



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2004



February 28, 2003 Announcement of Dr. Stephan Astourian's permanent position at the Alumni House on the U.C. Berkeley Campus. Front row from left: Madeline Adrian, Ani Astourian, Dr. Stephan Astourian, and Dr. Victoria Bonnell. Back row: Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, Dr. Reginald Zelnick, Dr. Margaret Anderson, Dr. Barbara Voytek, Dr. AnnaLee Saxenian, Dr. George Breslauer, Dr. David Leonard, Dr. Edward Walker, Cynthia Avakian, Dr. Richard Simsarian, and Dr. Gregory Freidin.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Summer is here and we are about to begin an exciting new academic year at U. C. Berkeley. We are changing the look in this newsletter and have enclosed a questionnaire to help us learn more about our members, so please complete the form and mail it back to us. We also have detailed articles from some of our recent events on our web site with photographs at: www.ucbaa.com. If you do not have web access, please drop us a line and we will be happy to send you the complete articles in the mail.

As my term as Board President comes to a close, I would like to share with you a few of the exciting developments of the past two years. Last year, Dr. Stephan Astourian was appointed by the University as Executive Director of the Armenian Studies Program and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History at U. C. Berkeley. Dr. Astourian has been enormously successful in establishing a solid program with courses on ancient and modern Armenian history, the Caucasus, and other related topics. He enjoys the respect and admiration of many Berkeley faculty for his scholarship and teaching skills.

In order to be able to fully fund the Armenian Studies Program, we have now embarked on a new fundraising campaign with the goal of raising the William Saroyan and Krouzian Endowments to \$2.6 million. We are fortunate to have Adam Kaplanian (BA Physics, 1981) as Chair of our new fund raising committee. The additional funds are necessary to support the full-time position of Dr. Astourian, to introduce Armenian language courses on a continuous basis, to enrich the program with visiting, one-semester courses, and to hold conferences, symposia and public lectures on contemporary Armenian issues.

In February 2004, we held our first Career Mixer with the Armenian Students Association. We plan to make this an annual event in an effort to mentor the students about their future career choices and to encourage the students to join the Alumni when they graduate. Also in February, we held our kick-off fund raising reception at the home of Dr. Shahe and Ani Yeni-Komshian. This event helped to create a great start to the fund raising campaign. On March 13, 2004, we held an appreciation reception for previous donors, who had the vision and courage to raise the initial \$600 thousand for the William Saroyan and Krouzian endowment funds to start the William Saroyan Visiting Professorship. The event included a tour of the Krouzian Study Center in Bancroft Library followed by a reception in the Women's Faculty Club.



Donor Appreciation Tour and Reception Speakers, Women's Faculty Club. From left: Dr. Stephan Astourian, Adam Kaplanian, Dean George Breslauer, and Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian.

In May, a fund raising event was held in the East Bay at the home of Garbis and Silva Baghdassarian. This event helped bring us to \$200,000 in donations and pledges for the current campaign. Additional fund raising events are planned in the Fall. Please mark your calendars for our Armenian Alumni Banquet at the Cliff House in San Francisco on September 25, 2004. I hope you will be able attend this event and I look forward to seeing you there.

Elections will be held within a month. In order for you to be able to vote, you will have to be a current dues paying member. So please pay your dues (see attached form at the end of the newsletter). And lastly, I want to thank everyone for their patience, understanding, and hard work over the past two years. I have truly enjoyed my term as president and look forward to working with our new board of officers in the future.

Cynthia Avakian

**ESTABLISHMENT OF ARMENIAN STUDIES CENTER:
A CELEBRATION OF PERMANENCE**

A joyous group of one hundred supporters and a dozen Berkeley professors and deans gathered together at the U. C. Berkeley Alumni House on the afternoon of Sunday, February 23, 2003 to celebrate the official announcement of Dr. Stephan Astourian's elevation from visiting lecturer to Assistant Adjunct Professor in the History Department and Executive Director of the newly created Armenian Studies Program.

Professors who usually avoid the campus on Sundays gladly attended and testified to their support for their colleague, Dr. Astourian. One after another, professors eagerly took to the podium: Dr. George W. Breslauer, Dean of Social Sciences and Chancellor's Professor of Political Science; Dr. Barbara Voytek, Executive Director, Center for Slavic Studies, Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, Taisei Professor of Civil Engineering and Co-Founder and Dean of Engineering at American University of Armenia (an affiliate of the University of California); Dr. Victoria Bonnell, Director of ISEEEES, Institute for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, Dr. Reginald Zelnick, former Chair of the History



Dr. Reginald Zelnick

Department, and teacher at Berkeley since 1964; Dr. David K. Leonard, Dean of International and Area Studies and Professor of Political Science; Dr. Margaret Anderson of the History Department; Dr. Edward Walker, Executive Director of the Berkeley Program in Soviet and Post Soviet Studies. The U. C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni sponsored this event which was catered by Lalime's Restaurant and serenaded by a string trio.

They unanimously admired Dr. Astourian's scholarship, teaching and service within the academic community. Dr. Bonnell noted six bases for commonality: common geographic interest, shared intellectual interest, commitment to course offerings in undergraduate and graduate classes, permanent offering of Armenian language courses, mutual collaboration of conferences and lectures, and collegial relation and shared interest in Armenian topics. She took great pleasure in working with Dr. Astourian due to his lively mind, broad erudition, French-American education, and great effort to promote studies of Armenian studies on the Berkeley Campus. She foresaw a great new era of Armenian Studies with the help and support of the Armenian-American community.



Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, Dr. Barbara Voytek, and Dr. Victoria Bonnell.

Dr. Zelnick started off by thanking Dr. Der Kiureghian for his tireless work on behalf of Armenian Studies. He then went on to review Dr. Astourian's education at the Sorbonne in Paris, France and UCLA under Professor Richard Hovannisian. He favorably noted Dr. Astourian's fluency in French, English, Modern and Classical Armenian, Modern, Ottoman and Azerbaijani Turkish, and is studying Georgian. As an ethno-linguist, Dr. Astourian has studied the changing meanings of Turkish insults against minorities and the consequential effects on how they behaved towards

the minorities. Given his multi-fluencies, Dr. Astourian is a genuine archival historian. His work is meticulous!



Dr. Anderson related how Dr. Astourian inspired her to switch from domestic 19th century domestic German politics to German-Turkish relations. She even took Dr. Astourian's full course on Armenian studies. Quite unusual for a professor to take a course from another professor! She enviously but admiringly observed how students were so enraptured by Dr. Astourian's extemporaneous, organized, sardonically humorous lectures that they did not leave when the class was officially over, but only when Dr. Astourian completed his lecture. Again, quite extraordinary!



Finally, Dr. Walker commended Dr. Astourian's breadth of scholarship as both a historian and political scientist, his skills as a wonderful organizer, team player and good trooper, his great lectures, his great scholarship and

thorough administration. He also thanked Dr. Astourian's wife, Ani, for sacrificing so much during the past years.

Many of the professors acknowledged the William Saroyan Endowment and the supportive Krouzian Endowment with its Krouzian Study Center. They repeatedly encouraged the Armenian-American community to continue in its great work of supporting Armenian scholarship in one of the premier and influential universities of the world.

Armen Sedrakian

(To see more photographs from this event, please click on the link at: www.ucbaa.com.)

ANNUAL BANQUET

The U.C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni Annual Reception took place at the charming and warm Town and Gown Club near the Berkeley campus on September 27, 2003. This event featured the presentation of the UCBAA Scholarship to an accomplished student, hearing an update on the Armenian Studies Program, and listening to the guest speaker.

The scholarship recipient, Hasmig Tatioossian, was unusually enthusiastic; Professor Stephan Astourian's report on the progress of the Armenian Studies Program was remarkably hopeful; and the guest speaker, Professor Margaret Anderson, was extraordinary in its insights.

Ms. Tatioossian explained how she walked out of her first class with Professor Astourian and realized that genocide studies would be her scholastic career path. Professor Astourian announced the multi-level, multi-dialect Armenian language class taught by Dr. Hasmig Seropian, and his plan to expand the Armenian language program. Professor Anderson, a German specialist, keenly described the curious view Germans had regarding the Armenians and their genocide. (To read Dr. Anderson's insightful comments, please click on the link at: www.ucbaa.com.)

SPRING 2004 LECTURE SERIES

The Armenian Studies Program held a lecture series beginning Friday, April 2 on campus. The first lecturer was Harutyun Marutyan, Fulbright Scholar from Armenia, who spoke on the *Rituals of Defense: Mobilizing the Karabagh Movement (Armenia, 1988-1990)* and on Saturday, April 3 lectured to the community on *Historical Memory and the Main Manifestations of Armenian National Identity Changes during the Karabagh Movement (1988-1990)*. On April 16, Dr. Taner Akcam, Visiting Professor of History, University of Minnesota, spoke on *The Organization of the Armenian Genocide according to Ottoman Documents* and to the community on Saturday, April 17 on *Turkey and the*

Armenian Genocide: Reasons for the Turkish Silence and Denial.

In May, Dr. Hans Wagener, Professor, Department of Germanic Languages, UCLA spoke on *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh: Franz Werfel's Epic about Armenians, Turks, and Prussians*. The lectures were sponsored by the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Studies Program, the U.C. Berkeley Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, and the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni.

FALL 2004 COURSES AT UCB

History 177A: Armenia from Ethnogenesis to the Dark Ages
TuTh 12:30-2P, 203 Wheeler Hall, CCN: 39460
Prof. Stephan Astourian

This course will cover close to three millenia of Armenian history, from the process of ethnogenesis to the almost complete destruction of the Armenian "feudal" system by the end of the 15th century. This course is based on the broad framework of Armenian political history and institutions, but also emphasizes economic development, social change, and cultural transformations.

Eurasian Studies 289, Section 3, Armenian Language Class
TuTh 8-9:30, 121 Wheeler Hall, CCN: 80609

All levels of proficiency are welcome and accommodated, from beginners to advanced. Depending on enrollment, this series may continue. Up to three years may be offered.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A UCB GRADUATE

Your membership to UCBAA is welcome. While only UCB graduates can be elected to serve on the Board, we invite community members to join as Associate Members. We are constantly in the process of improving our mailing list, and wish to expand our network through email. Use the forms below to send us your email and/or change of address.

You can reach us: Via Mail: UCBAA, P.O. Box 10113, Berkeley, CA 94709, Email: ucbaa@hotmail.com, Telephone: Evelyn Boyd: 925-946-9320.

ELECTIONS

All dues paying members will be receiving ballots by September 2004. Please return the ballots promptly.

Remember only dues paying members can vote. Forms can be found at the end of the newsletter.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

The U. C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni would like to thank the following people who have made generous donations to the William Saroyan and Krouzian Endowments and UCBAA over the past few years.

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Adam Kaplanian
Gloria Chen & John Kibarian
Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian
Dr. Margit Hazarabedian

UCBAA QUESTIONNAIRE

In order to better serve the U. C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni community we would like to get a better sense of who you are and what sort of events, activities, projects, etc. you would like to see the U. C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni Club pursuing. Please fill out the following questionnaire.

Tell Us About Yourself

Did you graduate from college? Yes _____ No _____

Cal? Yes No Year? _____ Subject _____ Degree _____

Another college? Year? _____ Subject _____ Degree _____

What is your field of expertise? _____

Why did you choose to attend U. C. Berkeley? _____

Do you attend lectures on Armenian topics? If so, what sorts? _____

If you have ever attended a U. C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni Club event (lecture, film sponsored at Pacific Film Archive, Annual Dinner and Lecture, etc.), what was your experience like? Do you have any comments or suggestions?

Are you interested in seeing the club promote cultural events? Circle all you are interested in.

Films *Dances* *Music* *Art Exhibits* *Rugs & Textiles*
Other _____

Are you interested in seeing the club promote educational activities? Circle all you are interested in.

Lectures *Seminars* *Panel Discussions* *Conferences*
Other _____

Getting Involved with the U. C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni Club:

Have you visited our web site (www.ucbaa.com)? Yes No

Would you prefer to receive the newsletter and information about events electronically?

If so, please include you email address: _____

Would you be interested in volunteering to help the U.C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni? If so, please provide us with contact information at the end of the survey.

Contact information, include any additional questions, comments or suggestions you may have?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Email: _____

Please fold the questionnaire in thirds, staple, and mail to the address below.

Thank you very much for taking the time to participate in this survey.

**U. C. Berkeley Armenian Alumni
P. O. Box 10113
Berkeley, CA 94709-5113**

Mailing List?

We have over 500 “alums” on our mailing list, yet we receive dues from fewer than 50. The dues become part of our General Fund which covers our operating expenses, including mailings, printing, honorariums and travel expenses for guest speakers, and much more. Remember, only dues paying members are allowed to vote in our elections. Annual dues are a small fee of \$35.

UCBAA Contribution Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Dues '04-05 _____ General Fund _____

Please make checks payable to UCBAA, P. O. Box 10113, Berkeley, CA 94709-5113

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Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Amount _____

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