



ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2006

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ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY WELCOMES SUMMER INTERNS TO DC, YEREVAN Program Encourages Professional Development, Community Involvement

Washington, DC – They hail from some of the most competitive schools in the country and are pursuing degrees in political science, law and medicine, and for the next two months they will take their first steps towards professional careers and community leaderships as participants of the Assembly's summer intern programs.

Twenty Armenian-American college students, including two from Armenia, are taking part in the Terjenian-Thomas Assembly Internship Program in Washington, while 14 others are enrolled in a similar program in Yerevan, Armenia. Both groups will intern in their respective cities while taking part in a series of cultural, social and educational activities.

Washington program participants will work in the offices of **Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Carl Levin (D-MI) and Representatives Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Ed Royce (R-CA), Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Anthony Weiner (D-NY)**, as well as federal government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGO), media outlets and think tanks. Yerevan interns – the largest group in the program's history – will intern with the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Finance, the OSCE, the Nork Marsh Medical Center, as well as with other Armenian government institutions and NGOs.

While in Yerevan, interns will learn more about their ancestral home through visits to historical and cultural sites in and around Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. In addition to their internships, students meet senior government officials and other prominent individuals. They also have opportunities to meet socially with local Armenians.

“We're proud to welcome this year's internship class to the Assembly and urge them to take full advantage of all the opportunities available to them,” said Assembly Western Office Director Lena Kaimian, who spearheaded this year's program and is an alumnus. “These students possess an abundance of talent, ambition and enthusiasm and we're looking forward to another successful summer with both internship groups.”

Emin Akopyan, a philosophy major at UCLA, says he's learning a great deal about the political process through his internship with Congressman Schiff. “Attending events, briefings, and panel discussions are just a few of the many novel and wonderful responsibilities that I have at work. It's clear that this experience will be a tremendous benefit for my personal and professional growth.”

“This internship is a great learning experience because Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty gives me freedom to choose my own assignments,” said intern Taron Burris, a political science major at the University of Michigan who is working at the international news organization. “The mission of RFE/RL is admirable. I feel privileged to be able to meet and speak with so many influential people.”

The Armenian Assembly of America is the largest Washington-based nationwide organization promoting public understanding and awareness of Armenian issues. It is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt membership organization.

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NR#2006-060

Photographs:



Caption: Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny (*back row, fourth from right*) met with students during a special intern orientation held at Assembly headquarters in Washington on June 21.



Caption: Armenia Summer Internship participants in Republic Square in Yerevan.

Editor's Note: Below is the complete list of Armenian Assembly 2006 Summer Interns.

WASHINGTON DC INTERNS: *Name, school - placement*

Emin Akopyan, University of California, Los Angeles - Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA)
Steven Assarian, University of Michigan - Department of Commerce
Michael Banuchis, Boston College - Armenian Assembly of America: Government Affairs
Taron Burris, University of Michigan - Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
Joel Creton, Stanford University - Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
Jocelyn Hanamirian, Princeton University - United Press International
Anna Harutunyan, Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) State University - Armenian National Institute
Caroline Hogan, University of Michigan - Library of Congress
George Houhanisin, University of Michigan - Department of Commerce
Ryan Kesapyan, Georgetown University - Representative Edward Royce (R-CA)
Levon Keushkerian, California State Polytechnic University - Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
Harry Kezelian, University of Michigan - Senator Carl Levin (D-MI)
Haig Kherlopian, American University - Armenian National Institute
Lusine Martirosyan, Western Illinois University - Armenian International Policy Research Group
Alisia Minasian, Grand Valley State University - Center for Immigration Studies
Shant Norhadian, University of Southern California - Federal Aviation Administration
Valerie Saryan, Tufts University - Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)
Roy Setter, Hofstra University - Representative Anthony Weiner (D-NY)
Margarita Tadevosyan, Yerevan State University - Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic
Lara Talverdian, New York University - Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA)

YEREVAN INTERNS: *Name, school, placement*

Ilona Aleksandrova, University of California, Berkeley - Nagorno Karabakh Republic
Arman Avedisian, Pennsylvania State University - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Gregory Bandikian, California State University, Northridge - Ministry of Finance
Armine Bazikyan, University of California, Los Angeles - Constitutional Court
Sona Bekmezian, University of California, Los Angeles - Ministry of Urban Development
Anoush Dekmezian, Trinity University - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Raffi Haroutunian, Rutgers University - International Center for Human Development
Justin Kalemkiarian, Gustavus Adolphus College – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Cate Norian, Kenyon College - Bars Media
Arpi Paylan, Northwestern University - Armenia Tree Project
Ani Sinanyan, University of California, Los Angeles - Markaryan Medical Center
Alexis Suib, Mt. Holyoke College - Hayastan All Armenia Fund
Nairi Tashjian, Harvard University - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Michael Terjimanian, University of Michigan - Nork Marash Medical Center