Dr. James Reid Discusses Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Armenian Genocide Narratives

A crowd of people stood solemnly in the Free Speech Area at Fresno State. April 22, in honor of the 2 million people who died in the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

Members of the Armenian Students Organization held a large sign in the background that read “Armenian Genocide, 1915-1923, 2 million massacred,” as the ceremony waited in silence for the program to begin.

The sad and drawn-out hum of the Armenian duduk music played as the program was introduced. The tribes of Armenia are determined to commemorate their memory, and continue the struggle for justice.

On the evening of March 11 the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program, which is now occupied by Turkey.

Although the Turkish government continues to deny the genocide and mass killings to this day, the Armenian people are determined to combat this denial with whatever means necessary.

“William Saroyan and His World” participants, left to right: Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, John Kallenberg, William Secrest, Berge Bulbulian, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

Dr. James Reid, a Tsakopoulos psychologists Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

has spent the last twenty years studying the psychological consequences traceable in the narratives written by survivors of the Armenian genocide. These survivors suffered for decades after they had lost family and friends in the genocidal purges of the Ottoman Turkish state beginning in 1915. What was the cause of their suffering? Aside from having seen their family and friends annihilated in very gruesome ways, the event traumatized them deeply and irrevocably. The survivors experienced shock, and then a full array of post-traumatic stress disorder. The panel discussion, on “William Saroyan and His World,” complemented the course, as well as provided additional information about Saroyan’s life.

During that same weekend Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program, taught a one-unit course on William Saroyan, which allowed the students to get a closer look at Saroyan’s novels, short stories and plays. The panel discussion, on “William Saroyan and His World,” complemented the course, as well as provided additional information about Saroyan’s life.

The panel commenced with a short introduction delivered by John Kallenberg, the president of the William Saroyan Society. Following the opening remarks, Berge Bulbulian, a Fresno writer and historian, began the discussion by presenting his research about the condition of Fresno during Saroyan’s lifetime. He spoke briefly about the blossoming of the city and the construction of the city’s structures. Mr. Bulbulian also enlightened the audience about important dates in Saroyan’s life. This was a rare opportunity for members of the community to acquire an inside look at everything Saroyan.

Dickran Kouymjian, John Kallenberg, William Secrest, Berge Bulbulian, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

This informative account was followed by Philip Varoujan, an eyewitness of his martyrdom said that after being arrested, Varoujan and the other prisoners were robbed, taken to the woods and completely stripped. Then they were tied to the trees one-by-one and slowly cut open by the policemen who took them there. Their screams could be heard afar. The last generation of survivors is slowly passing away. They were the last people to have seen Armenia with their own eyes. “By joining together,” Poochigian said, “we honor their memory, and continue the struggle for justice.”

The panel was moderated by Dr. Kouymjian, who not only illuminated the story of Saroyan’s life, but also other relevant facts.

According to Shant Noraksharian’s biography of Varoujan, an eyewitness of his martyrdom said that after being arrested, Varoujan and the other prisoners were robbed, taken to the woods and completely stripped. Then they were tied to the trees one-by-one and slowly cut open by the policemen who took them there. Their screams could be heard afar. The last generation of survivors is slowly passing away. They were the last people to have seen Armenia with their own eyes. “By joining together,” Poochigian said, “we honor their memory, and continue the struggle for justice.”

There are virtually no Armenians left in the area that was Armenia’s original homeland, which is now occupied by Turkey. Although the Turkish government continues to deny the genocide and mass killings to this day, the Armenian people are determined to combat this denial with whatever means necessary.

Stephanie Stockdale, a student

“World of Saroyan” Topic of Fresno State Panel

On the evening of March 11 the life and work of William Saroyan was honored by those who knew him and those who valued his work. Students and community members gathered inside the Industrial Technology Building, Room 101, at 7 o’clock in the evening to listen to a panel of speakers present different aspects of Saroyan’s life. This was a rare opportunity for members of the community to acquire an inside look at everything Saroyan.

“William Saroyan and His World” participants, left to right: Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, John Kallenberg, William Secrest, Berge Bulbulian, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

“In the evening to listen to a panel of speakers present different aspects of Saroyan’s life. This was a rare opportunity for members of the community to acquire an inside look at everything Saroyan.”

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Der Mugrdechian Makes April Appearances Around the State

Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program, right, with participants in the Genocide Awareness Week panel at UC Davis, April 19.

STAFF REPORT

Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program had a busy speaking schedule during the month of April.

On April 3, he presented a paper, “ Across the Chasm: From Catastrophe to Creativity?” as part of the UCLA International Conference on the Genocide, organized by Dr. Richard Hovannisian.

On Wednesday, April 13, he was invited to speak to the Men’s Forum of the St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church of Fowler. He spoke on the current efforts toward Genocide recognition.

On Sunday, April 17, Der Mugrdechian was the keynote speaker at the 96th anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, sponsored by the Holy Cross Armenian Church of Turlock.

On Tuesday, April 19, the Armenian Students Association of the University of California at Davis, held a Genocide Awareness Forum as part of the Genocide Awareness Week. Invited guests included Der Mugrdechian, who spoke on the Armenian Genocide.

On Friday, April 22, Der Mugrdechian gave the keynote speech at the annual commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization.

On Thursday, May 5, he spoke on the Genocide to a class at Fresno City College.

Armenian Studies Program

Book/Video/CD/Archival Gifts

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and the Armenian Studies Program would like to thank the donors, authors, and publishers for the following books, periodicals, videos, and archival gifts either offered personally or to the Program.

Armenica.Org, Sweden, for the Armenian Genocide Posters.

Walter Karabian, Los Angeles, for the CD of the luncheon celebrating his father-in-law, Arshag Dickranian’s 100th birthday, and the first event in the Walter and Laurel Karabian Hall, January 26, 2005.


Linda Komaroff, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Ancient and Islamic Art Department, Los Angeles, for the catalog Islamic Art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Mike Mamigian, Fresno, for the books from his father’s, Rev. Yeghishe Mekhitarian’s, estate.

Jack Manuelian, Paramus, NJ, for the series of articles and CD titled The Planned, Organized, Executed Genocide of Armenians 1915-23.

Mark Melkonian, Chatsworth, for the video of All Streams Flow to the Sea and An Amazing Man, as well as several Armenian books.


Ms. Armenie Najarian, Belmont, MA, for the archival material about her relatives


California State University, Fresno

Armenian Studies Program

Fall 2005 Schedule of Courses

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<td>11:00A-12:15P</td>
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<td>Kazan Professor (Class #78438)</td>
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For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit our offices in the Peters Business Building, Room 384.

Hye Sharzhoom is a supplement of The Collegian and the newspaper of the Armenian Studies Program. For further information concerning the newspaper or the Armenian Studies Program: Welcome prose, poetry, articles and other material from its student readers. Armenian Studies Program Faculty and Staff: Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, Coordinator Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Lecturer, ASO Advisor, Hye Sharzhoom Advisor (barlowd@csufresno.edu) Frances C. Ziegler, Program Administrative Asstn. (franz@csufresno.edu)

Hye Sharzhoom is also available on the Armenian Studies Program website www.armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/hye_sharzhoom/index.htm

Read Hye Sharzhoom!
Nonny Hogrogian, left, with husband David Kherdian.

“A History of Armenians in Canada”
Explores Establishment of Community

McGill-Queen’s University Press

“Like Our Mountains: A History of Armenians in Canada” by Isabel Kaprielian-Churchill

A sweeping social history of the Armenian-Canadian experience that links the Old World with the New against a far-flung diaspora.

McGill-Queen’s Studies in Ethnic History
April 2005

6 x 9 704 pp 40 b&w photographs, 2 maps

The Armenian Genocide that killed 1.5 million people almost 100 years ago is only now becoming part of public consciousness. More than seventy-five thousand Armenians have found refuge in Canada and Isabel Kaprielian-Churchill’s elegant narrative is the first comprehensive account of their experience from the late nineteenth century to the devastating earthquake in 1988.

Like Our Mountains relates the history of the Canadian Armenian community from its founding, settlements and economic adjustments, to its social, religious, political and cultural life, transformations over generations, and relationship with other communities in Canadian society. Like Our Mountains examines the cities settled by Armenian immigrants - Brantford before World War I, Hamilton after World War II, and Toronto and Montreal from the 1960s to 1988. Kaprielian-Churchill has carried out exhaustive research in English, Armenian, and French sources including archives, oral histories, diaries and memoirs, letters, and material culture. Especially moving are the interviews with survivors of the genocide that provide the book with its emotional intensity rare for a work of historical scholarship.

Like Our Mountains begins in 1882 with the mass exodus of the first wave of Armenian deportees from Adana and follows the story of those who began to build new lives in the New World. Kaprielian-Churchill has interviewed over one hundred survivors of the genocide, making this book worthwhile reading for anyone who wants to know about the Armenian experience of the twentieth century.

Kaprielian-Churchill has also carried out extensive archival research in the United States, Canada, and France. This book is based on the experiences of the people she interviewed and the interviews are the core of the book. Kaprielian-Churchill has also written extensively on the Armenian Genocide and has been a leader in the fight for recognition of the genocide.

Like Our Mountains is a landmark book in the history of Canadian literature and a significant contribution to the study of the Armenian Genocide.
Congratulations Graduating 2005 Armenian Studies Minors

Hye Sharzhoom

May 2005

How have the Armenian Studies classes you’ve taken influenced you?

Taking Armenian Studies courses throughout my college career has definitely been a great addition to my curriculum. I’ve acquired so much knowledge pertaining to general Armenian issues and the history of my people, which I was not aware of before these classes. Each class provided me with new information and new reasons to continue studying topics relating to Armenia. I am very thankful to the Armenian Studies faculty for incorporating so much valuable information into their classes.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Ten years from now I hope to have completed a doctorate degree in psychology and work full-time as a licensed clinical psychologist in a clinical setting. Aside from working with patients, I also hope to continue conducting research within this domain and perhaps do some teaching. A family is also a very important part of my future. When I envision my future, it always consists of a family of my own. I hope to have a couple of kids someday and most likely settle down in Fresno.

Most memorable event of your college career?

My years at Fresno State were full of unforgettable moments, but if I had to narrow it down to a single time during the past three years, it would have to be my first year at this institution. I will never forget the truly wonderful times I had with new friends I made through ASO. I always think fondly of the carefree days we’ve spent gathering on campus and participating in activities organized by our club. That first year provided me with the support and confidence I needed to acquire a sense of belonging that has lasted me throughout these few years.

Best advice for incoming freshmen?

Do not take your college years for granted!!! I can’t stress this enough only because it all goes by so fast. Allow time for your personal development, but also make sure to work hard toward your chosen career. Think of your years in college as an investment into your future; this type of thinking will surely make each day a little easier to get through.

Most memorable event of your college career?

May 20, 2005, the day I graduated, but all jokes aside, my most memorable event can’t be tied to a single time during the past three years, it would have to be my first year at this institution. I will never forget the truly wonderful times I had with new friends I made through ASO. I always think fondly of the carefree days we’ve spent gathering on campus and participating in activities organized by our club. That first year provided me with the support and confidence I needed to acquire a sense of belonging that has lasted me throughout these few years.

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Tiffany Balakian

Major: Chicano Studies and Communication

Minor: Armenian Studies

How have the Armenian Studies classes you’ve taken influenced you?

When starting at Fresno State I had little knowledge of the Armenian culture, literature, and language. After all of the Armenian classes that I have taken I have gained an abundant amount of knowledge that has helped me in the ways that I see myself and other Armenian people.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Wow, well in 10 years, I will be 32 years old. I see myself, hopefully, married with a couple of kids.

Most memorable event of your college career?

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Narine Gougasian

Major: Social Work

Minor: Armenian Studies

How have the Armenian Studies classes you’ve taken influenced you?

These classes have influenced me to be more culturally diverse. I have also learned more about my Armenian heritage and culture that I could ever envision.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

In ten years I see myself married with children. My profession would be a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, working in a mental health facility, with children who are mentally, physically, and emotionally abused.

Most memorable event of your college career?

My internship in Madera County this year was the most memorable in my college career.

Best advice for incoming freshmen?

Considering that my little sister is an incoming freshman, my advice to everyone is to work hard in what you want and go after it; only you can make it happen. I know I did because I was able to graduate with my degree in 3 years.

Carina Karakashian

Major: Business Law

Minor: Armenian Studies

How have the Armenian Studies classes you’ve taken influenced you?

The Armenian Studies classes that I have taken in my past four year at Fresno State have influenced my life in many ways. These classes have helped me gain a further knowledge and appreciation for my culture and heritage. The Armenian Studies classes have inspired my own interests in Armenian Studies and have encouraged me to further this newfound passion of Armenian history.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Let’s see, in ten years….that would be 2015, wow seems like ages away! By then I hope to be married with children and working as a prosperous lawyer for a large corporation.

Most memorable event of your college career?

There are way too many to name, but one of the most memorable memories I have from my freshman year was when our Armenian Language class convinced Prof. Der Mugrdechian to hold class in the pub…definitely an experience I won’t forget!

Best advice for incoming freshmen?

Enjoy yourself! Try new things and welcome new opportunities to gain memories, friends and develop skills that will help you in your future.

Armen Postoyan

Major: Marketing

Minor: Armenian Studies

How have the Armenian Studies classes you’ve taken influenced you?

Armenian Studies classes that I took at Fresno State influenced me in many ways. First of all I was able to get a better sense of my culture and heritage and second I was able to learn about the Armenian Language through Barlow Der Mugrdechian’s Armenian I&A II,2A classes. I was really thankful I had the opportunity to minor in Armenian Studies and learn more about the people who really put Armenians on the map. We will never forget those heroes that lost their lives during the genocide. Also, those who lost their lives as martyrs for the Armenian Cause throughout our rich history such as the boys of Lisbon 5: Monte Melkonian, Soghomon Tehlirian, and all the freedom fighters who fought in the Karabagh conflict of the early 1990’s.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Well, 10 years is a lot to think about this early after I graduate, but if there was one place I would like to see myself it is being married with one kid, and hopefully becoming one of the most successful business leaders to ever graduate from Fresno State. I would love to take my current business knowledge and one-day own my own Major League Baseball Team.

Most memorable event of your college career?

There have been many memorable moments in my college career. The 5 years I spent getting to know all of my professors are one memorable moment I will never take back. Also, being part of the executive body of the Armenian Students Organization as the Vice President of the 2003-2004 year was something I would never forget.

Best advice for incoming freshmen?

My best advice for incoming freshmen is don’t slack off in class and make sure every moment of your collegiate career is full of happiness and memories you will never forget. Also let’s not forget about getting the most amount of education so that you will be as successful as all the other graduates of Fresno State.

Take an Armenian course at Fresno State!

A wide variety of courses are offered every semester. Look for Armenian and Armenian Studies classes in the Fall 2005 Schedule of Courses.

There are many different courses to choose from!
Genocide Gains International Attention

Author Markar Melkonian on New Book

“My name is my pen,” said Monte Melkonian, who was testifying at a Fresno State hearing on how the university should handle the Armenian Studies Program. Melkonian appeared at Fresno State to discuss the biography he wrote about his brother Monte Melkonian called My Brother’s Road: An American’s Fateful Journey to Armenia. Monte was a good student from the San Joaquin Valley, who turned into a rebel, became a commander, and then finally became a world-renowned hero.

Monte Melkonian graduated from UC Berkeley, where he studied archaeology and had a great interest in the tombs from the ancient kingdom of Urartu. At Berkeley he wrote many acclaimed pieces on the topic. He graduated in three years and had a very prolific academic career.

So what could have turned this law-abiding American student into a bellicose rebel willing to die for Armenia? Well, this is the question that Markar Melkonian tries to answer in his book. He narrows the answer down to several pivotal events in his brother’s life that made him “tick.”

Monte’s experience of visiting his great-grandmother’s house in Turkey, and seeing the Turks who lived there, affected him. Later he learned from a woman in Cyprus how his maternal grandparents had been killed. These events and the profound patriotic feelings he had, added to his passion and led him to devote his life to the new Armenia that was formed due to the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. Ultimately, Monte had an indescribable love for the country of Armenia and its people, which led him to the front line of the Nagorno Karabakh war in the early 1990s.

Monte became a militiaman when he entered the Armenian Secret Army. There he began learning

Best advice for incoming freshmen?

The best advice that I can offer incoming freshmen would be to enjoy yourself the entire way. School is much more exciting when you participate in clubs, classes, and events, which are of interest to you. Although one in a while we all have to do things we do not want to, remember everything must end and even though this is probably the hardest class you will have to take, it too will end in sixteen weeks. It is what you make of it. It is okay to take an extra class outside of your scope of study, it makes the semester much more enjoyable and indulging your interest only widens your scope of knowledge. And most importantly, only do it for you, the education that you can complete will never be taken away from you, it is for the betterment of yourself.

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HAKOP TATARYAN
EDITOR
Heroes are like ghosts, many people speak of them, but only a few have seen them. On March 15, the Fresno community was given the opportunity to know a fallen hero when they attended a talk by Markar Melkonian. This was understandable: one of the biggest talks organized at Fresno State by the Armenian Studies Program. More than a hundred people, ranging from children to the elderly, showed up to hear and meet the author.

“’It’s about time that we loudly repudiate the romantic conceit that my pen is my gun.’ Pens are pens and guns are guns. There are more than enough ‘intellectuals’ in the diaspora. What we need are fighters, soldiers, fedais.” – Monte Melkonian

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

It is hard to predict the future. Although ten years seems so far away, in actuality they will be completed sooner than I know. Within those ten years I know there is much in store for me. I am beginning these years with a six-month study in Armenia called Dzidzernagapert in remembrance of the dead. The people who were in the death marches of the Genocide marched because they saw rape, their land was taken, their families were stolen from them, but they continued so that their stories would be told,” said Sevag Tateosian, who was at the event. “That’s what we are doing here, so that their stories are told, so that they marched for something.”

Most memorable event of your college career?

The most memorable event of my college career is hard to pick out. All of college has been fun and exciting. If I have to pick one, it would be graduating.

Best advice for incoming freshmen?

The best advice that I can give would be to know what you want to major in. Don’t waste time taking unnecessary classes. Even though college is fun it is more fun to get out and make some money.

6th Annual Armenian Film Festival

HAKOP TATARYAN
Editor

The 6th Annual Armenian Film Festival at Fresno State was held on April 1 and audience members were treated to four films from different countries and flavored by music. A documentary about the genocide, a short experimental and somewhat abstract film, a student film about two famous Armenian authors, and the featured film of the evening, "Calendar," a somber and dramatic film about and directed by Atom Egoyan, were screened.

The first film shown was titled "Ventreloquist’s Jigsaw," an interesting title for a very interesting short film. Writer/director Vigen Galstyan’s 6th work looked into the sex from a woman’s point of view 40 years old. In the film, we see a woman waking up to solitude in the middle of the night, suffering from the anxieties and regrets that come about from aging. She is visited by two ghosts, one from the past and one from the future. She begins to perpend on the family and career decisions she has made. The film's ending is very ambiguous as it ends with her trying to leave the house but she is unable to leave because of locked doors. Did she really wake up? Or was it all a dream? Either way, I enjoyed the film and its creativity. Some of the production was amatuarily done, but none the less the film was interesting and somewhat profound look into an aging woman’s life in a short amount of time.

Next was a documentary written and produced by John Garber, a Fresno native, who himself was once an actor. "Hayastan: A Promised Land" is a personal journey by a man searching for enlightenment and some resolution. A son looks to keep his promise to his mother that the world should be aware of the first genocide of the twentieth century, and that there would be responsibility and justice regarding the atrocities. It is a quasi-documentary, which features somber dancing, interviews with many Fresnoans, and scenes of Fresno. I felt the majority of the audience was able to connect with the film. It was well made and truly touching, as some film ought to be, and was very informative.

A student film called "The Gift of Winter," was shown next. It was written and produced by Vatche Arzumanian, a student in the College in Massachusetts, study¬ing film. This was a very novel concept; the audience gets to see Armenian’s perspective about what occurred when Armenian women, girls, and children were imprisoned in a Soviet prison cell. I love the idea of being a fly on the wall, to see through the eyes of Winter," and of course "Ararat." "Calendar" is a slightly less provocative film than his previous ones. It is a melancholic love story with many truths regarding apathy towards others who loved and toward ones who had. Egoyan is known in the film industry as a photographer out to make a calendar of historic Armenian scenes. He takes film of a woman who is played by his real-life wife Arineh Kajanian, and also takes a tour guide. The film is enigmatic at times. It is not always as profound as it seems to be like some of his other works, this film don’tingle the point of the story with overwhelming story lines. Instead, it is told in an intriguing manner and has a very clear point. I won’t spoil for those who haven’t seen it. I commend the great acting in the film especially by the guide who is played by Ashot J. Sarubian. This film was witty and comical on several occa¬sions. Overall, it was a great film and is highly recommended.

Iakovos Kolanian

Kolanian Guitar Concert A Success

Hye Sharzhoom

With the support of Kevork Imirzian, Samet Rezaian, Dena’N Shamlian, Arineh Khachatryan, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Iakovos Kolanian, a critically acclaimed Armenian-Greek classical guitarist gave a concert benefit on March 5 for the Armenian Community School of Fresno and the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

Kolanian, born in Greece in 1960, started to study classical guitar at age 13 and in 1985 with the top award and special honor for exceptional performance from the National Conservatory of Athens. Since that time, he has toured Europe, Asia and Latin America, and has regularly taken part in important international festivals by giving individual recitals, or performing as a soloist with symphonic orchestras and ensembles of chamber music.

Some of the orchestras Kolanian has performed with includes the Athens State Orchestra, Thessalonika State Orchestra, Symphonic Orchestra of Greek Broadc¬asting Corporation (ERT), the Camerata Orchestra of Athens, and Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also been regularly featured in well-known television and radio programs such as BBC, ORF, Radio France, ERT, and RIK.

Since 1992, Kolanian has been the head of the Classical Guitar Department at the Contemporary Athens Conservatory, and is an honorary professor at the Armenian State Conservatory of Yerevan. Re¬cently, Kolanian has recorded the Lute Suites of J. S. Bach, which was released on the Eros label and was critically acclaimed.

At the March 5 concert in the Fresno State Concert Hall, Kolanian started the first half of his perfor¬mance with J. S. Bach’s “Lute Suite in A minor,” followed by Agustin Barrios’ “La Catedral” and Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco’s “Capriccio Diabolico” which allowed him to show his mastery of the classical guitar. These incredibly complex pieces were played almost effortless¬ly and at intermission the audi¬ence was left in awe of Kolanian’s technical prowess. The second half of the concert included Koman’s “Dances” and various other Arme¬nian folk songs.

While the first half of the conc¬cert showed Kolanian’s great abil¬ity to play the classical guitar, it was the second half of the concert that predominantly Armenian audience looked forward to. Many members of the audience had hoped to see some of the most ancient instruments like the duduk, oom, and dhol, but traditional classical guitar, but after hearing Kolanian play Komitas’ “Dances” and other Armenian folk songs, these doubts were laid to rest. Kolanian’s mastery of these pieces and the emotion he played them with gave new life to what was composed centuries ago.

"The performance that he rarely spoke about during this concert; with the only mention being on the program, was the one from the first half of the evening. I feel this is the only part that he has played with electricity and had thetechnicality and emotion he played with something to be proud of.

Overall, the evening was very enjoyable and allows for many people new to Armenian folk mu¬sic to experience it through the sounds of the more modern classi¬cal guitar, while giving the pieces to be raised being listened to new music and a new medium to hear it through. Kolanian

6th Annual Armenian Film Festival

Director: Sirakan Abroyan

2004-2005 Armenian Studies Scholarships & Grant Awards

The Armenian Studies Program awarded scholarships and research grants from seven different endowment or scholarship funds and research grants for a total of $46,900. These scholarships encourage students to pursue minors in Armenian Studies or to major in Armenian Studies. The Armenian Studies Program awarded scholarships and research grants for a total of $46,900. These scholarships encourage students to pursue minors in Armenian Studies or to major in Armenian Studies.

APPLICATIONS: The Harry and Mary Toopozian Armenian Studies Scholarship has been simplified and is entirely online through the Program website at http://www.armenianstudies.csufresno.edu and the University website at http://www.csufresno.edu

Neres and Ruth Azadian Memorial Scholarship

Asian American Studies

Hye Sharzhoom

"Iakovos Kolanian performed a recital on Sunday, March 5, in the Fresno State Concert Hall. His program included works by J.S. Bach, Agustin Barrios, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, and Komitas. Kolanian's playing was..."
REID, FROM PAGE 1

presented a penetrating and innovative talk on "The Armenian Genocide and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Armenian Genocide Survivors," as part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring 2005 Lecture series, held in the Peters Auditorium in the University Business Center on the Fresno State campus.

It was an Armenian Genocide conference held in 1979 which impelled Dr. Reid to first consider the trauma suffered by the Armenians. The panel members had addressed the scholarly, scientific, or political issues, but none had explored the heart of the matter. In Dr. Reid’s words, “Not one of the panel members had made the attempt to comprehend the inner history of the universal trauma suffered by Armenians during World War I.”

The conference, and in particular an exchange between an 80 year old survivor of the Genocide and the participants, led to a twenty year search for the deeper cause of anger and isolation suffered by survivors. Dr. Reid, in the way Dr. Reid had his own brush with trauma, when he received death threats from a Muslim student at a university where he taught in 1994. The psychological legacy of that event led him to a deeper understanding of the mental anguish suffered by genocide survivors.

Dr. Reid’s main thesis was that genocide survivors suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The central symptom of PTSD is the affiliation response to death and especially the threat of death. According to Dr. Reid, everyone who endured and survived the terror of the genocide suffered from this symptom regardless of the extent to which other anxiety and PTSD symptoms afflicted them. The PTSD symptoms point to the long-term suffering of the Armenian community for generations after the annihilation of Armenia.

Survivor memoirs and personal writings were used as the basis for the study. Dr. Reid cited several examples of memoirs to illustrate his presentation. In particular, Kerop Bedoukian’s ‘Some of Us Survived’ and Vartan Hartanian’s ‘Neither to Laugh Nor to Weep’, as well as individual accounts from Armenian oral histories. He also used examples from Pontic Greek survivors to give a wider comparative view of the subject.

Dr. Reid examined one of the primary events of the genocide—the death march—from a psychological vantage point. The person’s response to the threat of a violent death is the central psychological aspect of the genocide survivor experience. He explained that one reason many collapsed and died during the death march, aside from murder and physical torture, was that they could not endure psychologically after a certain point in the ongoing trauma of the death march. He also explained that the need to comprehend the survivors’ psychological response to genocide and the threat of death is important for succeeding generations of Armenians as well as the world community.

Why is it important to understand the psychological response to genocide and war? According to Dr. Reid, trauma and shock are universals that can occur in any time and place and it is necessary, to recognize that even with cultural and religion-differences, most people of past times and at present will react in a psychologically universal way.

In Dr. Reid’s view, the lesson of Armenian and Greek survivors—those with strength to write about their ordeals—is that the perpetrator cannot win psychologically if the victim-survivor will not acquiesce to his bullying sadism. These survivors may suffer from the effects of their trauma for their entire life. The strength of mind to assert the will to live and life’s priority over death can help to defeat the “Angel of Death” spectra that forms the central symptom of post traumatic stress disorder.

Dr. Reid holds a Ph.D. in history from UCLA and has written several books, including Crisis of the Ottoman Empire: Prelude to Collapse, 1839-1878. The presentation was co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, Armenian Students Organization, the Psychology Department, and the Psi Chi Honor Society in Psychology.

REID, FROM PAGE 5

MELKONIAN, FROM PAGE 5

Monte was always the first kid to jump off the highest rock,” described Markar about his brother. This talk was especially touching, because of the deep roots the Melkonian family has in the Valley. Melkonian ancestors were among the first settlers in Fresno in 1870. Monte’s great uncle Jacob Seropian, was one of the first settlers. Monte was known by many pseudonyms such as: Saro, Abi Sindi, Timothy McCormick and Avo, but for his great bravery and martyrdom the name Monte Melkonian will always be synonymous with “hero.” Monte Melkonian was born in Visalia, California on November 25, 1957.
Dr. Dickran Kouymjian Invited to Genocide Conference

At the invitation of Foreign Minister of Armenia, Vartan Oskanian, Prof. Dickran Kouymjian participated in the special two-day conference on the 90th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide held in Erevan 23-24 April. Major Genocides and Holocaust scholars from around the world came together to discuss both the consequences of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 and its continued denial by the Turkish government. Those from Israel included such well-known scholars as Ya’ir Auron and Israel Charnyi, but also the dean of Holocaust scholars Yehuda Bauer and Minister of Education, Yossi Sarid.

The conference opened with a speech by President Robert Kocharian, followed by one of His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II. Arkady Ghokasian, President of Karabakh also addressed the assembly. The major outside speaker and guest was Nobel Prize winner and former president of Poland Lech Walesa. Attendance was impressive and the audience was encouraged to ask questions of the participants.

A large group of Turkish scholars were also present including Tamer Akcam, Murat Belge, Basken Oran, and Hrant Dink, editor of Oran, and Hrant Dink, editor of VehaparInFresno@gmail.com.

The conference was in part organized by the Zoryan Institute of Canada and their team including Vahakn Dadrian, Richard Hovannisian, Ronald Suny, Roger Smith, Donald Miller, and Rouben Adalian.

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