



# ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

1140 19<sup>th</sup> STREET, NW • WASHINGTON, DC 20036-6608 • (202) 393-3434 • FAX: (202) 638-4904 • E-mail: [info@aaainc.org](mailto:info@aaainc.org)

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Web: [www.aaainc.org](http://www.aaainc.org)

CONTACT: Karoon Panosyan  
Phone: (202) 393-3434  
E-mail: [kpanosyan@aaainc.org](mailto:kpanosyan@aaainc.org)

## **ASSEMBLY REACHES OUT TO YOUNG LEADERS TO PROMOTE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

### *Applications for 2007 DC and Yerevan Programs Available Online*

Washington, DC – To expand the active involvement of young adults in the Armenian Assembly, Intern Coordinator Joseph Piatt met with college students to introduce them to the Assembly's Intern Programs. The eight-week summer programs provide college students of Armenian descent the opportunity to intern in Washington, DC and Yerevan while taking part in a full schedule of educational, social and cultural activities.

Since October, Piatt has been traveling to several East Coast universities to meet with Armenian student organizations, provide them with informational materials and discuss his own experiences as a 2004 intern in Washington, DC.

Concurrently, Assembly intern alumni joined Western Office Director Lena Kaimian to help promote the internship programs to prospective students. In California, Gregory Bandikian, Armine Bazikyan, Shant Norhadian, Cate Norian and Nareneh Sohbatian shared with students their first-hand experiences as Assembly interns while Joel Cretan provided a briefing on the program.

In addition, George Houhanisin and Harry Kezelian met with students in Michigan while Arpi Paylan discussed her back-to-back internships in Washington and Yerevan with Chicago area students.

“As a former Assembly intern, I am thrilled to see so many young adults interested in the Internship Program and I hope, a future that includes community and public service,” said Board of Trustees Member Lisa Esayian. “As the Washington Program prepares to enter its 30<sup>th</sup> year, I urge students to invest in themselves, and sign up for this once in a lifetime opportunity.”

“I also want to thank our program ambassadors for taking the time to encourage other young adults to participate in the Assembly's intern programs,” added Esayian.

Students who are accepted into the Washington program will be placed in congressional offices, think tanks, media outlets and governmental agencies. Interns will have the opportunity to discuss Armenian-American issues during meetings with U.S Representatives, Senators, other government officials and noted academics through the Capitol Ideas and Lecture Series programs as well as gain a better understanding of the inner workings of the Nation's Capital. Meanwhile, students enrolled in the Yerevan program are typically placed in Armenian governmental offices

and inter-governmental agencies. They will have the opportunity to experience life in their ancestral homeland while gaining valuable work experience.

Applications for the Washington program, known as the Terjenian-Thomas Assembly Internship Program, as well as the Yerevan program, are available online at [www.aaainc.org](http://www.aaainc.org). Application deadlines are January 15 and February 15 respectively. Please contact Joseph Piatt at (202) 393-3434 Ext. 237 or via email at [jpiatt@aaainc.org](mailto:jpiatt@aaainc.org) for additional information.

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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**Photographs:**



**Caption:** Assembly Intern Coordinator Joseph Piatt met with Boston University students to encourage their participation in the Assembly's internship programs.



**Caption:** (L to R) Chris Torcomian of Temple University, Mark Williams of University of Pennsylvania, Intern Coordinator Joseph Piatt, Andre Topakbashian of Temple University and Armine Ballard of University of Pennsylvania.



**Caption:** (L to R) Nareeneh Sohbatiyan, Armine Bazikyan, Cate Norian, and Assembly Western Office Director Lena Kaimian, during their meeting with students at UCLA.