, Governor of the State of California, by the State Assembly of California, by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, and Fresno City Council.

Mr. Boghos Handian of Fresno recited the poem "Menk" by writer Jack Hagopian. The Hamazkayin Choir of Fresno, under the direction of Vartan Ketendjian, and accompanied by Seda Sadoian on piano, sang a selection of Armenian songs:

"Hayastan," "Vokegoch," "Himi el Lrenk," and "Pamp Vorodan."

Mr. Vatche Semerdjian of Los Angeles was the keynote speaker in Armenian. Semerdjian is a political analyst whose writings have appeared frequently in the Armenian press.

Mr. Ara Sarafian, a doctoral candidate from the University of Michigan, gave the keynote address in English, concentrating on Turkish government denials of the Genocide. Sarafian was in California as part of a nationwide speaking tour organized by the Armenian National Committee. On Monday, April 25, Sarafian spoke on the campus of California State University, Fresno where he was the guest of the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization.

Donations were collected to benefit the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Washington, D.C.

Following are donors who contributed to the Armenian Embassy: Betty Alemian, John and Evelyn Armaganian, Serpouhi Attarian, Arusyak Basmajian, Norma and Bob Der Mugrdechian, Margaret Gregory, Dickran H. Guleserian, Arevik N. Hagopian, Arax Kaloustian, P.C. Krikorian, Marguerite, Armena, and Grace Kazarian, Lillian Lewis, Harold Manselian, Robert and Jackie Manselian, Virginia Meltikian, Arman Noradian, Esther Oflazian, Pauline J. Ohanesian, Margaret S. Ohanesian, Sonia and Norman Preston, Jr., Henry and Nancy Sanoian, Asdghig Sarkissian, Dennis E. Shamlan, Dorothy Takooshian, Z. Tashjian, Joseph G. Tomassian, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Zartarian, John Zerounian.

The Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley represents valley Armenian churches and organizations.

Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide in Fresno

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From left: Barlow Der Mugerdechian, Bryan Bedrosian, Richard Darmanian, Vatché Semerdjian, Boghos Handian, Ara Sarafian, Bill Sahatdjian.

Opinions - A Matter of Deep Concern

BY REV. FR. VARTAN KASPARIAN

A recent Gallup study (**The People's Religion - American Faith in the 90's**, Macmillan Publisher, 1989, p. 23) reports: "...The percentage of Americans who are Orthodox -- for example, Greek or Russian --has declined from 2 percent in 1947 to less than 1 percent today."

Although there are those in the Armenian community who would eschew use of the term **Orthodox** in describing the Armenian Church, after all has been said and done, this is an accurate description of the place of the Armenian Church in the Christian world. Here, the term Orthodox should not be understood in terms of ethnicity (Greek, Russian, Syrian, and so forth). Rather, it should be understood in terms of belonging to a tradition which traces its origins back to Jesus Christ through His Apostles in an unbroken line. This is all by way of saying that the Gallup findings apply equally to the Armenian Church just as they do to any of the other Orthodox communities included in the study. The Gallup findings should cause us to take serious notice and, hopefully, to take whatever steps are necessary to reverse this trend, assuming that such is possible and that we have the will to do it.

The findings of this study are certainly borne out here in the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America. (Inquiries made to the Eastern Diocese produced the response that such figures were not available.) Several years ago, in the period between 1987-1988, a study was conducted by Dr. Vahram Biricik, then a member of the Diocesan Council. His findings, allowing for the usual positive exaggeration, were that the Ar-

menian Church (Western Diocese) was actually impacting 1% of the Armenians living within the boundaries of the Western Diocese.

Upon further informal refinement by this author, it was found that the actual impact rate was slightly less than 1%. Based upon statistical information from Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Department of Armenian Studies at California State University at Fresno, it was determined that the Armenian population in the state of California is somewhere between 300,000 and 350,000. Additionally, based upon official figures of the Western Diocese (1994 - Sixty-Seventh Annual Assembly of the Armenian Church of North America - Western Diocese - Friday, Saturday - April 29-30, 1994 - page 130) the number of active, i.e. dues-paying/voting, members of the Western Diocese is 2,948 as of 1993. This figure reflects a decrease of 23 from 1992.

If we assume that the lower figure of 300,000 is the correct figure for the Armenian population in California, then we see that the impact rate is .98%. On the other hand, if we assume the higher 350,000 figure, we see that the impact rate is .84%. This, in spite of the addition of two new parishes -- Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Armenian Church of LaVerne -- during the past two years. This percentage figure is further borne out by the comments of Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, Primate of the Western Diocese, in the Diocesan Report for 1993 (1993 Sixty-Sixth Annual Assembly -Armenian Church of North America - Western Diocese - Friday, Saturday - May 14, 15, 1993 - page 35). Here, Primate Hovsepian notes that while some 8,000 Diocesan calendars were sent out, the return responses for these calendars came from only 753 people, again

Rev. Fr. Vartan Kasparian is pastor of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Reedley, CA.

...The fusion between church and state, indistinguishable for Ottoman and later Middle Eastern Armenians, has produced a politicized identity that is alien to symbolic Armenian-Americans. Furthermore, the Armenian church has not taken a position vis-a-vis divorce, homosexuality, gambling, abortion, nuclear war, or any of the contemporary issues that puzzle and concern modern men and women. There is a growing concern among American-born Armenians that the Apostolic church needs to become more relevant to individuals living in post-industrial societies. It needs to update its sacred traditions and reinterpret them instead of being a blind conformist to tradition."

The most comprehensive critique comes from theologian Vigen Guroian, a third-generation Armenian American. Guroian argues that the Armenian Christian world died in 1915 along with 1.5 million Armenians and the millet system. Yet, the Apostolic church claims it is the "soul of the nation" and projects the illusion that the church and nation still function in unison. It has become an instrument for national aspirations. In other words, in preserving Armenianness, the church is converted to a custodian for folk dance, food, artifacts, rituals, etc. Guroian characterizes the present status of the church as "secular religion of ethnicity." Then he asks: how does such a church "differ from the Girl Scouts, the local garden club, Republican club, or health spa?" His answer is that the church must be something more, something greater than just a vehicle for perpetuating Armenianness. It must have a biblical mission, a spiritual essence...

I find Guroian's observations on "unity" within the Apostolic church highly pertinent to my thesis...His reflections were spurred by a debate he witnessed at a national meeting of parish representatives. I quote, in full, a passage from his book

producing a less than a 1% response.

The conclusion seems inescapable that as members and parishes increase on the one hand, other members are leaving, for whatever reasons, on the other. Truly, this phenomenon should be a cause of serious concern. If we further assume that the Prelacy (Cilician See) also has an impact rate of 1%, then the combined impact of both the Diocese and Prelacy would be 2%, not an impressive figure in an ethnic community which is boasting of growth.

What is the reason for this phenomenon? Why does the overall trend seem to be a downward one, in spite of the fact that there are new immigrants, and new parishes are being established? In view of such larger community growth and new parishes, the natural assumption would be that numerical and percentage growth would be the case. Rather, we see that the opposite is in fact the reality. Anny Bakalian in her book, **Armenian-Americans - From Being to Feeling Armenian** (Transaction Publishers, 1993, pp. 111-112) observes:

"There is mounting evidence that the Armenian Church needs to accommodate the growing numbers of Armenian-Americans [sic] who may continue to enjoy the communal involvement, like their parents, but over and above that want to emphasize the devotional/associational component of the church.

Style of worship depends on individual needs and preferences. Generally, people of Armenian descent dissatisfied with the Armenian Apostolic church have searched elsewhere for their spiritual needs. A forty-year-old second-generation man wrote, 'I attend non-Armenian church regularly. I go to Armenian church only on special occasions for family sake...'

Incarnate Love: "The Armenian Church's reason for being has been misunderstood by its own people. Never once in all the debate was it argued: 'Unity must be achieved because the people of God, who are called to holiness, must never do such violence to the body of their Lord.' Nor did even one member say in so many words: 'We cannot go on dividing our Lord's garments and crucifying him on a cross of ungodly political controversies.' Instead, one heard: 'We must have unity in order to save ourselves.' By this was meant 'save our ethnic identity.' The Church, however, does not exist in order to save anyone's ethnicity. If the Armenians continue to view their church as the means to such an end, they will not only fail to achieve unity in America; they also will fail to retain the great numbers of American-born Armenians now and in the future."

If one takes such statements and the above statistics seriously, as well we should, a rather strange phenomenon seems to come to light. That is, at the same time that the Armenian ethnic community is growing, the Armenian Church community is, at worst, declining and, at best, not keeping up with the growth in the larger ethnic community.

Lest we be lulled into thinking that this phenomenon is one which only involves American-born Armenians, let's consider the following. The first incident involves a newly arrived Armenian from Armenia whom I met in the Los Angeles area. He related that each Sunday he goes to the "...Church" and lights a candle, says the Lord's Prayer and then stays for a few minutes of the Divine Liturgy. He then goes to a nearby "...Protestant Church." When I asked him why he did this, he simply stated that there he understood what was being said and done and also got a message. This implies no criticism of anyone. Rather, it is a direct, honest response from one who considers himself to be an Armenian Christian.

Additionally, there are similar problems in the Armenian Church in Armenia itself. Witness the comments of Salpi Haroutinian Ghazarian: "...The influx and success of cults within Armenia in the last several years have highlighted the religious vacuum which is waiting to be filled -- and thus far the Armenian Apostolic Church has not made significant inroads. (AIM - March, 1994 - page 18). The Armenian Apostolic Church is **not** making significant inroads in Armenia!

Do we recognize this trend as a problem? Are we willing to take whatever steps are necessary to stop/reverse this trend? Are we willing to make and implement the necessary decisions? The consideration and resolution of these questions should be our top priority.

These are real situations, real concerns, real problems that will not go away by simply emotionalizing and sentimentalizing about the Armenian Church and community. It is these concerns that should command the unreserved attention and focus of all the councils of the Armenian Church.

Ultimately, what is at issue is the very viability of the Armenian Church itself. Will there be an Armenian Church when our own descendants are preparing to close the 21st century as we are now preparing to close the 20th century? Like so much else in life, the answer is in our hands. We, no one else, are responsible.

At present, a great many preparations are being made to celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the adoption of Christianity as the state religion of Armenia (A.D. 301-2001). Will that date also mark the demise of the Armenian Church? We can make a difference! Will we? Only if we take our Christianity seriously!

SOURCE California Victory; Fresno, CA

DATE June 20, 1994

SUBJECT CSUF Offers 9 courses in Armenian
Studies Fall 1994

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CSUF Offers 9 Courses In Armenian Studies Fall 1994

FRESNO—Nine classes, including new courses, will be offered by the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program in the Fall 1994.

Three topics courses, Armenian Film, Armenians in America, and Armenian Cooking—all listed under Arm. St. 120T—will be offered,

Three sections of Introduction to Armenian Studies (Arm St 10) and Arts of Armenia (Arm St 20) will offer general education (division 9) credit.

And Elementary Armenian (Am. 1A) again will be available for General Education (division 7) credit.

An elective-upper division course, Armenian History (Arm St. 108A) is the other course for fall.

All courses may be used for credit in the Armenian Studies minor. For more information on the courses, call 278-2669 or visit the office, Room 384 in the Leon Peters Business Building.

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, N.Y.

DATE Aug. 13, 1994

SUBJECT New Advances in Armenian Studies
Anticipated with Appointment of Second-
Generation Scholars to Armenian Chairs

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New Advances in Armenian Studies Anticipated With Appointment of Second-Generation Scholars to Armenian Chairs

BELMONT, MA - A most significant milestone in the progress of Armenian Studies in this country has been reached, and the transition to a new era in Armenian scholarship was marked last fall at a banquet celebrating the appointment of Dr. James R. Russell to the Mashtots Chair in Armenian Studies at Harvard University, America's oldest and leading institution of higher learning.

In many ways the banquet, sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), celebrated the remarkable advances in Armenian Studies which have taken place in the four decades since the decision was taken by NAASR to raise the funds to establish the first endowed professorship in Armenian Studies at Harvard University. The presence at the banquet of an impressive group of senior scholars was tangible testimony to achievements of the Armenian Studies movement to which NAASR gave birth and impetus worldwide.

At the same time, in heralding the dawn of a new era in Armenian Studies, the banquet marked the coming of age of a new generation of gifted and well-prepared scholars, trained by the first generation of scholars and destined to provide novel and stimulating insights into the language, literature, culture, and history of the Armenian people. Dr. Russell's appointment is the first of three appointments of successors to be made within the next year, the others being at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Columbia University.

It was entirely fitting that the banquet was held at the Sheraton Commander Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the site in 1955 of the first and founding Assembly of NAASR, where the commitment to raise the funds to establish a Chair in Armenian Studies at Harvard set into motion the remarkable renaissance in Armenian Studies that has followed.

Senior Scholars Present

Seven of the eight Chairs in

Armenian Studies were represented at the banquet. A 40-year foundation built by the Chair holders has prepared the way for new advances in Armenian Studies. The scholars who offered their greetings and congratulations to James Russell represented Armenian Studies at some of the most distinguished universities in the United States. Those who were present to offer greetings and to welcome Dr. Russell into the select group of scholars were:

-- Kevork Bardakjian, since 1987 the Marie Manoogian Professor of Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and the author of several works on Armenian language and literature as well as a popular teacher of modern Western Armenian and the leader of intensive summer studies programs in Armenia;

-- Lucy Der Manuelian, the Arthur H. Dadian and Ara Oztemel Professor of Armenian Art and Architectural History at

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, N.Y. DATE Aug. 13, 1994

SUBJECT New Advances in Armenian Studies PAGE 2 of 5
Anticipated with Appointment of Second-
Generation Scholars to Armenian Chairs

Tufts University, whose presentations of stunning color slides have delighted and impressed audiences, both Armenian and non-Armenian, throughout the country and on TV with the artistic ability of Armenians through the ages;

-- Nina G. Garsoian, Gevork Avedissian Professor-Emerita of Armenian History and Civilization at Columbia, who has guided and inspired a large group of successful graduate students and whose research on the Eastern, or Iranian, influence on Classical and Medieval Armenia has provided new understanding;

-- Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabelle Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, who teaches and publishes in such disparate fields as art history and the literature of William Saroyan and presides over one of the largest Armenian Studies programs in the United States in terms of student enrollment;

— Richard G. Hovannisian, Armenian Educational Foundation Professor of Modern Armenian History at the University of California, Los Angeles, who has published landmark studies of the First Armenian Republic of 1918-1920 and has edited several collections of articles drawing attention to the Armenian Genocide; and

-- Avedis K. Sanjian, Narekatsi Professor of Armenian Language and Literature at the University of California, Los Angeles, perhaps the dean of American scholars in the field of Armenian Studies, who has published major studies of the Armenian communities in the Middle East and on Armenian manuscripts and their colophons;

Unable to be present but sending their greetings were Ronald G. Suny, Alex Manoogian Professor of Modern Armenian

History at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, a respected authority on Armenia and Georgia; Robert W. Thomson, Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian Studies at Oxford University and the previous holder of the Mashtots Chair at Harvard; Harvard Dean Jeremy Knowles; and Nikit Ordjanian, Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Armenian Studies Program at Columbia University.

Representing Harvard University at the banquet was Calvin Watkins, Professor of Linguistics. Paul T. Boghosian of Belmont, Massachusetts, a member of the NAASR Board and president of Video Events International, served as the master of ceremonies for the evening and set the pace for a fast-moving program which kept the capacity audience in rapt attention and led to many rounds of applause in appreciation of the efforts of scholars who were present.

Assessing Uncharted Territory

In his remarks, Professor Russell paid tribute to these scholars and particularly to his predecessor at Harvard, Robert W. Thomson, whose fundamental work has rendered most of the major Armenian histories into fluent and clear English, with analyses of the Classical, Biblical, and Patristic sources of their composition.

While these translations "are not meant to close the door on the very numerous problems remaining to be studied closely, in the original texts," Professor Russell pointed out, "they are nonetheless a stupendous achievement, rendering accessible to readers in many stations of life and learning an entire culture which has heretofore been mostly terra incognita."

He continued: "Our subject has foundation, now, and major ways trodden by gi-

ants of learning, but in many ways it is still uncharted territory, with each of us in the field striving often on untrodden paths."

Offering a glimpse into his own inter-

ests and the possible future direction of his works, Professor Russell suggested that the study of the formation of Armenian culture and its evolution toward its present shape brings forth "large questions of the theory of culture, comparative Indo-European poetics, the nature of cultural exchange, the history of Christian spirituality, mythology, and cosmology."

Russell presented a learned discussion of the derivation of the name Mashtots, as in Mesrob Mashtots, the fifth-century Armenian saint, scholar, and visionary who is considered by tradition as the inventor

of the Armenian alphabet and for whom the Harvard Chair has been named.

Addressing New Challenges

Manoog S. Young, founding member

and long-serving chairman of the NAASR Board of Directors, provided telling statistics of the success over the past four decades of the Armenian Studies movement which was given impetus by NAASR:

-- eight chairs in Armenian Studies at six of America's foremost universities, with perhaps as many as five additional chairs possible by the year 2000;

-- more than 20 other colleges and universities where courses in Armenian language, culture, and history are being offered;

-- over 35,000 students who have taken courses in Armenian Studies during this

period;

-- more than 50 scholarly texts made available through the efforts and authorship of the Chair holders; and

-- a related and unprecedented publishing activity that has produced over 1,650 books in the English language on Armenian history, language, literature, culture, art, architecture, folklore, the Genocide and, most importantly, on related areas and subjects where the Armenian experience, culture, and influence had been relatively ignored in the past.

During this same period, NAASR itself has grown from a small, subletted office in Harvard Square opposite the University's main campus to a 12-room house outside the Square in Cambridge and, finally, to its present 10,000-square-foot brick building in Belmont housing offices, bookstore, meeting facilities, reference and research library, and warehouse.

NAASR, however, is not basking in the glory of past achievements, Mr. Young suggested, but rather is making plans to meet new challenges which have arisen, especially with the independence of

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, N.Y.

DATE Aug. 13, 1994

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AT NAASR BANQUET (l. to r.): Kevork Bardakjian, Richard G. Hovannisian, James R. Russell, Dickran Kouymjian, Nina G. Garsoian, Avedis K. Sanjian, Calvert Watkins, and Lucy Der Manuelian.

Armenia. Specifically, the Board Chairman continued, it is important that NAASR's Institute for Armenian Studies and Research become fully operational as soon as possible in order to address neglected fields in Armenian Studies; that seminars and lecture tours be organized in this country in addition to conferences; and that grant opportunities be made available for scholarship, research, and publishing activities in Armenia.

Importance of Current Campaign

As NAASR moves ahead to celebrate its 40th anniversary in 1995, it will be with a well-deserved pride in past accomplishments combined with a determination to meet new challenges and to take advantage of new opportunities in its basic purpose: to foster a greater awareness of the Armenians, their history, culture, and literature, as well as their current hopes and aspirations.

In this connection Board Chairman Young stressed the importance of the success of its current multimillion-dollar campaign to fund the Institute and NAASR's other vital programs, activities, and operations so that NAASR may continue with its mission unabated.

Professor Suny well summed up the prevailing sentiments of those participating in this auspicious event. "This moment in our collective history is a time of passage," he wrote in his message of greeting. "Some of our teachers and pioneers are retiring; others are moving in new directions; young scholars are coming up to deepen and expand our field."

The pioneering scholars who "first plowed these fields...were lonely beacons," he continued. It is to their credit that there are today so many who consider themselves Armenian historians and Armenologists of various kinds.

"The work, of course, has just begun," Professor Suny concluded. "Attention to Armenia is at an all-time height. Interest among students is swelling. The community, more than ever, has to be educated as to the importance of what we are doing."

4UB

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Fresno State; Fresno, CA.

DATE Sept. 5, 1994

SUBJECT Excitement in the World of Armenian
Studies

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**Excitement in the
World of Armenian
Studies**

Information on the Armenian Studies
program, its classes and opportunities
for student involvement. PB 390.

Wednesday, 1-4 p.m.

Thursday, noon-4 p.m.



JSAS Index Published

DEARBORN, MI - The Society of Armenian Studies is pleased to announce the publication of an **Index** to the first five volumes of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies (JSAS)*. The publication of this **Index**, created by Gerald E. Ottenbreit, Jr., under the direction of Dr. Dennis R. Papazian, marks a new stage in *JSAS* as a new editor will soon be chosen to continue its distinguished record.

The aims of the Society of Armenian Studies, an international scholarly society of almost 200 members, are to promote the study of Armenian culture and society, including history, language, literature, and social, political, and economic questions; to facilitate the exchange of scholarly information pertaining to Armenian studies around the world; and to sponsor panels and conferences on Armenian studies.

The Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies (ISSN 0747-9301) was created in 1984 for the publication of scholarly articles and book reviews. Under the direction of its first editor, Dr. Avedis Sanjian, it was named the "best new journal" in 1985 by the Conference of Editors of Learned Journals.

The current Executive Council of the Society for Armenian Studies consists of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, President; Dr. Rouben Adalian, Vice President; Dr. Dennis R. Papazian, Treasurer; and Mr. Barlow Der Mugrdchian, Secretary; councilmembers-without-portfolio Dr. Helen Evans, Dr. Lorne Shirinian, Ms. Jennifer Gurahian, and *ex-officio* councilmembers Dr. Barbara Merguerian, Editor of the *SAS Newsletter*, and the Editor of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies (JSAS)*.

The **Index** is available for purchase for \$5, with checks payable to "SAS" and mailed to the SAS Secretariat at the Armenian Research Center/University of Michigan-Dearborn/4901 Evergreen Rd/Dearborn, MI 48121-1491. Back issues of Volumes 2-5 of the **Journal** are also available for \$20 each.

Mugrdechian to Speak on Armenia and Karabagh

FRESNO - CSU Fresno lecturer in Armenian Studies, Barlow Der Mugrdechian, will present a lecture on his recent trip to Armenia and Karabagh, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 29, 1994, in the Marion Grosse Industrial Technology Building, Room 101, on the CSUF Fresno campus.

Der Mugrdechian spent three weeks in Armenia in July and August of this year working on several projects including work with the "Teach for Armenia Program" Yerevan State University, and the Armenian Technology Group.

In addition to his work in Yerevan, he visited Karabagh and his talk will focus on the current situation there. There will be slide presentation also.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information call (209) 278-2669.

SOURCE Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, N.Y.DATE Sept. 24, 1994SUBJECT CSU Lecture: Prof. Der MugrdechianPAGE 1 Of 1

CSU Lecture: "Karabagh and Armenia"

FRESNO, CA - CSU Fresno lecturer in Armenian Studies Barlow Der Mugrdechian will present an illustrated lecture on his recent trip to Armenia and Karabagh, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 29, 1994, in the Marion Grosse Industrial Technology Building, Room 101 on the CSU Fresno campus.

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The **Teach for Armenia Program** coordinates teaching assignments for Americans interested in working in Armenia. The Program has successfully placed five candidates in Armenia for periods ranging from two to six months, teaching at Yerevan State University, the Intensive English Institute, and various other institutions.

Yerevan State University is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its founding. The Armenian Studies Program of CSUF has had an agreement of cooperation with Yerevan State University for the past three years. Two students from Yerevan State University are currently studying at CSU Fresno as part of the exchange program. Der Mugrdechian assisted the Office of International Relations at YSU in organizing a development program for the University.

The Armenian Technology Group, a non-profit California-based group, has been involved in projects to develop agriculture in Armenia. They were recently awarded a three-million-dollar-plus grant to bring new varieties of wheat into Armenia. Der Mugrdechian is on the Board of Directors of ATG.

Der Mugrdechian has lectured frequently on topics relating to Armenia and the Armenians. He is currently teaching in the Ar-

SOURCE Asbarez: Glendale, CA

DATE Sept. 24, 1994

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FRESNO, Calif.—California State University, Fresno lecturer in Armenian Studies Barlow Der Mugrdechian will present an illustrated lecture on his recent trip to Armenia and Karabakh, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 29, in the Marion Grosse Industrial Technology Building, Room 101 on the CSUF campus.

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The Teach for Armenia Program coordinates teaching assignments for Americans interested in working in Armenia. The Program has successfully placed five candidates in Armenia for periods ranging from two to six months, teaching at Yerevan

State University, the Intensive English Institute, and various other institutions.

The Armenian Studies Program of CSUF has had an agreement of cooperation with Yerevan State University for the past three years. Two students from Yerevan State University are currently studying at CSUF as part of the exchange program. Der Mugrdechian assisted the Office of International Relations at YSU in organizing a development program for the University.

The Armenian Technology Group, a non-profit, California-based group, has been involved in projects to develop agriculture in Armenia. They were recently awarded more than three million dollars to bring new varieties of wheat into Armenia. Der Mugrdechian is on the Board of Directors of ATG.

Der Mugrdechian has lectured frequently on topics relating to Armenia and the Armenians. He is currently teaching in the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF.

New Advances in Armenian Studies Anticipated with Second- Generation Scholars Appointments to Armenian Studies Chairs

A most significant milestone in the progress of Armenian Studies in this country has been reached, and the transition to a new era in Armenian scholarship was marked last fall at a banquet celebrating the appointment of Dr., James R. Russell to the Mashtots Chair in Armenian Studies at Harvard University, America's oldest and leading institution of higher learning.

In many ways the banquet, sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), celebrated the remarkable advances in Armenian Studies which have taken place in the four decades since the decision was taken by NAASR to raise the funds to establish the first endowed professorship in Armenian Studies at Harvard University. The presence at the banquet of an impressive group of senior scholars was tangible testimony to achievements of the Armenian Studies movement to which NAASR gave birth and impetus world wide.

At the same time, in heralding the dawn of a new era in Armenian Studies, the banquet marked the coming of age of a new generation of gifted and well-prepared scholars, trained by the first generation of scholars and destined to provide novel and stimulating insights into the language, literature, culture, and history of the Armenian people. Dr. Russell's appointment is the first of three appointments of successors to be made within the next year, the oldest being at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Columbia University.

It was entirely fitting that the banquet was held at the Sheraton Commander Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the site in 1955 of the first and founding Assembly of NAASR, where the commitment to raise the funds to establish a Chair in Armenian Studies at Harvard set into motion the remarkable renaissance in Armenian Studies that has followed.

Senior Scholarship Present

Seven of the eight Chairs in Armenian Studies were represented at the banquet. A 40-year foundation built by the Chair holders has prepared the way for new advances in Armenian Studies. The scholars who offered their greetings and congratulations to James Russell represented Armenian Studies at some of the most distinguished universities in the United States. Those who were present to offer greetings and to welcome Dr. Russell into the select group of scholars were:

--Kevork Bardakjian, since 1987 the Marie Manoogian Professor of Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and the author of several works on Armenian language and literature as well as a popular teacher of modern Western Armenian and the leader of intensive summer studies programs in Armenia;

--Lucy Der Manuelian, the Arthur H. Dadian and Ara Oztemel Professor of Armenian Art and Architectural History at Tufts University, whose presentations of stunning color slides have delighted and impressed audiences, both Armenian and non-Armenian, throughout the country and on TV with artistic ability of Armenians through the ages;

--Nina G. Garsoian, Gevork Avedissian Professor-Emerita of Armenian History and Civilization at Columbia, who has guided and inspired a large group of successful graduate students and whose research on the eastern, or Iranian, influence on Classical and Medieval Armenia has provided new understandings;

--Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabelle Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, who teaches and publishes in such disparate fields as art history and the literature of William Saroyan and presides over one of the

largest Armenian Studies programs in the United States in terms of student enrollment;

--Richard G. Hovannisian, Armenian Educational Foundation Professor of Modern Armenian History at the University of California, Los Angeles, who has published landmark studies of the First Armenian Republic of 1918-1920 and has edited several collections of articles drawing attention to the Armenian Genocide; and

--Avedis K. Sanjian, Narekatsi Professor of Armenian Language and Literature at the University of California, Los Angeles, perhaps the dean of American scholars in the field of Armenian Studies, who has published major studies of the Armenian communities in the Middle East and on Armenian manuscripts and their colophons;

Unable to be present but sending their greetings were Ronald G. Suny, Alex Manoogian Professor of Modern Armenian History at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, a respected authority on Armenia and Georgia; Robert W. Thomson, Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian Studies at Oxford University and the previous holder of the Mashtots Chair at Harvard; Harvard dean Jeremy Knowles; and Nikit Ordjanian, chairman of the Advisory Council of the Armenian Studies Program at the Columbia University.

Representing Harvard University at the banquet was Calvin Watkins, Professor of Linguistics. Paul T. Boghosian of Belmont, Massachusetts, a member of the NAASR Board and president of Video Events International, served as the master of ceremonies for the evening and set the pace for a fast-moving program which kept the capacity audience in rapt attention and led them to many rounds of applause in appreciation of the efforts of scholars who were present.

Assessing Uncharted Territory

In his remarks, Professor Russell paid tribute to these scholars and particularly to his predecessor at Harvard, Robert W. Thomson, whose fundamental work has rendered most of the major Armenian histories into fluent and clear English, with analyses of the Classical, Biblical, and Patristic sources of their composition.

While these translations "are not meant to close the door on the very numerous problems remaining to be studied closely, in the original texts," Professor Russell pointed out, "they are nonetheless a stupendous achievement, rendering accessible to readers in

many stations of life and learning an entire culture which has heretofore been mostly *terra incognita*."

He continued: "Our subject has foundation, now, and major ways trodden by giants of learning, but in many ways it is still uncharted territory, with each of us in the field striving often on untrodden paths."

Offering a glimpse into his own interest and the possible future direction of his works, Professor Russell suggested that the study of the formation of the Armenian culture and its evolution toward its present shape brings forth "large questions of the theory culture, comparative Indo-European poetics, the nature of cultural exchange, the history of Christian spirituality, mythology, and cosmology."

Russell presented a learned discussion of the derivation of the name *Mashtots*, as in Mesrob Mashtots, the fifth century Armenian saint, scholar, and visionary who is considered by the tradition as the inventor of the Armenian alphabet and for whom the Harvard Chair has been named.

Addressing New Challenges

Manoog S. Young, founding member and long-serving chairman of the NAASR Board of Directors, provided telling statistics of the success over the past four decades of the Armenian Studies movement which was given impetus by NAASR:

--eight chairs in Armenian Studies at six of America's foremost universities, with perhaps as many as five additional chairs possibly by the year 2000;

--more than 20 other colleges and universities where courses in Armenian language, culture, and history are being offered;

--over 35,000 students who have taken courses in Armenian Studies during this period;

more than 50 scholarly texts made available through the efforts and authorship of the Chair holders; and

--a related and unprecedented publishing activity that has produced over 1,650 books in the English language on Armenian history, language, literature, culture, art, architecture, folklore, the Genocide and, most importantly, on related areas and subjects where the Armenian experience, culture, and influence had been relatively ignored in the past.

During this same period, NAASR itself has grown from a small, subletted office in Harvard Square opposite the University's main campus to a 12-room house outside the Square in Cambridge to its present 10,000-square-foot brick building in Bel-

mont housing offices, bookstore, meeting facilities, reference and research library, and warehouse.

NAASR, however, is not basking in the glory of past achievements, Mr. Young suggested, but rather is making plans to meet new challenges which have arisen, especially with the independence of Armenia. Specifically, the Board Chairman continued, it is important that NAASR's Institute for Armenian Studies and Research become fully operational as soon as possible in order to address neglected fields in Armenian Studies; that seminars and lecture tours be organized in this country in addition to conferences; and that great opportunities be made available for scholarship, research, and publishing activities in Armenia.

Importance of Current Campaign

As NAASR moves ahead to celebrate its 40th anniversary in 1995, it will be with a well-deserved pride in past accomplishments combined with a determination to meet new challenges and to take advantage of new opportunities in its basic purpose: to foster a greater awareness of the Armenians, their history, culture, and literature, as well as their current hopes and aspirations.

In this connection Board Chairman Young stressed the importance of the success of its current multi-million dollar campaign to fund the Institute and the NAASR's other vital programs, activities, and operations so that NAASR may continue with its mission unabated.

Professor Suny well summed up the prevailing sentiments of those participating in this auspicious event. "This moment in our collective history is a time of passage," he wrote in his message of greeting. "Some of our teachers and pioneers are retiring; others are moving in new directions; young scholars are coming up to deepen and expand our field."

The pioneering scholars who "first plowed these fields...were lonely beacons," he continued. It is to their credit that there are today so many who consider themselves Armenian historians and Armenologists of various kinds.

"The work, of course, has just begun," Professor Suny concluded. "Attention to Armenia is at an all time height. Interest among students is swelling. The community, more than ever, has to be educated to the importance of what we are doing."

Entities of NAASR

- Armenian Information, Education, and Documentation Center
- Armenian Reference and Research Library
- Institute for Armenian Studies and Research
- Program for Armenian Genocide Studies
- Fund for Armenian Studies
- Armenian Book Clearing House and Distribution Center
- Armenian Heritage Press
- Journal of Armenian Studies
- NAASR Newsletter
- Armenian Heritage Tours

INSTITUTE FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH

Purpose: To foster and undertake research and publication in vital areas of history and culture of concern to Armenians and scholars and to promote better understanding of them.

Areas of Concern:

- Armenian History during 500-Year Period from Fall of Cilician Armenian Kingdom (1375) to Modern Renaissance (1875)
- Armenian Genocide - Multi-disciplinary study (sociological, psychological, religious, economic, political, historical, cultural, and other aspects): Re-examination and Analysis
- Armenia's Foreign Relations in Modern Times (since 1675 with the beginning of modern nation-states)
- Culture and Ethnicity in the Armenian Diaspora

Types of Activity: In-house research, off-site research, research fellows, visiting scholars and fellows from Armenia as well as Europe and U.S.A., exchange relations, "think tank" activity, conferences, seminars, symposia, lecture series, position papers, publications.

Relationships: Cooperative relations with Chairs of Armenian Studies, other institutes, and institutions in Armenia as well as possible affiliation with universities and institutes.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer; L.A., CA.

DATE Sept. 28, 1994

SUBJECT New Advances in Armenian Studies

PAGE 4 Of 4



AT NAASR BANQUET (l. to r.): Kevork Bardakjian, Richard G. Hovannisian, James R. Russell, Dickran Kouymjian, Nina G. Garsoian, Avedis K. Sanjian, Calvert Watkins, and Lucy Der Manuelian.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE Sept. 29, 1994

SUBJECT Professor Der Mugrdechian

PAGE 1 Of 1

Karabagh and Armenia Topic of Lecture By Der Mugrdechian

FRESNO, CA - CSU Fresno lecturer in Armenian Studies Barlow Der Mugrdechian will present an illustrated lecture on his recent trip to Armenia and Karabagh at 7:30 pm Thursday, September 29, in the Marion Grosse Industrial Technology Building, Room 101 on the CSU Fresno campus.

Der Mugrdechian spent three weeks in Armenia in July and August of this year working on several projects, including work with the "Teach for Armenia Program," Yerevan State University, and the Armenian Technology Group. In addition to his work in Yerevan, he visited Karabagh. His talk will focus on the current situation in Karabagh and Armenia, and will include the use of slides.

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Yerevan State University is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its founding. The Armenian Studies Program of CSUF has had an agreement of cooperation with YSU for the past three years and two students are currently studying at CSU Fresno as part of the exchange program. Der Mugrdechian assisted the Office of International Relations at YSU in organizing a development program for the University.

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He has lectured frequently on topics relating to Armenia and the Armenians. He is currently

teaching in the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Armenian Studies Program at (209) 278-2669.

Armenian Music is the Topic of Agbabian Lecture in Fresno

FRESNO - Armenian Music in the Context of Armenian Culture will be the topic of a presentation by Lucina Agbabian-Hubbard of Los Angeles on Sunday, October 16, at 3:00 p.m.

The lecture, co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students Organization of CSUF and the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society of Fresno, will be held in the Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191 of the University Center on the campus.

Agbabian's training in music and her professional activities have included singing the music of many nations in her recitals and as a soloist in churches, in choral concerts, in TV and movie sound-track recordings. Lucina's interest and research in the cultural and historical setting of her repertoire eventually began to dominate her activities.



She has been making an adaptation of Orff and Kodaly contemporary approaches to music education to Armenian music for children.

Agbabian has been artistic director and coordinator of several major concerts devoted to 20th century Armenian composers.

The lecture is free and the public is welcome. For more information, please contact the Armenian Studies Program at (209) 278-2669.

SOURCE The Mirror Spectator; Watertown, Mass.

DATE Oct. 8, 1994

SUBJECT Art Scholar Chookaszian to Lecture
Nationally on Armenian Art.

PAGE 1 Of 1

Art Scholar Chookaszian to Lecture Nationally on Armenian Art

By Roben Torosyan

NEW YORK, NY — Armenian art scholar Dr. Levon Chookaszian, of Yerevan, embarks on a national lecture circuit across the US this fall, entitled the "Arshag Fetvadjian Lecture Series on Armenian Art." Dr. Chookaszian, currently a Senior Fellow and Professor of Armenian Art at the Center for Armenian Studies of Yerevan State University, will lecture in New York City on "The Art of Armenian Portraits Through the Ages," at the Armenian General Benevolent Union Arts Program on October 31.

The lecture will focus on the development of Armenian historical portraits, and will be accompanied by slides covering representations of kings, princes, bishops, merchants, painters and the like. Largely medieval images are presented, made on materials as various as stone, silver, wood and the parchment of the ancient illuminated manuscripts of Armenia. The national lecture series is dedicated to the memory of Arshag Fetvadjian of Armenia, the painter and art historian who gave the first lectures on Armenian art in the US from 1992 to 1945.

Dr. Chookaszian himself graduated Yerevan State University in 1974 as Doctor of Philology, at age 22. He was a Soros Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, and Getty Fellow at the Getty Museum Grant Program, Santa Monica, CA. He is the author of over two hundred articles and reviews for scholarly journals and newspapers, as well as numerous entries for encyclopedias and reference texts world-wide.

Dr. Chookaszian's US lecture circuit includes the following: Armenian Library and Museum of America, Watertown, MA, Oct. 25; National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Belmont, MA, Oct. 27; AGBU-Arts, New York, NY, Oct. 31; Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 1-10; University of California Berkeley and Hamazkain, San Francisco, CA, Nov. 11-15; Center for Armenian Studies, Fresno, CA, Nov. 15-17; and Arizona, between Nov. 20 and 30.

The lecture at AGBU-Arts will be in English, Monday, October 31, at 6 pm, at the AGBU premises, 31 W. 52 Street (5-6 Avenues), 10th floor, New York, NY. Suggested admission, \$10; students, free. R.S.V.P. with Sevan Melikyan at AGBU-Arts, (212) 765-8260.

Armenian Music Topic of Campus Lecture

FRESNO, CA - "Armenian Music in the Context of Armenian Culture" will be the topic of a presentation by Lucina Agbabian-Hubbard of Los Angeles at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 16, 1994. The lecture, co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization of CSU Fresno and the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society of Fresno, will be held in the Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191 of the University Business Center on campus.

Lucina Agbabian-Hubbard was born on the island of Cyprus and grew up in the large Armenian communities of the Middle East. She pursued her studies in art and music at the University of California, Berkeley, and Los Angeles.

Her training in music and her professional activities have included singing the music of many nations in her recitals and as a soloist in churches, choral concerts, television and movie sound-track recordings. Lucina's interest and research in the cultural and historical settings of her repertoire eventually began to dominate her activities.

During the past 10 years she has been involved in educational activities, six of which she has devoted to designing and teaching a course at the University of Southern California. This course explores the development of Armenian music, that is, the medieval folk and sacred songs, as well as the popular and contemporary music of the 18th- to 20th-century composers, all in the cultural context of Armenian history. "The Relevance of Music Education to Armenian Culture" and "Music Literacy in Armenian Schools" are two other courses she taught at the Teacher Education Center of the

Armenian American International College. Concurrently, she has been making an adaptation of Orff and Kodaly contemporary approaches to music education to Armenian music for children. She has tried out her teaching materials to her satisfaction, in the Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School, in St. James Armenian Apostolic Church Sunday School, and in the enrichment programs of Los Angeles public schools. She conducts workshops on these subjects for teachers in Armenian and public schools, and has done the same for music teachers in Armenia.



Lucina Agbabian-Hubbard

Lucina has been the artistic director and coordinator of several major concerts devoted to 20th-century Armenian composers. The last such concert was in the Hollywood Bowl, in August of last year, where excerpts from Gomidas Vartabed's polyphonic arrangements of the Badarak and folk songs were performed by the Los Angeles Festival Chorus.

The lecture is free and the public is welcome. More information may be obtained by contacting the Armenian Studies Program at (209)278-2669.

SOURCE The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE Oct. 13, 1994

SUBJECT Agbabian-Hubbard Will Lecture On Armenian Music Oct. 16 at CSUF

PAGE 1 Of 1

Agbabian-Hubbard Will Lecture on Armenian Music Oct. 16 at CSUF

FRESNO - "Armenian Music in the Context of Armenian Culture" will be the topic of a presentation by Lucina Agbabian-Hubbard of Los Angeles at 3 p.m. Oct. 16 in Fresno.

The lecture, co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization of CSU Fresno, and the Hamazkayin Educational and Cultural Society of Fresno will be held at the Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191 of the University Business Center.

Agbabian-Hubbard was born in Cyprus and grew up in the large Armenian communities of the Middle East. She pursued her studies in art and music at the University of California, Berkeley and Los Angeles.

Her training in music and professional activities have included singing in recitals, and as a soloist in churches, choral concerts, in TV and movie sound-track recordings.

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Agbabian-Hubbard had been the artistic director and coordinator of several major concerts devoted to 20th century Armenian composers.

The Oct. 16 lecture in Fresno is free. For more information, contact the Armenian Studies Program at (209) 278-2669.

Lucina Agbabian Lectures on Armenian Music

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Mirror Spectator; Watertown, MA.

DATE Oct. 15, 1994

SUBJECT Daunting Problems Facing Armenia

PAGE 1 of 1

Society For Armenian Studies 20th Anniversary Conference at UCLA

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Society for Armenian Studies, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of its founding, is organizing an Armenian Studies Conference at UCLA on Friday and Saturday, November 18-19. Presentations on various Armenian subjects will be made by SAS members from throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and South America. The two-day program will include about thirty-five specialists in fields ranging from religious studies and ancient and medieval literature to modern Armenian literature, the Armenian Diaspora, Armenian art and architecture, and the history of Karabagh.

The Society for Armenian Studies was organized by a group of scholars on the initiative of Prof. Richard Hovannisian. The Society's first meeting took place in Boston in 1974, and the organization has met annually in conjunction with the Middle East Studies Association of

North America, where it has presented two or more panels on Armenian subjects annually.

The UCLA conference is being sponsored by the SAS and the Grigor Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies directed by Prof. Avedis K. Sanjian and the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History directed by Prof. Hovannisian. The conference will be held from 9 am to 5 pm on November 19 in 6265 Bunche Hall, and on November 20 in 121 Dodd Hall on the UCLA campus. The conference is open to the public. In addition, on Friday evening at 7:30 pm, a banquet at the UCLA Faculty Center will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Society for Armenian Studies. The price for the dinner is \$25. Those wishing to attend the conference and/or the banquet may call Prof. Hovannisian (310) 825-3375; or Prof. Avedis Sanjian (310) 825-1307.

More details on the conference and the specific presentations will be forthcoming.

After the SAS conference, many members will travel to Phoenix, Arizona, for the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, November 20-22. There, three issues will deal specifically with Armenian subjects: 1. Armenian Literature; 2. The Use of Computers in Armenian Studies; and 3. The Historiography and Recent History of Mountainous Karabagh.



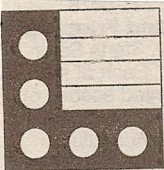
ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Spotlight; Fresno, CA DATE Oct. 16, 1994

SUBJECT Lectures PAGE 1 OF 1



Symposium on Campus Diversity — Sunday-Friday, California State University, Fresno. Lectures, workshops, luncheons.

For specific times, prices, locations; 278-6592.

★ **Lecture** — 3 p.m. today, Fresno State, University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191. "Armenian Music in the Context of Armenian Culture" by Lucina Agbabian-Hubbard of Los Angeles; 278-2669.

★ **Noontime at the Met** — Noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, 1555 Van Ness Ave. Fresno Metropolitan Museum free weekly lecture series. "Armenia Today: A New Nation," by Barlow Der Mugrdichian, professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State. Take sack lunch; other food options; 441-1444.

Discovering Paris and Its Surroundings — 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Fresno State, McLane Hall, Room 221. Series of five illustrated lectures on the "City of Light," instructor Angele Kouymjian. Final lecture; 278-0333.

SOURCE The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE Oct. 20, 1994

SUBJECT Pianist Armen Babakhanian Shows the Spirit of Armenia

PAGE 1 of 1

Pianist Armen Babakhanian Shows the Spirit of Armenia

By Larry Warkentin

FRESNO - Crowd control is not usually a problem at the Lorenz Memorial Keyboard concerts, but on Sept. 23 at California State University, Fresno's Walhberg Hall there wasn't even standing room available.

Andreas Wertz, organizer of the series, was a victim of his own clever marketing.

With sponsorship by the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program and the Fresno Hamazkayin Armenian Cultural Organization, the modest-sized hall was packed. The concert started nearly 30 minutes late while the audience was seated on the stage, crowding the Steinway.

Armen Babakhanian, a native of Armenia, played a challenging program in which each half began with romantic compositions and then continued with 20th centuries works.

The modern works seemed better suited to Babakhanian's aggressive style. His playing of Prokofiev's fourth piano concerto highlighted the arcane wit and melancholy drama for which this composer is famous.

His technique is beyond reproach. He plays with strength and confidence, and his fingers rarely betray his vision. And speaking of vision, it was at best distracting that even in the most difficult passages he found time to adjust his glasses at least thirty times during the evening.

It is a proud testimony to the unquenchable human spirit that an artist of his skill can emerge from a nation that has experienced such great persecution and turmoil as Armenia has during the 20th century.

Perhaps it is because of this heritage that Babakhanian plays with such conviction.

The Fresno Bee

Music Review: Artur Papazian Champions Armenian Music with World-Class Skill

By Susan Bliss

The following review was to have appeared in the Los Angeles Times but it wasn't published, purportedly due to a lack of space.

LOS ANGELES, CA -Sponsored by the USC Friends of Armenian Music, pianist Artur Papazian's recital initially appeared to promise more social function than music forum. Chattering groups, combined with prolonged confusion over seating, delayed the first notes in Bovard Auditorium by a half hour on Sunday afternoon.

But, if the purpose of the gathering started doubtfully, the Armenian-born pianist dispelled any ambiguity with his first set, six Dances by composer/ethnomusicologist Komitas. These miniatures, which evoke folk melodies from different native regions, glittered with a varied palette of quiet coloration. Largely introspective and occasionally playful, they emerged exotic mood paintings.



Artur Papazian

Artur Papazian Champions Armenian Music - Continued from p. 15

Harutiun Delalian (1937-1990) saluted his elder Armenian countryman in his Sonata "Dedication to Komitas," which Papazian played as a memorial to the late Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Church, Vazken I. This piece also employs folk materials, but only in elusive snippets, within an exploration of possible pianistic timbres. Papazian, who supplied an eerie falsetto near the end, conveyed formal cohesion and sometimes ominous effect from the glissandi on strummed strings, strings plucked or muted by hand, percussive effects, and the blending of rich overtones through extended periods of pedal, all superimposed on a more traditional use of keyboard.

Papazian brought both virtuosity and artistry to his two more familiar offerings -- Chopin's Preludes, Opus 28, and Liszt's Sonata in B minor. Seemingly tireless, he assayed even the most daunting passages with authority and point, yet communicated a most personal and thoughtful poeticism throughout.

SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

DATE Nov. 1, 1994

SUBJECT Armenian Film Festival Begins

PAGE 1 Of 1

Armenian film festival begins

The Fresno Bee

Fresno filmmaker Paul Tchaderjian will be the subject of the first evening of "An Armenian Film Festival: Three California Armenian Filmmakers" at California State University, Fresno.

Tchaderjian, a news editor at KMPH radio and television, will present two of his short films: "Nightmare of the Burnt Baby" and "Just Another Day."

Tchaderjian and Dickran Kouymjian, director of Armenian studies, will discuss "Calendar," a film by Canadian-Armenian Atom Egoyan that also will be screened this evening.

The festival continues the next two Tuesday nights. The subject Nov. 8 will be documentary filmmaker Gary Conklin, followed by documentary filmmaker Roxanne Bezjian Nov. 15.

The presentations begin at 6, McLane Hall Chemistry Building, Room 221. Admission free. Information: 278-2669.

CSUF Armenian Studies Grants More Than \$13,000 in Scholarships/ Grants

FRESNO - Thirty-two students were awarded more than \$13,000 in Armenian Studies scholarships and grants for the 1994-1995 academic year at California State University, Fresno. The recipients are all students of CSUF and are required to enroll in Armenian Studies courses as part of their awards. The Armenian Studies Program Scholarship Committee, headed by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at CSUF, announced the awards. Scholarship and grant recipients will be honored at the 9th Annual Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program.

Fund Source: Yervant, Rose, and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grant - Eliz Adjian, Fresno, Business Adm., Sr.; Lisa Derian, Fresno, Industrial Arts, Sr.; Nina Momjian, Northridge, CA, Speech Communications & Journalism, Sr.; Garo Nakashian, Fresno, Graphic Design, Freshman; Alisa D. Penir, Clovis, Music & Teaching Vocal, Sophomore; Aram Nigol Sarkissian, St. Helena, CA, Business, Jr.; Vahagn Tonoyan, Yerevan, Armenia, Computer Science, Jr.; Mary Melikian, Yerevan, Armenia, English, Sr.; Harout H. Zekian, Fresno, Legal Envir. of Business, Sr.

Fund Source: Charles K. Pategian and Pansy Pategian Zlovich Scholarships - Jason Ahronian, Fresno, Ag. Business, Freshman; Maria Amirkhanian, Yerevan, Armenia, Music, Freshman; Jacquelin Arikian, Fresno, Psychology, Freshman; Tina Attashian, Fresno, Mathematics, Sophomore; Jeff Avedesian, Kingsburg, Accounting, Freshman; David L. Emerzian, Fresno, Accounting, Freshman; Christopher Gooboian, Fresno, Business, Jr.; Susie Kalinian, Fresno, Biology & Pre-Med., Sr.; Gina Y. Kandarian, Fowler, Political Science, Sr.; Karen R. Karabian, Fresno, Business Adm., Freshman; Taline Kila-ghbian, Glendale, CA, Chemistry, Sr.; Joseph Krajekian, Beirut, Lebanon, Biology, Jr.; Suzanne M. Manoogian, Sanger, Business, Jr.; Denise L. McCroskey, Fowler, Psychology, Sophomore; Julie Momjian, Fresno, Philosophy & Pre-law, Sr.; Melissa M. Ouzounian, Fresno, Communicative Disorders, Jr.; Jennifer L. Peters, Fresno, Business, Sophomore; Stephanie Peters, Fowler, Liberal Studies, Jr.; Marine Pogossian, Fresno, Bus. Relief Insur. Mgt., Jr.; Abel Sekepyan, Fresno, Biology, Freshman; Lena Arpie Vartanian, Fresno, Undeclared, Freshman.

Fund Source: Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship - Ara R. Jabaghourian, Fresno, Philosophy & Economics, Jr.; Lara Simonian, Fresno, English, Jr.

Armenian Studies scholarships benefit 32

Thirty-two students at California State University, Fresno, were awarded more than \$13,000 in Armenian Studies scholarships and grants for the 1994-95 academic year.

The recipients are required to enroll in Armenian Studies courses as part of their awards.

Winners of the Yervant, Rose, and Hovannes Levonian Education Grant are: Eliz Adjinian, Lisa Derian, Garo Nakashian and Harout H. Zekian, all of Fresno; Nina Momjian of Northridge; Alisa D. Penir of Clovis; Aram Nigol Sarkissian of St. Helena; and Vahagn Tonoyan and Mary Melikian, of Yerevan, Armenia.

Winners of the Charles K. Pategian and Pansy Pategian Zlokovich scholarships are: Jason Ahronian, Jacqueline Arikian, Tina Attashian, David L. Emerzian, Christopher Gooboian, Susie Kalinian, Karen R. Karabian, Julie

Momjian, Melissa M. Ouzounian, Jennifer L. Peters, Marine Pogolian, Abel Sekepyan and Lena Arpie Vartanian, all of Fresno; Maria Amirkhanian, of Yerevan, Armenia; Jeff Avedesian of Kingsburg; Gina Y. Kandarian of Fowler; Taline Kilagblian of Glendale; Joseph Krajekian of Beirut, Lebanon; Suzanne M. Manoogian of Sanger; and Denise L. McCroskey and Stephanie Peters, both of Fowler.

Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship winners are: Ara R. Jabaghourian and Lara Simonian, both of Fresno.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer; L.A., CA

DATE Nov. 9, 1994

SUBJECT SAS 20th Anniversary Conference

PAGE 1 Of 1

SAS 20th Anniversary Conference and Banquet, November 18-19, at UCLA

LOS ANGELES - Biblical and Religious Themes, Armenian literary Themes, the Armenian Diaspora, Identity in Armenian Culture and similar topics will be discussed at a two-day Conference in Los An-

geles, sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies.

The SAS 20th Anniversary Conference will be held at UCLA, and it is sponsored by the SAS and the Groggier Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies and the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History, both of UCLA, Nov. 18 and 19.

FRIDAY, Nov. 18th session is in Room 6269 Bunche Hall.

The session from 9 a.m. to noon will be chaired by Prof. Avedis Sanjian, on Biblical and Religious Themes, Armenian Literary Themes.

From 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Prof. Richard Hovannisian will chair The Karabagh Conflict: Historiography and Politics.

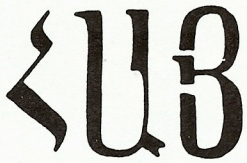
SATURDAY, the Sessions will be held in Room 121 Dodd Hall. The morning session from 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon will be chaired by Prof. Dennis Papazian on The Armenian Diaspora, Historic and Contemporary Issues.

The afternoon session from 1 to 4:30 p.m. will be chaired by Prof. Dickran Kouymjian on Literature and Identity in Armenian Diaspora Culture, Computer Technology in Armenian Studies, Art Themes.

Admission to the Conference is free.

The 20th anniversary Banquet of the SAS will be held Friday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. at UCLA Faculty Center.

For information and reservation, call (310) 825-1307, (818) 793-0385 or (818) 244-9733. Donation is \$25.00 for the Banquet.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE Nov. 10, 1994

SUBJECT \$13,000-Plus in Scholarship/Grants Awarded PAGE 1 Of 1
By CSUF Armenian Studies

\$13,000-Plus in Scholarships/Grants Awarded by CSUF Armenian Studies

FRESNO - Thirty-two students were awarded more than \$13,000 in Armenian Studies scholarships and grants for the 1994-95 academic year at California State University, Fresno.

The recipients are all CSUF students and are required to enroll in Armenian Studies courses as part of their awards. The Armenian Studies Program Scholarship Committee, headed by Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at CSUF, announced the awards last week. Scholarship and grant recipients will be honored at the 9th Annual Banquet of the Armenian Studies Program.

Fund Source: Yervant, Rose, and Hovannes Levonian Educational Grant: Eliz Adjinian, Fresno, Business Adm., Sr.; Lisa Derian, Fresno, Industrial Arts, Sr.; Nina Momjian, Northridge, CA, Speech Communications & Journalism, Sr.; Garo Nakashian, Fresno, Graphic Design, Freshman; Alisa D. Penir, Clovis, Music & Teaching Vocal, Sophomore; Aram Nigol Sarkissian, St. Helena, CA, Business, Jr.; Vahagn Tonoyan, Yerevan, Armenia, Computer Science, Jr.; Mary Melikian, Yerevan, Armenia, English, Sr.; Harout H. Zekian, Fresno, Legal Envir. of Business, Sr.

Fund Source: Charles K. Pategian and Pansy Pategian Zlokovich Scholarships: Jason Ahronian,

Fresno, Ag. Business, Freshman; Maria Amirkhanian, Yerevan, Armenia, Music, Freshman; Jacqueline Arikian, Fresno, Psychology, Freshman; Tina Attashian, Fresno, Mathematics, Sophomore; Jeff Avedisian, Kingsburg, Accounting, Freshman; David L. Emerzian, Fresno, Accounting, Freshman.; Christopher Goo-boian, Fresno, Business, Jr.; Susie Kalinian, Fresno, Biology & Pre-Med, Sr.; Gina Y. Kandarian, Fowler, Political Science, Sr.; Karen R. Karabian, Fresno, Bus. Adm., Freshman; Taline Kilagh-bian, Glendale, Chemistry, Sr.

Joseph Krajekian, Beirut, Biology, Jr.; Suzanne M. Manogian, Sanger, Business, Jr.; Denise L. McCroskey, Fowler, Psychology, Sophomore; Julie Momjian, Fresno, Philosophy & Pre-law, Sr.; Melissa M. Ouzounian, Fresno, Communicative Disorders Jr.; Jennifer L. Peters, Fresno, Business, sophomore; Stephanie Peters, Fowler, Liberal Studies, Jr.; Marine Pogolian, Fresno, Bus. Relief Insur. Mgt., Jr.; Abel Sekepyan, Fresno, Biology, Freshman; Lena Arpie Vartanian, Fresno, Undeclared, Freshman.

Fund Source: Nerces and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship: Ara R. Jabaghourian, Fresno, Philosophy & Economics, Jr.; Lara Simonian, Fresno, English, Jr.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Asbarez; Glendale, CA.

DATE Nov. 12, 1994

SUBJECT Society For Armenian Studies to Hold
Conference

PAGE 1 Of 1

Society for Armenian Studies to Hold Conference

LOS ANGELES—The Society for Armenian Studies will host its 20th Anniversary Conference at the University of California, Los Angeles, this Friday and Saturday. The two-day conference is sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies, Grigor Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies, and the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA.

Professor Avedis Sanjian will chair a session on "Biblical and Religious Themes," and "Armenian Literary Themes" on Friday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, in room 6269 at Bunche Hall. Sanjian's session will be followed by "The Karabakh Conflict: Historiography and Politics," chaired by Prof. Richard Hovannisian, from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the same room.

The 20th Anniversary Banquet will take place Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the UCLA Faculty Center. For more information and reservations, call (310) 825-1307, (818) 793-0385 or (818) 244-9733.

On Saturday, Prof. Dennis Papazian will chair "The Armenian Diaspora, Historic and Contemporary Issues," from 9 a.m. to noon, in room 121 at Dodd Hall. Prof. Dickran Kouyumjian will chair "Literature and Identity in Armenian Diaspora Culture, Computer Technology in Armenian Studies and Art Themes," from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the same room.

Prof. Thomson to Lecture in Fresno on Armenia and Byzantium

FRESNO, CA – Professor Robert Thomson, Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenia at Pembroke College, University of Oxford, will give a lecture in the Armenian Studies Program Lecture series on Wednesday evening, November 16.

A distinguished Armenologist, Dr. Thomson has been particularly interested in early medieval Armenian literature and cross influences with Byzantine, Greek and Syriac prototypes. His lecture is entitled "Armenia and Byzantium: Literary and Cultural Contacts."

In 1992 Prof. Thomson was chosen as the Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian at Oxford, filling the position left vacant by the retirement of Charles Dowsett. For the past thirty years he was a professor at Harvard University, occupying since 1969 the Mesrob Mashtotz Chair of Armenian Studies. The move to Oxford was a return home to his native England.

Prof. Thomson is a prolific scholar and translator. Among his latest works is a volume of collected essays just issued by Variorum Press entitled "Studies in Armenian Literature and Christianity." He is known for his translations of classical Armenian authors into English. Each volume is accompanied with an elaborate introduction, bibliography, and critical historical and linguistic notes. Among his translations are the "History" of Agathangehos



Prof. Robert Thomson.

(1976), "The Teachings of St. Gregory" (1970), "History of the Armenians" by Movses Khorenatzi (1978), "History of the Wars of Vartan" by Eghishe (1982), "Philosophical Works" of Davit Anhakht (1983), "History" of Tovma Artzruni (1985), "History" of Vardan Areweltzi (1989), and the "History" of Chazar Parpetzi (1991). He has also recently completed translations of the "Georgian Chronicle" in its Armenian version, and the "Law Code" of Mkhitar Gosh.

Dr. Thomson was also one of the founders of the Society for Armenian Studies, currently celebrating its 20th anniversary; he has been president and treasurer more than once. He was chosen by the Trustees of Harvard University to be the director for five years of its famous Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Research Center in Washington, DC.

This will be Dr. Thomson's first lecture on the CSUS campus.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Weekly; Watertown, MA

DATE Nov. 1994

SUBJECT Prof. Robert Thomson

PAGE 1 Of 1

Oxford scholar to speak in Armenian lecture series

FRESNO, CA—Professor Robert Thomson, Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian at Pembroke College, University of Oxford, will present the next lecture in the Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series, on Wednesday, November 16, at 7:30 pm, at California State University, Fresno, in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the University Business Center.

One of the world's most distinguished Armenologists, Dr. Thomson has been particularly interested in early medieval Armenian literature and cross influences with Byzantine Greek and Syrian prototypes. His lecture is entitled "Armenia and Byzantium: Literary and Cultural Contacts."

In 1992 Professor Thomson was chosen as the Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian at Oxford, filling the position left vacant by the retirement of Charles Dowsett. For the past 30 years he has been a professor at Harvard University, occupying (since 1969) the Mesrob Mashtots Chair of Armenian. The move to Oxford is a return home to his native England.

Thomson is a prolific scholar and translator. Among his latest works is a volume of collected essays, just issued by Variorum Press, entitled *Studies in Armenian Literature and Christianity*. He is known to many, scholar or layman, through his elegant translations of classical Armenian authors into English.

Thomson was also one of the founders of the Society for Armenian Studies, currently celebrating its 20th anniversary.

The public is welcomed to hear Dr. Thomson's lecture, his first on the CSUF campus. Admission to the lecture is free of charge. For further information, call the Armenian Studies Program at 209-278-2669.

—CSUF Armenian Studies Program news release

Prof. Bernard Lewis and Le Monde Are Sued in Paris For Denial of the Armenian Genocide

PARIS, FRANCE – Professor Bernard Lewis, a well-known Orientalist at Princeton University, has been sued in a criminal action, along with the influential French newspaper, Le Monde, for interviews published by the paper in which Lewis denies the historical validity of the Armenian Genocide in 1915.

According to Lewis, the Armenians were subject to "deportation" but not to organized "genocide."

In French law, there is a "Gayssot Principle" which defines denials of established "crimes against humanity" as criminal acts. The concept of "crimes against humanity" was developed in the Nuremberg Trials of 1945 and this refers clearly to the Holocaust.

The defense lawyers for Lewis and Le Monde argued that there is no basis in French law for bringing charges over denial of the Armenian Genocide since the law pertains only to the Holocaust. Attorneys for the Comite de Defense de la Cause Armenienne, and three elderly survivors of the Armenian Genocide who together brought the suits, argued that the Gayssot Principle properly extends also to other established crimes of genocide such as the Armenian Genocide. After hearing the two arguments, the court's dramatic ruling was that the case would be heard.

Among the witnesses who were called were three elderly survivors of the Armenian Genocide who told of deaths of

family members at the hands of the Turkish government. Dr. Yves Ternon, a surgeon in Paris and a well-known historian of the Armenians, who will be publishing a new book in French this year about the various genocides that have taken place in the twentieth century including Yugoslavia and Rwanda, testified that the "deportations" of the Armenians were a calculated instrument of a planned genocide by the Turkish government.

Prof. Israel Charny from Jerusalem was called as the final witness. Director of the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide, and Director of the Program for Advanced Studies in Integrative Psychotherapy at Hebrew University, Charny is an expert on denials of the Holocaust and Genocide. Citing a 1945 New York Times report from the Nuremberg Trials of testimony that Adolf Hitler

told his generals in 1939, "Who remembers the Armenians?" Charny testified many scholars regard the Armenian Genocide as a virtual "dress rehearsal" for the Holocaust. Like the AIDS virus, Charny said, "the virus of genocide hides and transforms itself so that it can strike again. Denials of any genocide are the preparation for future genocide."

In the 1960s, Professor Lewis in his major work on the Middle East, himself wrote of "the Holocaust of the Armenians in which a million and a half perished" at the hands of the Turks, but then in later years joined the ranks of revisionists.

The courts set November 18 to give its ruling. According to several lawyers and scholars of genocide, the fact that the charges against the denials of the Armenian Genocide were heard in full is a major precedent that will help deter future denials of both the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide.

Columbus Int'l. Film Festival Awards Paskaleva's Karabagh Documentaries

COLUMBUS, OH - On October 27, the 42nd Annual Columbus International Film Festival awarded Bulgarian filmmaker, Tsvetana Paskaleva, a bronze plaque for "Karabagh's Wounds, I and II," the poignant series of documentary films on the conflict in Nagorno-Karabagh. Paskaleva's films were featured in the highly competitive Social Issues category of the festival where other works, produced by such notable television and film companies as ABC's World News Tonight with Peter Jennings, Home Box Office (HBO), Turner Broadcasting Station (TBS) and the Cable News Network (CNN), also received awards.

During a series of events leading up to the evening's gala awards ceremony, Paskaleva mingled with her colleagues from throughout North America, familiarizing them with the situation in Karabagh and the extremely arduous conditions in which she had made her films. Paskaleva's peers listened intently as she recounted her four-and-a-half years of experience in Karabagh and the immense physical and emotional challenges it presented.

The prestigious Columbus International Film Festival is the oldest such festival in North America and one of only four national competitions where recipients of particular awards automatically become eligible to compete for the highly coveted "Oscar" in the three Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences short-film categories. This year nearly 800 films from more than 30 countries were entered in the competition, with only a handful winning awards.

FILM FEST HEAD

In his opening remarks before the packed house, Richard Long, president of the Columbus International Film Festival, recognized Paskaleva's presence in the audience and later in the evening, after the conclusion of the awards ceremony, stated: "We thought Tsvetana's movie was the most moving piece on the subject of war. The fact that she has been able to capture such provocative images is extraordinary." He added, "Most films on the subject of war are usually made after the conclusion of the war. What makes Tsvetana's film so remarkable is that it was made during the actual conflict." Long concluded his remarks: "Her work is very important since it draws much needed attention to this situation. Hopefully, this film will help in finding a quick solution to this war."

PASKALEVA ACCEPTS

In the most moving acceptance speech of the night, Paskaleva, with the Bulgarian flag promi-

nently displayed behind her on stage, stated: "Thank you to all those people involved in the Columbus International Film Festival who understood the message of my films. This night is very special for me. As a professional, I am happy about this award; however, as a human, I am sad. This award is about five of my films and four years' work under very difficult conditions in Nagorno-Karabagh. This happy day comes from a tragic plight. This award is represented here at a very big price. A great deal of suffering and far too much blood has been spilled in this war. In one month I will return to this area to continue my work and, rather than showing this award to the people of Karabagh, I desperately want to say to them that now many people know about your story, and I am sure that peace will soon come to this land. Thank you." As Paskaleva left the stage, for the first time in the evening the assembled filmmakers and their guests, visibly stirred by the intensity of her speech, gave her enthusiastic and extended applause.

After the awards presentation, as filmmakers mingled with colleagues, several guests approached Paskaleva and, in a spontaneous display of emotion, embraced the Bulgarian filmmaker for creating such an extraordinary work and delivering such a warm and sincere acceptance speech. Other attendees of the festival approached Paskaleva to extend their heartfelt congratulations on her outstanding accomplishment, informing her that, until she had described her experiences, they had been sadly unaware of the situation in Karabagh. They encouraged her to submit her films for other festivals so that her important message could be heard by a great audience.

The jurors who viewed and judged Paskaleva's films were also touched by the images brought to the screen, and several jurors sought to meet and congratulate her on her provocative work. Paskaleva, moved by the outpouring of affection, spent much of the remainder of the evening, educating her colleagues on the conflict in Nagorno-Karabagh and explaining exactly how she was able to produce such powerful images with so few material resources.

Paskaleva, one of the very few award-winning filmmakers who works independently and without a corporate sponsor, will travel, at her own expense, to Burlington, Vermont, where her film "My Dears, Living and Dead" will be shown November 9th at the Vermont International Film Festival.

Armenian Film Festival Features Three California Armenian Filmmakers: Bezjian, Chaderjian, Conklin

FRESNO, CA - The third, and final, evening -- November 15 -- of the mini-Festival of Armenian Films currently being held at California State University Fresno will feature San Francisco filmmaker Roxanne Bezjian's prize-winning television documentary, "Charles Garry: Streetfighter in the Courtroom" (1992).

The mini-Festival of Armenian Films is part of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian's Armenian Studies 120T course called "The Armenian Experience through Film." The general public is invited to attend without charge; the presentation will run from 6 to 8:40 p.m. in room 221 of the McLane Building (Old Science) on the CSUF campus.

Civil rights attorney Charles Garry (1909-1991) was raised in Selma as a Garabedian along with two brothers, both now resident in Fresno. He is famous among trial lawyers of his time for his defiance of the House Un-American Activities Committee and his successful defense of the Black Panther Party.

Bezjian's film does more than describe Garry's life; it shows the lawyer's ground-breaking work in reforming courtroom procedures and reducing inherent prejudices against people of race or with ideas different than those of mainstream America. The film continues to win festival prizes and awards and has been featured on PBS stations in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

On the first Tuesday Paul Chaderjian, a native of Fresno and former CSUF student, presented experimental films on 16 mm and video. Mr. Chaderjian, currently news editor at FOX Radio and TV, Channel 26 in Fresno, graduated from the University of Southern California as a film and television major. For a number of years he worked in local television in Los Angeles, including a long term with the Horizon TV program.

when viewing the homeless on our city streets. This was followed by a more difficult film, also seven minutes long, "Nightmare of the Burnt Baby," Part I of a 1989 trilogy called *The Storm*. Using footage from the 1988 massacres of Armenians in Sumgait, Azerbaijan, especially a young baby being treated for severe burns. Chaderjian contrasts the suffering, pain and loss with the indifference of prosperous Armenians in Los Angeles. Cross cutting draws out the intense and disturbing juxtaposition of complacent comfort and frantic desperation. Throughout the film there is a continuous, poetic narration which underlines the contrast between the two Armenian worlds.

A final film was a moving tribute to Armenia's declaration of independence made through the montage of newsreel footage from Yerevan and originally aired on the Horizon TV program. There is neither narration nor any other speech, only a musical sound tract taken from the rhythmic beginning of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

In the second part of the evening, Prof. Kouymjian introduced Canadian director, Atom Egoyan's touching and very Armenian film "Calendar," which had already been shown on the CSUF campus last May. After the film Mr. Chaderjian discussed his recent meeting with Egoyan at the Vancouver Film festival. He then accepted questions and comments from the audience.

On November 8, Gary Conklin was the invited guest. Though Conklin (originally Chankalian) was born in Fresno, his studies in history and cinema were at University of Southern California and the University Paris. With his base in Pasadena, he has worked, lived and traveled widely throughout Europe. Conklin is a documentary filmmaker fascinated by literary and artistic figures of our time. He presented three of his earlier films of particular interest to Fresno viewers. "Paul Bowles in Morocco" (1970) is an intimate

look into the life of the expatriate writer and composer who is enjoying an international revival. Some may remember that it was Bowles who collaborated with William Saroyan on the music for his first Broadway play, "My Heart's in the Highlands."

The most famous Mexican artist of our time is the subject of Conklin's "Rufino Tamayo: The Sources of His Art" (1972), which features poetry and narration by the writer Octavio Paz, spoken by film director John Huston and Paz himself. The music for the film is by Mexican composer Carlos Chavez. "Memories of Berlin: The Twilight of Weimar Culture" (1976), perhaps Gary Conklin's most famous movie, is about the Golden Age of Germany's capital. Among those appearing in this documentary on the 1920's and early 30's are musicians Claudio Arrau and Igor Piatigorsky, writers Arthur Koestler and Christopher Isherwood, Louise Brooks, and Mrs. Walter Gropius. The film was co-produced with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Conklin's other films include "L.A. Suggested by the Art of Edward Ruscha" (1980), "Gore Vidal. The Man Who Said No" (1983), a feature-length film on the writer-critic's campaign for US Senator from California; "Notes from 'Under the Volcano'" (1984) on the making of John Huston's film "Under the Volcano," and most recently "A Question of Class: English Literary Life 1918-1945" (1992). Conklin is now editing a new film on life in Hollywood in the 1940's and 1950's.

The Festival of California Armenian Filmmakers is funded by the Armenian Studies Program Annual Fund and a special grant from the Fresno State Associated Students. The public is invited to the film screenings and lectures without charge; no registration is necessary. Parking restrictions have been lifted for those evening in Lot J. Those wishing further information may call the Armenian Studies Program at (209)278-2669

Cal State Fresno's Bridge to Armenia: "Teach for Armenia" Program

FRESNO, CA - When George Bedirian arrived in Yerevan in the winter of 1994 to take part in the "Teach for Armenia" program, the public-relations specialist from eastern Washington found Armenia's capital to be a grim, dark city. A persistent gray overcast filled the sky and temperatures hovered around freezing. Without heat, hot water, and more than a couple hours of electricity each day, Yerevan's residents seemed shell-shocked and weary. At Yerevan State University, Bedirian's workplace for the spring semester, construction on the institution's prized new library facility had come to a halt.

Within a few weeks, however, Bedirian began to notice signs of renewal. The brightening weather helped lighten the gloom, but there was also a stubborn sense of hope taking hold among the people. Bedirian watched Yerevan gradually come to life from the long months of hibernation. Construction workers even returned to the library, picking up where they had left off at the beginning of winter.

As the 1994-95 school year opens, hope is growing in Armenia that the republic of 3.7 million people has passed through the most difficult trials. Armenian officials are beginning to shift their attention away from short-term humanitarian relief and toward promoting the country's long-term recovery. The "Teach for Armenia" program -- in which Bedirian and two other Americans participated during the 1993-94 academic year -- is part of that process.

TEACH FOR ARMENIA

"Teach for Armenia" (TFA), sponsored

and coordinated by the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, is grounded in the assumption that science, technology, and commerce must be the driving engines of Armenia's economic development. To help the country prosper, the program seeks to create person-to-person bridges between landlocked Armenia and the outside world. Most urgent is the need to integrate the republic into the global community of knowledge.

In cooperation with the Armenian Ministry of Higher Education and Science, the Ministry of Education and Yerevan State University, TFA places American educators and other professionals in the Armenian educational system. At the primary and secondary levels of education, the goal is to introduce American-style teaching methods and curricula into Armenia. In the republic's institutions of higher learning, TFA aims to expose students and scholars to Western research methods and techniques. In addition, the program's emphasis on improving English-language instruction offers Armenians broader access to the worldwide information revolution.

BRIDGE TO ARMENIA

Bedirian, Zaroohi Der Mugrdchian, and Sosi Toomajanian, TFA's groundbreaking participants in 1993-94, encountered a society reeling from the Soviet Union's collapse and yet eager for contact with the West. Even by the standards of the former Soviet Union, Armenia's hardships have been epic. Blockaded by neighboring

Continued on p. 23



Azerbaijan and Turkey, the struggling republic has seen its industrial production fall six times below the levels of the 1980s. Average salaries range from \$2 to \$3 a month. And yet Armenia is a survivor. Ask Americans channeling US assistance to the republic through the Peace Corps, Department of Agriculture, and other agencies and they will testify to the remarkable resilience and determination of the Armenian people. They will also affirm that those serving in Armenia come away with a deep attachment to the land and its inhabitants.

Bedirian, Der Mugrdchian, and Toomajanian each gained an insight into the Armenian character and acquired a distinct perspective on the workings of Armenia's educational system.

Bedirian, the coordinator of publications at Washington State University, served as an editor and consultant in the Office of International Relations at Yerevan State University. Der Mugrdchian, a kindergarten teacher in Fresno with 19 years of experience, taught English at Yerevan State University and a local kindergarten. Toomajanian, who is a doctoral candidate at Harvard University's School of Education, offered courses in psychology and child development, and assisted in teaching an American/English literature class, for secondary students in Yerevan.

Bedirian's talents and experience were well-matched with Yerevan State University's efforts to broaden its international outreach and restructure its graduation standards. Soon after arriving in Yerevan, Bedirian began working closely with Rafael Matevosian, vice rector of international relations, and his administrative assistant, Haroutioun Kazarian, to formulate a lengthy fund-raising proposal and revamp the university's English-language catalog. In addition, Bedirian helped develop a grant proposal to the United States Information Agency to facilitate university-level administrative reform.

Language barriers aside, Bedirian often found himself working to bridge the gulf between Western and Soviet mindsets. After 70 years of isolation from Western norms, Armenians were unfamiliar with the standards that Americans accept, Bedirian observed. In applying for grants from American institutions, for example, Bedirian had to take a firm stance to convince his Armenian colleagues that the rules set by funding organizations could be bent only so far. "What I'm describing is a difference in perception and orientation," Bedirian said. "Armenians simply had attitudes and ways of doing things that were different from those of Americans."

Der Mugrdchian also helped to break down the barriers of the past. In teaching English at Yerevan State University, Der Mugrdchian worked with students who were accustomed to classroom dictation drills and textbooks that depicted life in Britain during the 1940s.

Along with incorporating recent articles from newspapers and magazines into her curriculum, Der Mugrdchian involved her students in real-world role-play settings and introduced new techniques to broaden their vocabulary.

"They were very pleased that they could talk freely without being constantly corrected," Der Mugrdchian explained, "and that they could write in their journals without having their books returned all marked up."

ality, an extreme concern with accountability to one's superiors, and no apparent awareness of time management."

Der Mugrdchian and Toomajanian noted how the trials of daily life sapped their students and colleagues of the will to look toward the future. Der Mugrdchian's response was to maintain an indefatigably upbeat disposition.

"I made it a point to say 'barev' (hello) and 'vontzes?' (how are you?) to people with a smile, and to answer 'lav' (good) instead of 'vochinch' (never mind). The optimism, a positive outlook, is very important for people to see."

Toomajanian quickly came to appreciate the causes of the morale problem among her fellow teachers.

"All salaries are extremely low compared to prices, but especially the salaries of teachers. Consequently, many teachers are leaving the profession -- for other jobs or simply to stay at home," she said. "In addition, there is a complete lack of educational materials in classrooms."

Conversely, Armenians were happy to share their coping mechanisms with their colleagues from abroad.

"There was a bottle of vodka kept in the cabinet, which we sipped in the afternoon," Bedirian recalled. "That was a rather pleasant note, I thought, serving to warm us when the weather was cold, and keeping things rather mellow no matter what the weather."

In Der Mugrdchian's case, Armenian hospitality helped lighten the everyday burdens.

"Almost every foreigner comes away with a real love for the people. They're so warm and giving. My students, for example, regularly invited me over for dinner."

HOPE FOR FUTURE

The people also implanted, almost inexplicably, a sense of hope among the TFA participants. Der Mugrdchian sees a light at the end of the tunnel for Armenia, even if it is not yet apparent to the people of the republic. In the meantime, those beyond Armenia's borders have a role to play in guiding the country forward.

"When Armenians see people from abroad working there for \$2 a month, it's very uplifting for their morale. They see that there are people who care about them. Anyone who comes is very, very important," emphasized Der Mugrdchian.

"More than anything, I came through with a positive sense of the people. I was willing to go through any hardships necessary because it was the people that I was there to serve." For Bedirian, the attitudes of his hosts convinced him that Armenia will endure, whatever the odds.

"I saw many things," Bedirian later reflected, "that led me to believe that whatever is decent and worthy in Armenia will be preserved -- an incorrigible sense of humor and generosity among the people for one -- and for another, a cultural heritage that refuses to die."

TO LEARN MORE

Those interested in participating in the TFA program should contact Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies program, California State University, Fresno, Fresno, CA 93740-0004. Applications for the Fall 1995 and Spring 1996 semesters are now being accepted. Call (209)278-2669 or FAX (209)278-2129 to request an information packet.

In addition, Der Mugrdchian established a link with her department and the US Embassy's specialist in English as a second language. Her fellow instructors were eager to compare notes on pedagogical techniques and to learn from the teaching materials Der Mugrdchian used.

Toomajanian's contributions were more at a personal level. Teaching a psychology class to teenagers, Toomajanian became a sounding board for the feelings and aspirations of her students. After years of studying by candlelight and attending classes in heavy coats, they were anxious to share their lives with an outsider. In the process, they learned how psychology could deepen their understanding of themselves and others. "I think they appreciated feeling free to question, to express their feelings, and hearing my fresh point of view as an American," Toomajanian said.

OBSTACLES TO CHANGE

Although they worked in different settings, Bedirian, Der Mugrdchian, and Toomajanian each came face to face with the obstacles blocking change in Armenia.

Bedirian, for example, saw firsthand the imprint left by the hierarchical nature of the Soviet power structure.

"The management style I observed at Yerevan State University, which I took to be a legacy of 70 years of Soviet dominance," Bedirian said, "was autocratic, somewhat ad hoc, and often chaotic, responding in knee-jerk fashion to the needs of the moment -- marked by a certain absence of collegi-

Various Topics at SAS Conference

LOS ANGELES - The public is cordially invited to attend the Armenian Studies Conference on Friday and Saturday, November 18-19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The international confer-

ence, marking the 20th anniversary of the society for Armenian Studies, is being organized by the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History, and by the Grigor Narekatsi Chair

in Armenian Studies at UCLA.

The Friday sessions will be held in Room 6269 Bunche Hall and the Saturday sessions will be held in Room 121 Dodd Hall on the UCLA campus.

There is no admission charge to the conference proceedings.

The first session on Friday morning will be chaired Avedis K. Sanjian of UCLA and include Biblical and Religious Themes and Armenian Literary Themes. Participants include Joseph Alexanian (Trinity College), Robert Thomson (Oxford University), Krikor Halebian (Fuller Theological Seminary), Barbara Merguerian (Boston), Gregory Areshian (University of Wisconsin), and John Gueriguian (Food and Drug Administration, Washington).

The second session, Friday afternoon, will be chaired by Richard Hovannisian, and is devoted to the Karabagh Conflict: Historiography and Politics. Participants include Robert Hewsen (Rowan College), Aram Arkun (Zohrab Center), George Bournoutian (Iona College), Stepan Astourian (UCLA), Joseph Kechichian (Rand Corporation), Ashot Galoian (Yerevan State University), Robert Krikorian (George Washington), and Harry C. Theriault (University of Massachusetts).

SATURDAY

The Saturday morning sessions in 121 Dodd Hall will be chaired by Dennis Papazian (University of Michigan-Dearborn), and covers issues relating to the Armenian diaspora and to historical questions. The participants include Hrag Varjabedian (Los Angeles), Aida Boudjikianian (University of Montreal), Nelida Boulgourdjian (University of Buenos Aires), Mari Firkatian-Wozniak (American College in Bulgaria), Matthew Jendian (Fresno), Juan Carlos Toufekian (University of Buenos Ai-

res), Edmund Herzig (University of Manchester), and David Bundy (Christian Theological Seminary).

The Saturday afternoon session will be chaired by Dickran Kouymjian (CSUF), and includes the themes of literature and identity in the Armenian diaspora, computer technology in Armenian Studies, and Art themes. Participants include Lorne Shirinian (Royal Military College, Montreal), David Calonne (Sienna Heights College), Barlow Der Muqrdechian (CSUF), Rubina Peroomian (UCLA), Lola Koundakjian (AGBU International), George Shirinian (City of York Library, Canada), Ger-

ald Ottenbreit (University of Michigan-Dearborn), Lucy Der Manuelian (Tufts University), Kim Theriault (SUNY, Buffalo), and Levon Chooksejian (Matenadaran, Yerevan), and Artashes Emin (Yerevan).

Aside from the Armenian Studies Conference, the SAS will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a banquet in the UCLA Faculty Center on Friday evening, November 18, at 7:30 p.m.

The public is cordially invited to attend and participate in the banquet. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be reserved by telephoning (310) 825-1307 or 825-3375, and (818) 793-0385 or 244-9733.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Monday Report; Fresno, CA

DATE Nov. 17, 1994

SUBJECT Prof. Der Mugrdechian

PAGE 1 Of 1

Barlow Der Mugrdechian (Armenian Studies) presented a paper, "Formation of an Armenian-American Identity: Peter Najarian's Daughters of Memory," at the 20th Anniversary Conference of the Society for Armenian Studies held at UCLA November 17-18, and as part of a panel he organized on Armenian Literature of the Diaspora at the Middle Eastern Studies Association annual meeting held in Phoenix, Arizona November 20. He also served as Secretary at the annual meeting of the Society for Armenian Studies held at UCLA November 19.

SAS Celebrates Anniversary at UCLA

LOS ANGELES - An Armenological conference commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Society for Armenian Studies will take place Nov. 18-19, at UCLA. Some 40 papers will be presented by SAS members. There will be a banquet open to the public on Nov. 18 at UCLA, as well as the SAS's 20th Annual Business meeting on campus, at 5 p.m. immediately following the afternoon session.

On Nov. 20-22, the Annual Middle East Studies Association meeting will take place in Phoenix, Arizona at the Pointe Hilton Resort at Tapatio Cliffs. There will be three SAS-sponsored panels: "Literature and Identity in Armenian Diaspora Culture" Nov. 20 at 10:30 a.m.; "The Karabagh Conflict: Historiography and Politics" the same day at 1:30 p.m., and "Computer Technology as a Tool for Armenian Studies," Nov. 21, at 4 p.m.

The Phoenix Armenian Community will host a reception for all SAS members at the new Armenian Community Center on Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Transportation will be

provided from the hotel.

SAS President, Prof. Dickran Kouymjian of Fresno State, has arranged two showings of the film "Calendar" by Canadian director Atom Egoyan at this year's MESA FilmFest: Nov. 18, 7:05-8:20 p.m., and Nov. 20, 5:05-6:30 p.m.

The election results for the two year term in the Administrative Council are: Ann Lousin, Joseph Kechichian, and Dennis Papazian (Treasurer, re-elected). The new executives replace outgoing President Dickran Kouymjian and Vice-president Rouben Adalian. The new members are joined by continuing Administrative Council members Helen Evans, Lorne Shirinian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian (Secretary) and Jennifer Gurahian.

Membership in the SAS is open to all serious scholars who have an interest in Armenian Studies. For information, contact the SAS at the Armenian Research Center, University of Michigan-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen Rd., Dearborn MI 48128-1491, tel.(313) 593-5181.

Armenian Scholars Converge on UCLA for Nov. 18-19 Conference

LOS ANGELES - Armenian scholars from throughout the world are converging to Southern California to participate in the Armenian Studies Conference on Nov. 18-19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at UCLA.

The conference, marking the 20th anniversary of the Society of Armenian Studies, is being organized by the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History and by the Grigor Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies at UCLA. Friday sessions will be held in 6275 Bunch Hall (sixth floor); Saturday sessions will be held in 121 Dodd Hall, on the UCLA campus. The public is invited to attend the proceedings. There is no admission charge.

The first session on Nov. 18 will be chaired by Avetis Sanjian of UCLA and include Biblical, Religious Themes, and Armenian Literary Themes. Participants include Joseph Alexanian (Trinity College), Robert Thomson (Oxford University), Krikor Halebian (Fuller Theological Seminary), Barbara Merguerian (Boston), Gregory Areshian (University of Wisconsin), and Joh Gueriguian (Food and Drug Administration, Washington).

That afternoon's session will be chaired by Richard Hovannisian, and is devoted to the Karabagh conflict: Historiography and Politics. Participants include Robert Hewsen (Rowan College), Aram Arkun (Zohrab Center), George Bournoutian (Iona College), Stephan Astourian (UCLA), Joseph Kechichian (Rand Corporation), Ashot Galoian (Yerevan

State University), Robert Krikorian (George Washington University) and Henry C. Theriault (University of Massachusetts).

The Saturday morning session in 121 Dodd Hall will be chaired by Dennis Papazian (University of Michigan-Dearborn), and covers issues relating to the Armenian diaspora and to historical questions. Participants include Hrag Varjabedian (Los Angeles), Aid Boudjikianian (University of Montreal), Nelida Boulgourdjian (University of Buenos Aires), Mari Firkatian-Wozniak (American College in Bulgaria), Matthew Jendian (Fresno), Juan Carlos Toufekian (University of Buenos Aires), Edmund Herzig (University of Manchester), and David Bundy (Christian Theological Seminary).

The afternoon session will be chaired by Dickran Kouymjian, (CSU, Fresno), and includes themes of literature and identity in the Armenian diaspora, computer technology in Armenian Studies, and Art. Participants include Lorne Shirinian (Royal Military College, Canada), David Calonne (Siena Height College), Barlow Der Mugrdechian (CS, Fresno), Rubina Peroomian (UCLA), Lola Koundakjian (AGBU International), George Shirinian (City of York Library, Canada), Gerald Ottenbreit (University of Michigan-Dearborn), Lucy Der Manuelian (Tufts University), Kim Theriault (SUNY, Buffalo), and Levon Chukasezian (Matenadaran, Yerevan), and Artashes Emin (Yerevan).

For more information, call (310) 825-1307, 825-3375, or (818) 793-0385 or (818) 244-9733.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier; Glendale, CA

DATE Nov. 17, 1994

SUBJECT Armenian Studies Course To Be Offered
Winter '95 At CSUF

PAGE 1 Of 1

Armenian Studies Course to be Offered Winter '95 at CSUF

FRESNO - "Armenian Studies 10 - Introduction to Armenian Studies" will be part of a special three-week Winter Session at California State University, Fresno, Jan. 3-20.

The course will be taught by Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program. The course is an introduction to Armenia and the Armenians through literature, art, history, and current events. Films will reinforce readings and lectures.

The class meets five days a week from 8:55 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. in the social Sciences Building Room 205A.

Pre-registration dates are Nov. 21-23. Tuition for the course is \$105 per unit.

For more information, call the Armenian Studies Program at (209) 278-1559, or the Division of Extended Education at (209) 278-0333.

Society for Arm. Studies Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

LOS ANGELES, CA - An Armenological conference commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Society for Armenian Studies will take place on Friday and Saturday, November 18-19, at UCLA. Some forty papers will be read by SAS members. There will be a banquet open to the public on Friday evening at UCLA, and the 20th Annual Business Meeting of the SAS on the UCLA campus also Friday at 5 p.m. immediately following the afternoon session of papers.

On Sunday through Tuesday, November 20-22, the Annual Middle East Studies Association meeting will take place in Phoenix, AZ at the Pointe Hilton Resort at Tapatío Cliffs. There will be three SAS-sponsored panels: "Literature and Identity in Armenian Diaspora Culture" on Sunday, November 20 at 10:30 a.m.; "The Karabagh Conflict: Historiography and Politics," on the same day at 1:30 p.m., and "Computer Technology as a Tool for Armenian Studies," on Monday, November 21, at 4 p.m.

The Phoenix Armenian Community is inviting all SAS members to a reception that will be held in the new Armenian Community Center on Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. Transportation will be provided from the hotel.

Current SAS President, Professor Dickran Kouymjian of Fresno State, has arranged that the highly acclaimed film, **Calendar**, by Canadian director Atom Egoyan be featured at this year's MESA FilmFest. It is scheduled twice: Friday November 18, 7:05-8:20, and Sunday, November 20, 5:05-6:30. The arrangement was made through Egoyan's distributor, Zeitgeist, in New York.

Those who haven't seen this extraordinary film about the tensions between diasporan and native Armenian sentiments, may want to seize this opportunity.

The SAS Administrative Council has taken certain steps during the past year to help streamline the organization. The changes in the By-laws will be reflected in the new 20th- Anniversary Roster of Society Members, which has just been mailed.

The election results for the new Administrative Council are now in. Elected to two-year Council seats were Ann Lousin, Joseph Kechichian, and Dennis Papazian

(Treasurer, reelected). They take the place of outgoing members Dickran Kouymjian (President) and Rouben Adalian (Vice President) and join continuing Administrative Council members Helen Evans, Lorne Shirinian, Barlow Der Mugrdchian (Secretary) and Jennifer Gurahian.

During the past year members in good standing received a number of publications including Donald Miller's fine **Album of Karabagh Portraits**, the cumulative bibliography of the first five volumes of the **Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies** edited by Avedis Sanjian, and the new Roster of Members.

The President, on behalf of the Administrative Council, invites the public to the 20th Anniversary Conference at UCLA, the banquet Friday night and the Phoenix MESA meeting and reception. Membership in the Society for Armenian Studies is open to all serious scholars or those with an interest in Armenian Studies. For information on membership and activities, contact the SAS secretariat at the Armenian Research Center, University of Michigan-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn, MI 48128-1491, tel. (313)593-5181.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, N.Y. DATE Nov. 19, 1994

SUBJECT ASP Winter '95 Course PAGE 1 Of 1

Introduction to Armenian Studies -- Winter '95 Course

FRESNO, CA - Armenian Studies 10-Introduction to Armenian Studies will be part of a special three-week Winter Session at California State University, Fresno, January 3-20, 1995. The course, to be taught by Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program, is an introduction to Armenia and the Armenians through literature, art, history and current events. Films will reinforce readings and lectures.

The class meets MTWThF 8:55 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. in the Social Sciences Building Room 205 A.

Enrollment in the Winter Session is open to everyone: regular CSUF students, prospective students and adults from the community.

Pre-registration dates are November 21-23, 1994. Tuition for the course is \$106 per unit.

For more information on the course call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or the Division of Extended Education at 278-0333.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Fresno Bee; Fresno, CA

DATE Nov. 22, 1994

SUBJECT Armenian Studies Class Offered

PAGE 1 Of 1

Armenian studies class offered

An introductory Armenian studies class is planned during the Jan. 3-20 winter break at California State University, Fresno.

The class will be taught by lecturer Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the university's Armenian Studies program. The course is an introduction to Armenia and the Armenians through literature, art, history and current events.

The class will meet weekdays from 8:55 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. in the Social Sciences building, Room 205A. Enrollment is open to students and nonstudents.

Pre-registration is available today and Wednesday. Fee is \$106 per unit.

Details: Armenian Studies program at 278-2669 or the Division of Extended Education at 278-0333.

Lady Caroline Cox Visits CSU Fresno

By Barlow Der Mugrdechian

"Armenians are fighting for everything they believe in, for survival, for their homes, language, families, and their ancient spiritual legacy. They have fought to defend themselves with incredible courage. It is a story which should go down in the history books." Lady Caroline Cox.

In the words of a farmer from Getashen in Karabagh who had seen his family killed and his home destroyed, "Dignity is a crown of thorns."

"The people of Karabagh are wearing their crown of thorns with great dignity," according to Lady Caroline Cox, Life Peer of the House of Lords of the British Parliament. Her personal experiences in Karabagh stirred an overflow audience of students, faculty, and community members who crowded the Alice Peters Auditorium on Monday, October 3, on the CSUF campus.

Baroness Cox's talk was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, the School of Social Sciences, and the International Programs Office.

The evening before, the Armenian National Committee, Central Valley, honored Lady Cox with the Women of the Year award at a banquet attended by more than 400 people.

"Now is the time to exert pressure on the international community to compel the Azerbaijani government to stop its military activities," said Lady Cox. She stated her concern that once an oil agreement is signed between Azerbaijan and Western oil companies, there will be a petro-dollar financed final military solution in Artsakh. "Pressure must be brought to bear to stop the Azeri aggression.

The primary victims of the conflict are the people of Karabagh. They need your support in every way, and above all your political support to make sure their human rights are supported and that their humanitarian needs are met."

Lady Caroline Cox is a member of the House of Lords of Great Britain, and a member of numerous humanitarian and educational organizations.

"Ethnic cleansing," now so closely associated with the war in the former Yugoslavia, was first utilized in regard to the policy of Azerbaijan in Karabagh, beginning in 1991, when Armenian civilians — men, women, and children — were forcibly taken from their homes, which were usually destroyed.

Lady Cox first went to Armenia in May of 1991 and since then has visited Armenia and Artsakh 21 times.

During that time she has grown to "appreciate, admire and love the Armenians," as she abundantly made clear in two presentations in the Fresno area.

Speaking with passion and dedication, Lady Cox described her visits to Artsakh and her twofold mission with Christian Solidarity International: humanitarian aid and human rights.

Lady Cox first became involved with the Karabagh issue in May 1991, while attending a conference of the Sakharov Institute in Moscow. All sorts of human rights violations in the Soviet Union were on the agenda, among them reports of the brutality in Karabagh where the Soviet 4th army and Azeri Interior Ministry troops (OMON) were using tanks and helicopters against innocent villagers. Lady Cox led a delegation to assess independently what was happening.

In vivid detail, the Baroness painted a bleak picture of the struggle of the Armenians of Karabagh against the brutal violence of Azeri offensives aimed at the civilian population.

The last offensive in April 1994, which was particularly severe, caused casualties at the rate of 50-60 per day. Azeris were resorting to aerial bombing of the capital of Stepanagert, spreading

destruction at a fearsome level.

The last two years, during which Lady Cox was visiting Karabagh every other month, was especially destructive. Beginning in January of 1992, the Azeris announced that GRAD missiles would be used against the civilian population. Up to 400 missiles a day rained upon Stepanagert, with each missile capable of destroying an apartment building.

Supplies had been totally cut off to the city. Armenians waited up to five hours a day in the freezing cold to get two buckets of water. Though living in dark and cold cellars, they kept

up their spirits by performing plays.

"Where was the United Nations and the world community when 40% of Artsakh was overrun? Where was the condemnation of Azeri aggression?" asked the defiant speaker.

Lady Cox outlined five major themes concerning her humanitarian and human rights work: Azerbaijan as the primary aggressor in the war; challenges involved in providing humanitarian aid to Karabagh; brief chronology of events in

the area; the way ahead; and tribute to the people of Karabagh.

The evidence points to an asymmetry of aggression in the conflict. There is incontrovertible proof that Azerbaijan is a primary aggressor for five reasons: The brutal deportation efforts to force Armenians out of Karabagh; An asymmetry of violence of human rights. Azerbaijan has blockaded both Armenia and Karabagh, assisted by Turkey. Armenia and Karabagh are for the most part cut off from the rest of the world; The Azeris were the first to use weapons of indiscriminate terror against a civilian population; Only Azerbaijan has utilized aerial bombing, with cluster bombs that cause multiple injuries to civilians; Only Azeris use ground to air missiles designed to detonate at a height calculated to cause maximum damage, and to which children and civilians are especially vulnerable.

These five points caused Christian Solidarity International (CSI) to consider Armenians as primary victims. CSI tries to assist and to be a voice for people who are victims of aggression.

Many of the major aid organizations will not, and cannot for political reasons, enter Karabagh because the region is not recognized as an independent country and the government of Azerbaijan refuses to allow assistance to reach Karabagh.

Faced with the challenge of not being able to turn to an established organization, Lady Cox contacted CSI for help. Within two weeks of her initial visit to Karabagh she was able to acquire many tons of medical supplies, transporting them from England to Karabagh.

Lady Cox has developed a profound admiration for the people of Karabagh through meeting individuals such as the senior nurse from Maragha, northeastern Karabagh, whom she met in April 1992. Azerbaijan had just overrun the village with tanks and armored personnel carriers. The heads of 45 villagers were sawed off in sight of the rest of the villagers. Every home was set on fire.

Lady Cox arrived twenty-four hours after the massacre and saw "the face of hell." She met the senior nurse who had earlier seen her son's head sawed off. They embraced and wept.

What message would the nurse like to give to the world? With incredible dignity, she rose

above her personal anguish and with great composure said, "I want to say thank you. I have seen how the medicine you have brought has saved many lives and eased much suffering. I want to say thank you to those who have not forgotten us in these dark and difficult days."

"What a triumph of the human spirit," she commented.

Another incident was about a boy of twelve who was carrying water home in the winter. It took five hours to wait in line in sub-zero temperature under bombing for the water. He was going down the stairs to the basement of his home when he slipped on the ice and spilled the precious two buckets of water. Instead of being angry he made a joke, and went out again to wait in line for another five hours.

Such is the courage of the children of Karabagh.



Lady Caroline Cox.

CSUF Mini-Festival Screens Armenian Films

FRESNO - A mini-Festival of Armenian films was held in early November at California State University, Fresno. The works of three Armenian filmmakers from Canada, Fresno and San Francisco, were featured on Tuesday evenings as part of the Armenian Studies course "The Armenian Experience Through Film," taught by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at CSUF.

The first screening on Nov. 1 featured the works of Fresno native and CSUF alumnus Paul Chaderjian, now the news editor at Fox Radio and TV, Ch. 26 in Fresno. He presented a trio of films, "Just Another Day," a seven-minute essay on the life of a homeless person in Los Angeles, and "Nightmare of the Burnt Baby," also a seven-minute long piece contrasting the suffering, pain and loss of the 1988 massacres of Armenians in Sumgait with the indifference of prosperous Armenians in Los Angeles. A third feature, originally aired on the Horizon TV program was a moving tribute to Armenia's declaration of independence through the montage of newsreel footage from Yerevan.

Canadian-Armenian director, Atom Yegoyan was the second filmmaker featured. Prof. Kouymjian introduced his very Armenian film, "Calendar."

On Nov. 8, Fresno-born and now Pasadena-based Gary Conklin (Chankalian) had three documentaries screened, "Paul Bowles in Morocco," "Rufino Tamayo: The Sources of His Art," and "Memories of Berlin: The Twilight of Weimar Culture."

The final evening of the mini-

film festival on Nov. 15, featured San Francisco filmmaker Roxanne Bezjian's prize-winning TV documentary "Charles Garry: Street-fighter in the Courtroom."

The Festival of California Armenian Filmmakers was funded by the Armenian Studies Program Annual Fund and a special grant from the Fresno State Associated Students.

Teach for Armenia Program Builds Bridges to Armenia

FRESNO - When George Bedirian arrived in Yerevan in the winter of 1994 to take part in the *Teach for Armenia* program, the public relations specialist from eastern Washington found the Armenian capital to be a grim, dark city. At Yerevan State University, Bedirian's workplace for the spring semester, construction on the institution's prized new library facility had come to a halt.

Within a few weeks, however, Bedirian began to notice signs of renewal. He watched Yerevan gradually come to life from the long months of hibernation. Construction workers even returned to the library, picking up where they had left off at the beginning of winter.

As the 1994-95 school year opens, hope is growing in Armenia that the republic of 3.7 million people has passed through the most difficult trials. The *Teach for Armenia* program -- in which Bedirian and two other Americans participated during the 1993-94 academic year--is part of that process.

Teach for Armenia (TFA), sponsored and coordinated by the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, is grounded in the assumption that science, technology, and commerce must be the driving engines of Armenia's economic development. Most urgent is the need to integrate the republic into the global community of knowledge.

Cooperating with the Armenian Ministry of High Education and Science, and the Ministry of Education and Yerevan State University, TFA places American educators and other professionals

in the Armenian educational system, aiming to expose students and scholars to Western research methods and techniques.

Bedirian, Zaroohi Der Mugrdechian, and Sosi Toomajanian, TFA's participants in 1993-94, encountered a society reeling from the Soviet Union's collapse. Bedirian, the coordinator of publications at Washington State University, served as an editor and consultant in the Office of International Relations at Yerevan State University. Der Mugrdechian, a kindergarten teacher in Fresno, California, taught English at Yerevan State University and a local kindergarten. Toomajanian, who is a doctoral candidate at Harvard University's school of education, offered courses in psychology and child development, and assisted in teaching an American/English literature class for secondary students in Yerevan.

In teaching English at Yerevan State University, Der Mugrdechian worked with students who were accustomed to classroom dictation drills and textbooks that depicted life in Britain during the 1940s.

Along with incorporating recent articles from newspapers and magazines into her curriculum, Der Mugrdechian involved her students in real-world role play settings and introduced new techniques to broaden their vocabulary.

Toomajanian's contributions were more at a personal level. Teaching a psychology class to teenagers, Toomajanian became a sounding board for the feelings and aspirations of her students. In the process, they learned how psychology could deepen their understanding of themselves and others.

Although they worked in different settings, Bedirian, Der Mugrdechian, and Toomajanian each came face-to-face with obstacles blocking change in Armenia.

Bedirian, for example, saw firsthand the imprint left by the hierarchical nature of the Soviet power structure. Toomajanian quickly came to appreciate the causes of the morale problem among her fellow teachers. "...especially the salaries of teachers. In addition, there is a complete lack of educational materials in classrooms."

In Der Mugrdechian's case, Armenian hospitality helped lighten the everyday burdens.

"Almost every foreigner comes away with a real love for the people. They're so warm and giving."

The people also implanted, almost inexplicably, a sense of hope among the TFA participants. Der Mugrdechian sees a light at the end of the tunnel for Armenia, even if it is not yet apparent to the people of the republic. In the meantime, those beyond Armenia's borders have a role to play in guiding the country forward.

"I saw many things," Bedirian later reflected, "that led me to believe that whatever is decent and worthy in Armenia will be preserved -- an incorrigible sense of humor and generosity among the people for one -- and for another, a cultural heritage that refuses to die."

Those interested in participating in the TFA program should contact Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program, CSUF, Fresno, California, 93740-0004. Applications for the Fall 1995 and Spring 1996 semesters are now being accepted. Call 209-278-2669 for an information packet.

Activist Lady Caroline Cox Visits CSU Fresno Campus

FRESNO, CA - "Armenians are fighting for everything they believe in, for survival, for their homes, language, families, and their ancient spiritual legacy. They have fought to defend themselves with incredible courage. It is a story which should go down in the history books," said Lady Caroline Cox during her talk here on campus October 3rd in Alice Peters Auditorium.

She described a Karabagh farmer from Getashen who had seen his family killed and his home destroyed: "Dignity is a crown of thorns. The people of Karabagh are wearing their crown of thorns with great dignity." A Life Peer of the House of Lords of the British Parliament, Lady Cox spoke of her personal experiences in Karabagh to an overflow crowd of students, faculty and community members. The lecture was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, School of Social Sciences, and International Programs Office.

The evening before, the Armenian National Committee, Central Valley, honored Lady Cox as "Woman of the Year" during a banquet with more than 400 people in attendance.

"Now is the time to exert pressure on the international community to compel the Azerbaijani government to stop its military activities," said Lady Cox. She stated her concern that once an oil agreement is signed between Azerbaijan and Western oil companies, there will be a petro dollar-financed final military solution in Karabagh. "Pressure must be brought to bear to stop the Azeri aggression. The primary victims of the conflict are the people of Karabagh. They need your support in every way and, above all, your

By Barlow Der Mugrdechian

political support to make sure their human rights are supported and that their humanitarian needs are met."

She first went to Armenia in May 1991 and since has visited Armenia and Artsakh 21 times, most recently in September. During those years she has grown to "appreciate, admire and love Armenians," as she abundantly made clear at both events here.

Speaking with passion and dedication, Lady Cox described her Karabagh visits and expressed indignation that the world community has yet to condemn Azeri aggression. On her twofold mission with Christian Solidarity International -- humanitarian aid and human rights -- she outlined five major themes: Azerbaijan as primary aggressor in the war; challenges involved in providing humanitarian aid to Karabagh; a brief chronology of events in the area; the way ahead; and a tribute

to the people of Karabagh.

Because of her frequent visits to the area, she and Christian Solidarity International have moved from complete impartiality to advocacy on the part of the Karabagh Armenians.

Moreover, on a personal level, Lady Cox has developed a profound admiration for the people of Karabagh through meeting individuals such as the senior nurse from Maragha, northeastern Karabagh, whom she met in April 1992. Azerbaijan had just overrun the village with tanks and armored personnel carriers. The heads of 45 villagers were sawed off in sight of the rest of the village. Every home was set on fire.

Lady Cox arrived twenty-four hours after the massacre and saw "the face of hell." She met the senior nurse who had earlier seen her son's head sawed off. They em-

braced and wept.

She calls the personal courage she witnessed on the part of besieged villagers, "a triumph of the human spirit."

Another incident she related was about a boy of twelve who was carrying water home in the winter. It took five hours to wait in line for the water in sub-zero temperatures under bombing. He was going down the stairs to the basement of his home when he slipped on the ice and spilled the precious two buckets of water. Instead of being angry, he made a joke and went out again to wait in line for another five hours.

Such is the courage of the children of Karabagh too.



Baroness Caroline Cox on right speaks to community members during her Fresno visit.

Society for Armenian Studies Holds Twentieth Anniversary Conference at UCLA

By Garabed Moudmjian

LOS ANGELES, CA - On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Society for Armenian Studies, a major Armenian Studies conference was held at the University of California here, on November 18 and 19. Some thirty-five specialists from various parts of the United States and Canada, Europe, and South America presented papers. It was encouraging that during the course of the conference, some 400 members of the public attended the sessions.

The Society for Armenian Studies was organized in 1973-74 through the initiative of Professor Richard Hovannisian with the cooperation of several other Armenologists at UCLA, Harvard, and Columbia universities. The first meeting of the Society was held in Boston in November, 1974. The purpose of the Society is to have academic exchanges and presentations both in professional forums and through publications in the fields of Armenian culture, language and literature, history, and related areas of Armenian study. At present the Society has some 200 members and meets annually in conjunction with the yearly conference of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA).

The UCLA conference and twentieth-anniversary celebration was organized by the Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies (directed by Professor Avedis Sanjian) and the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History (directed by Professor Richard Hovannisian). On the eve of the conference, November 17, a dinner reception was given for the participants in the home of Doctors Vartiter and Richard Hovannisian. The gathering provided an opportunity for many of the participants to meet each other for the first time and to discuss developments in Armenian studies.

THE CONFERENCE

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Armenia's Foreign Policy"; Robert Krikorian (George Washington University), "Red Kurdistan and the Struggle for Nagorno-Karabagh." From the point of view of current issues and politics, this session was extremely interesting and was followed by numerous questions directed to the participants, especially relating to the blatant distortions and omissions by Azerbaijani scholars of the primary sources, the fictions surrounding versions of Azerbaijani origins, and the implications for Armenia's present foreign policies.

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ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET

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- ARCHIVE -

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Participants in the Society of Armenian Studies Conference

SAS Conference Discusses Various Armenian Issues

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SOURCE The Armenian Observer; L.A., CA

DATE Dec. 21, 1994

SUBJECT The Bernard Lewis Case

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Denial of the Genocide: The Bernard Lewis Case

By Dickran Kouymjian

Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies
California State University, Fresno

On November 16, 1993, the prestigious French daily *Le Monde* published an interview with Professor Bernard Lewis, a recognized expert on Islam. It was conducted by two senior journalists, Jean-Pierre Langelier and Jean-Pierre Peroncel-

Hugoz. The latter, a long time correspondent of the newspaper in Egypt, and a specialist on Christmas minorities in the Islamic Middle East, near the end of the interview asked Lewis, "Why do the Turks continue to refuse to recognize

the Armenian Genocide?" Lewis responded, "You mean to say recognize the Armenian version of this history?... No doubt that terrible things took place, that many Armenians - and also Turks - perished. But if we speak of genocide, that implies that there had been a deliberate policy, a decision to systematically annihilate the Armenian nation. That is very doubtful. Turkish documents prove a policy of deportation, but no extermination."

There was an immediate and broad protest to the paper and several very strong letters against *Le Monde* and Prof. Lewis were published, one signed by a large number of distinguished French intellectuals who accused Lewis of taking a pro-Turkish and revisionist position.

Lewis sent a reply to his detractors published in the *Le Monde* on January 1, 1994, in which in five points he went farther in justifying his position that no genocide had occurred. My own letter mailed that same New Year's day to the *Le Monde* said in part: "One sees a new position on this subject adopted by the famous historian. If today he says 'there exists no serious proof of a decision and a plan by the Ottoman government trying to exterminate the Armenian people,' it should be remem-

bered that some thirty years ago he held a different position in one of his most important books, "The Emergence of Modern Turkey" (Oxford University Press, 1961), where, in the section devoted to the religious minorities of the Ottoman Empire, he speaks (pg. 350) of 'the terrible holocaust of 1916, when a million and a half Armenians perished.'"

Almost immediately after Lewis' "explanation" of his position, Armenian organizations sued him and *Le Monde* in a criminal action. The first sponsored by the Armenian National Committee ended on November 18. On October 14, Judge Marthe Didier ruled that the case could be properly heard and judged. Not only was this an initial moral victory, but Judge Didier ruled: "The genocide against the Armenians in 1915 is a reality and the denial of genocide in Bernard Lewis' statement is clearly evident."

Lewis was not present, his attorney saying that the professor had never received a formal notice and that his security could not be guaranteed.

Strong testimony came from historian Yves Ternon and Professor Israel Charney, Director of the Jerusalem Holocaust Research Center, against the position of Bernard Lewis.

The point of jurisprudence which applies to this case is called the Gayssot Law which has been used successfully against those who deny that certain crimes against humanity have occurred, like the Jewish Holocaust. The fact that the Judge decided to hear the case had been judged an important victory for Armenians against those who would deny it.

The final ruling in the case made by Judge Yves Monfort on November 18 affirmed that the "Loi Gayssot" did not apply to the Armenian genocide, but only to crimes against humanity during the Second World War. Nevertheless, revisionist historians must be very cautious after the attention this case received. Furthermore, in the final ruling, it was clearly stated that the actions committed by the Turkish government in 1915 were clearly "crimes against humanity."

The Armenian National

Committee was seemingly prepared for this decision and now hopes to work toward the revision of the "Loi Gayssot" so that it will include "crimes against humanity" other than those over the period of 1939-1945.

But the "Lewis affair" is not over. A second trial against the retired Princeton professor, initiated by "The Forum of Armenian Associations of France," is scheduled for December 14. The lawyers defending the Armenian side are Patrick Devedjian, the well known deputy in the French Assembly (House of Representatives), Daniel Jacoby, President of the International Federation of Human Rights, and Patrick Quentin, Secretary General of the famous rights organization LICRA.

A new era has begun in the legal pursuit of justice concerning the Armenian Genocide. The consequences of these trials will have inestimable international importance for all who have suffered Genocide and Holocaust.

Denial of the Genocide: The Bernard Lewis Case

By Prof. Dickran Kouymjian

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Lewis sent a reply to his detractors, published in *Le Monde* on January 1, 1994 in which in five points he went farther in justifying his position that no genocide had occurred. My own letter mailed that same New Year's day to *Le Monde* said in part: "One sees a new position on this subject adopted by the famous historian. If today he says 'there exists no serious proof of a decision and a plan by the Ottoman government trying to exterminate the Armenian people,' it should be remembered that some thirty years ago he held a different position in one of his most important books, *The Emergence of Modern Turkey* (Oxford University Press, 1961), where, in the section devoted to the religious minorities of the Ottoman Empire, he speaks (p. 350) of 'the terrible holocaust of 1916, when a million and half Armenians perished.'"

Almost immediately after Lewis' "explanation" of his position, Armenian organizations sued him and *Le Monde* in a criminal action. The sponsor was the Armenian National Committee. On October 14, Judge Marthe Didier ruled that the case could be prop-

erly heard and judged. Not only was this an initial moral victory, but Judge Didier ruled: "The genocide against Armenians in 1915 is a reality and the denial of genocide in Bernard Lewis's statements is clearly evident."

Lewis was not present, his attorney saying that the professor had never received a formal notice and that his security could not be guaranteed. Strong testimony came from historian Yves Ternon and Professor Israel Charney, Director of the Jerusalem Holocaust Research Center, against the position of Bernard Lewis.

The point of jurisprudence which applies to this case is called the Gaysot Law which has been used successfully against those who deny that certain crimes against humanity – like the Jewish Holocaust – ever took place. The fact that the Judge decided to hear the case has been seen as an important victory for Armenians against those who would deny it.

The final ruling in the case made by Judge Yves Monfort on November 18 affirmed that the "Loi Gaysot" did not apply to the Armenian Genocide, but only to crimes against humanity during the Second World War. Nevertheless, revisionist historians must be very cautious after the attention this case received. Furthermore, in the final ruling, it was clearly stated that the actions committed by the Turkish government in 1915 were clearly "crimes against humanity."

The Armenian National Committee was seemingly prepared for this decision and now hope to work toward the revision of the 'Loi Gaysot' so that it will include "crimes against humanity" other than those of the period 1939-1945.

But the "Lewis affair" is not over. A second trial against the retired Princeton professor, initiated by "The Forum of Armenian Associations of France," began on December 14. The lawyers defending the Armenian side are Patrick Devedjian, the well-known deputy in the French Assembly (House of Representatives), Daniel Jacoby, President of the International Federation of Human Rights, and Patrick Quentin, Secretary General of the famous rights organization LICRA.

A new era has begun in the legal pursuit of justice concerning the Armenian Genocide. The consequences of these trials will have inestimable international importance for all who have suffered Genocide and Holocaust.

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Hye Sharzhoom
Fresno, CA

Dickran Kouymjian is Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University at Fresno.

Society For Armenian Studies Twentieth Anniversary Conference at UCLA

By Garabed Moudmjian

LOS ANGELES, CA - On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Society for Armenian Studies, a major Armenian Studies Conference was held at the University of California here on November 18-19. Some thirty-five specialists from various parts of the United States and Canada, Europe, and South America presented papers. It was encouraging that during the course of the conference, some 400 members of the public attended the sessions.

The Society for Armenian Studies was organized in 1973-1974 through the initiative of Prof. Richard Hovannisian with the cooperation of several other Armenologists at UCLA, Harvard, and Columbia universities. The first meeting of the Society was held in Boston in November, 1974.

The UCLA conference and twentieth anniversary celebration was organized by the Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies (directed by Prof. Avedis Sanjian) and the Armenian Educational Foundation chair in Modern Armenian History (directed by Prof. Richard Hovannisian). On the eve of the conference, November 7, a dinner reception was given for the participants in the home of Doctors Vartiter and Richard Hovannisian.

The conference was divided into four major sessions, each with particular themes. The first two sessions were held on Friday, November 18. The morning session was devoted to religious themes and issues and was chaired by Dr. Sanjian. The participants and their subjects were: Joseph Alexanian (Trinity College), "Text-Critical Studies in the Armenian New Testament," Robert Thomson (Oxford University), "Biblical Themes in Armenian Histories," Krikor Halebian (Fuller Theological Seminary), "A Rationale for Doing Armenian Theology," Nona Manukian (The Matenadaran, Yerevan), "Two 14th Century Sermon Books," and Barbara Merguerian (NAASR) "Missionaries and Ottoman Armenians: The Case of Crosby Wheeler." The second part focused on literary themes: Gregory Areshian (Yerevan and University of Wisconsin), "The

Historical Meaning of the Haykats' Legend;" John Guerigian (Food and Drug Administration), "Two Medieval Armenian Erotic Poems and Their Implications;" Avedis Sanjian (UCLA), "Gregory Magistros: An Armenian Hellinist."

Prof. Richard Hovannisian of UCLA chaired the afternoon session on The Karabagh Conflicts: Historiography and Politics. The participants were Henry Theriault (University of Massachusetts), "Armenia and the General Theories of the Nation and Nationalism;" Robert Hewsen (Rowan College of New Jersey), "The Meliks of Karabagh in Conflict;" Aram Arkun (Zohrab Center), "Mountainous Karabagh: The Present-Day Conflict;" George Boumoutian (Iona College) "Recent Azeri Scholarship About Primary Sources on Karabagh;"

Stephan Astourian (UCLA), "Constructing National Identity: Azerbaijani Ethnogenesis and the Karabagh Conflict;" Ashot Galoian (Yerevan State University), "The Karabagh Conflict and Armenia's Foreign Policy;" Joseph Kechichian (Rand Corporation), "The Karabagh Conflict and Armenian's Foreign Policy;" Robert Krikorian (George Washington University), "Red Kurdistan and the Struggle for Nagorno Karabagh."

From the point of view of issues and politics, this session was extremely interesting and was followed by numerous questions directed to the participants, especially relating to the blatant distortions and omissions by Azerbaijani scholars of the primary sources, the fictions surrounding versions of Azerbaijani origins, and the implications for Armenia's present foreign policies.

The conference's third session began on the morning of November 19, chaired by Prof. Robert Thomson and divided into themes about the Armenian Diaspora and Historic Issues. The presenters and their papers were: Hrag Varjabedian (Los Angeles), "The Transformation of the Armenian Social Structure as a Result of the



Participants in the SAS Twentieth Anniversary Conference.

Genocide of 1915-1923;" Aida Buodjikianian (University of Montreal), "Armenian Residential Patterns in Greater Montreal;" Nelida Boulgourdjian (University of Buenos Aires), "The Armenians of Buenos Aires;" Mari Firkatian-Wozniak (American University in Bulgaria), "The Vartanants and Vararian School of Plovdiv;" Matthew Jendian (University of Southern California), "Intermarriage Among Armenian Americans in Central California;" Juan Carlos Toufeksian (University of Buenos Aires), "Armenian Traditions Reflected in Community Buildings in Argentina;" Edmund Herzig (University of Manchester), "New Julfa Commercial Documents and Law;" and David Bundy (Christian Theological Seminary), "The Politics of History: Kirakos Gandzaketsi on Cilician Armenia."

The final session of the conference, held on the afternoon of November 19, was chaired by Dickran Kouymjian (California State University, Fresno) and Alice Taylor (Los Angeles), was devoted to three themes. The first was Literature and Identity in Armenian Diaspora Culture: Lorne Shirinian (Royal Military College, Canada), "Transculturalism and the

Armenian Diaspora: Literature on the Edge;" David Calonne (Siena Heights College, Michigan), "William Saroyan and Multiculturalism;" Barlow Der Murgdechian (CSU, Fresno), "Armenian American Identity in Peter Najarian's 'Daughters of Memory';" Rubina Peroomian (UCLA), "Transfiguration of 'Tradition' in the Formation of Armenian American Identity;" Artashes Emin, a Fulbright Fellow visiting from Yerevan commented on Armenian American literature.

Computer technology in Armenian Studies and Art themes concluded the two-day conference with the following presentations: R.H. Lola Koundakjian (AGBU International), "Armenian Studies in Cyberspace;" George Shirinian ((City of York Library, Canada), "Computers and Armenian Bibliography;" Gerald Ottenbreit (University of Michigan-Dearborn), "Computer Use at the Armenian Research Center;" Lucy Der Manuelian (Tufts University), "Donor Portraits in Medieval Armenian Architectural Sculpture;" and Levon Chookaszian (Yerevan State University), "Toros Roslin's Portrait of Prince Levon and Princess Keran."



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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Annual Meeting and Banquet

On Friday evening, November 18, the annual meeting of the Society of Armenian Studies was convened with approximately 40 academics present. The meeting was chaired by the outgoing president, Dickran Kouymjian. Reports were given on the administrative council's activities and the actions of the Society's committees and members. Opinions were expressed about the Society's operations and especially about the activities and scholarly meetings in 1995.

Parallel to the twentieth anniversary conference of the SAS, a celebration banquet was held on the night of November 18 at the UCLA Faculty Center. Some 200 guests enjoyed the food and entertainment, and it was encouraging that various Armenian organizations in Southern California were well represented, together with a sizable number of academics and persons interested in Armenian culture.

The Prof. Richard Hovannisian opened the program with words of welcome and a brief description of how and why the Society for Armenian Studies was organized and its activities over two decades in placing Armenian subjects on the conference schedules of various professional groups.

Prof. Avedis Sanjain compared the fragile nature of Armenian studies in the United States when he began his career, and the major strides that had been made since that time. "SAS president Kouymjian emphasized the importance of the activities of the SAS and of the need to strengthen the bonds with scholars abroad and especially in the Armenian Republic.

Kim Theriault of the State University of New York, Buffalo, then gave a slide presentation on "Arshile Gorky and the 20th Century Armenian Immigrant Experience." Musical entertainment on the folk instrument, the shvi, was provided by music specialist Ararat Petrosian.

Following the Conference, many of the SAS members flew to Phoenix, Arizona, for the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, November 21-23. The SAS had organized three panels at MESA on Armenian literature, the Karabagh conflict, and Armenian computer technology. Members of the Society were the dinner guests of the Armenian Cultural Center and parish of Phoenix.



Yerevan State University students in a park.

TEACH For Armenia

Program Builds Bridges to Armenia

FRESNO, CA - When George Bedirian arrived in Yerevan in the winter of 1994 to take part in the *Teach for Armenia* program, the public relations specialists from eastern Washington found the Armenian capital to be a grim, dark city. A persistent gray overcast filled the sky and temperatures hovered around freezing. Without heat, hot water, and more than a couple of hours of electricity each day, Yerevan's residents seemed shell-shocked and weary. At Yerevan State University, Bedirian's workplace for the spring semester, construction on the institution's prized new library facility had come to a halt.

Within a few weeks, however, Bedirian began to notice signs of renewal. The brightening weather helped lighten the gloom, but there was also a stubborn sense of hope taking hold among the people. Bedirian watched Yerevan gradually come to life from the long months of hibernation. Construction workers even returned to the library, picking up where they had left off at the beginning of winter.

As the 1994-1995 school year opens, hope is growing in Armenia that the republic of 3.7 million people has passed through the most difficult trials. Armenian officials are beginning to shift their attention away from short-term humanitarian relief and toward promoting the country's long-term recovery. The "Teach for Armenia" program - in which Bedirian and two other Americans participated during the 1993-1994 academic year - is part of that process.

"Teach for Armenia" (TFA), sponsored and coordinated by the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, is grounded in the assumption that science, technology and commerce must be the driving engines of Armenia's economic development. To help the country prosper, the program seeks to create person-to-person bridges between landlocked Armenia and the outside world. Most urgent is the need to integrate the republic into the global community of knowledge.

In cooperation with the Armenian Ministry of Higher Education and Science, the Ministry of Education and Yerevan State University, TFA places American educators and other professionals in the Armenian educational system. At the primary and secondary levels of education, the goal is to introduce American-style teaching methods and curricula into Armenia. In the republic's institutions of higher learning, TFA aims to expose students and scholars to Western research methods and techniques. In addition, the program's emphasis on improving English-language instruction offers Armenians broader access to the worldwide information revolution.

Bridges to Armenia

Bedirian, Zaroohi Der Mugrdchian, and Sosi Toomajanian, TFA's participants in 1993-1994, encountered a society reeling from the Soviet Union's collapse and yet eager for contact with the West. Even by the standards of the former Soviet

Union Armenia's hardships have been epic. Blockaded by Azerbaijan and Turkey, industrial production has fallen six times below the levels of the 1980s. Average salaries range from \$2 to \$3 a month. And yet Armenia is a survivor.

Bedirian, Der Mugrdchian, and Toomajanian each gained an insight into the Armenian character and acquired a distinct perspective on the workings of Armenia's educational system.

Bedirian, the coordinator of publications at Washington State University, served as an editor and consultant in the Office of International Relations at Yerevan State University. Der Mugrdchian, a kindergarten teacher in Fresno, with nineteen years of experience, taught English at Yerevan State University and a local kindergarten. Toomajanian, who is a doctoral candidate at Harvard University's school of education, offered courses in psychology and child development, and assisted in teaching an American/English literature class for secondary students in Yerevan.

Bedirian's talents and experience were well-matched with Yerevan State University's efforts to broaden its international outreach and restructure its graduation standards. Soon after arriving in Yerevan, Bedirian began working closely with Rafael Matevosian, vice rector of international relations, and his administrative assistant, Haroutioun Kazarian, to formulate a lengthy fund-raising proposal and revamp the university's English-language catalog. In addition, he helped develop a grant proposal to the United States Information Agency to facilitate university-level administrative reform.

Language barriers aside, Bedirian often found himself working to bridge the gulf between Western and Soviet mindsets. After seventy years of isolation from Western norms, Armenians were unfamiliar with the standards that Americans accept.

Der Mugrdchian also helped to break down the barriers of the past. In teaching English at Yerevan State University, she worked with students who were accustomed to classroom dictation drills and textbooks

that depicted life in Britain during the 1940s.

Along with incorporating recent articles from newspapers and magazines into her curriculum, Der Mugrdchian involved her students in real-world role play settings and introduced new techniques to broaden their vocabulary. "They were very pleased that they could talk freely without being constantly corrected," Der Mugrdchian explained, "and that they could write in their journals without having their books returned all marked up."

In addition, Der Mugrdchian established a link with her department and the US embassy's specialist in English as a second language. Her fellow instructors were eager to compare notes on pedagogical techniques and to learn from the teaching materials Der Mugrdchian used.

Toomajanian's contributions were more at a personal level. Teaching a psychology class to teenagers, she became a sounding board for the feelings and aspirations of her students. After years of studying by candlelight and attending classes in heavy coats, they were anxious to share their lives with an outsider. In the process, they learned how psychology could deepen their understanding of themselves and others. "I think they appreciated feeling free to question, to express their feelings, and hearing my fresh point of view as an American," Toomajanian said.

Obstacles to Change

Although they worked in different settings, Bedirian, Der Mugrdchian and Toomajanian each came face-to-face with obstacles blocking change in Armenia.

Bedirian, for example, saw first-hand the imprint left by the hierarchical nature of the Soviet power structure. "The management style I observed at Yerevan State University, which I took to be a legacy of seventy years of Soviet dominance, was autocratic, somewhat ad hoc, and often chaotic, responding in knee-jerk fashion to the needs of the moment - marked by a certain absence of collegiality, an extreme concern with accountability to one's superiors, and

no apparent awareness of time management."

Der Mugrdchian and Toomajanian noted how the trials of daily life sapped their students and colleagues of the will to look toward the future. Der Mugrdchian's response was to maintain an indefatigably upbeat disposition.

"I made it a point to say 'barev' (hello) and 'vontz es?' (how are you?) to people with a smile, and to answer 'lav' (good) instead of 'vochinch' (never mind). The optimism, a positive outlook, is very important for people to see."

Toomajanian quickly came to appreciate the causes of the morale problem among her fellow teachers. "All salaries are extremely low compared to prices, but especially the salaries of teachers. Consequently, many teachers are leaving the profession - for other jobs or simply to stay at home," she said. "In addition, there is a complete lack of educational materials in classrooms."

Conversely, Armenians were happy to share their coping mechanisms with their colleagues from abroad.

"There was a bottle of vodka kept in the cabinet, which we sipped in the afternoon," Bedirian recalled. "That was a rather pleasant note, I thought, serving to warm us when the weather was cold, and keeping things rather mellow no matter what the weather."

In Der Mugrdchian's case, Armenian hospitality helped lighten the everyday burdens. "Almost every foreigner comes away with a real love for the people. They're so warm and giving. My students, for example, regularly invited me over for dinner."

Hope For the Future

The people also implanted, almost inexplicably, a sense of hope among the TFA participants. Der Mugrdchian sees a light at the end of the tunnel or Armenia, even if it is not yet apparent to the people of the republic. In the meantime, those beyond the Armenia's borders have a role to play in guiding the country forward. "When Armenians see people from abroad working there for \$2 a month, it's very uplifting for their morale. They see that there are people who care about them. Anyone

who comes is very, very important," emphasized Der Mugrdchian.

For Bedirian, the attitudes of his hosts convinced him that Armenia will endure, whatever the odds. "I saw many things," he reflected, "that led me to believe that whatever is decent and worthy in Armenia will be preserved - an incorrigible sense of humor and generosity among the people for one - and for another a cultural heritage that refuses to die."

Those interested in participating in the TFA program can contact Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program, California State University/Fresno, Fresno, CA 93740-0004. Applications for the Fall 1995 and Spring 1996 semesters are now being accepted. Call (209) 278-2669 or fax (209) 278-2129 for an information packet.