



from the office of the
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
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NEWS:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(With Photos)

DIOCESAN INTERN PROGRAM "AN EDUCATIONAL AS WELL AS MOVING EXPERIENCE" FOR PARTICIPANTS; ARMENIAN FAMILY ATMOSPHERE CITED

The five young Armenians who participated in this year's Summer Intern Program at the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America cited it as a "not only educational but moving experience; it was like being with your own family."

The Intern Program, in its third year, gives Armenian young people an opportunity to serve the Church, to be an integral part of Diocesan activities and gain first-hand knowledge and experience about the Church's operations and objectives.

The 1988 Interns were Rachel Abrahamian, Sekita Ekrek, Lara George, Charles Goorhigian and Noyem Zeroogian.

In a tearful, but joyful, farewell luncheon on August 5, the Interns talked about their month-long tenure, openly expressing their feelings and emotions. It was obvious the experience was educational and also spiritually and emotionally rewarding. As one Intern said, "We felt as if we were with our own family. The Diocese was our home away from home, where we learned so much about being Armenians and good Christians."

Rachel, 19, worked in the Armenian Language Lab and Resource Center (ALLARC), where she translated into English the "Zarteer," a children's book on Armenian history. A member of the

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Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection, New Britain, Conn., she is a sophomore at the University of Connecticut, majoring in business administration. She is also a member of the ACYOA Seniors and has been a Sunday School teacher for a year.

"At the Diocese, I increased my knowledge of the Armenian language and the history of our forefathers," she said. "It was a truly educational experience in every way. I feel a great sense of accomplishment, and it gives me great pleasure to know that my hard work and effort will be rewarding and beneficial to all Armenian children."

Sekita, 22, is seeking a career in advertising. She is a member of St. Mary Armenian Church, Washington, D.C. She graduated in May from George Washington University with a B.B.A. in Marketing and a minor in French. She worked with the ACYOA Seniors at the Diocese.

"I was responsible for putting together the Summer issue of the 'ACYOA Youth Forum,' a quarterly newsletter," she said. "It gave me great pleasure. My duties involved compiling story ideas, writing and editing, layout and design. The practical experience I gained enhanced the value of my internship. I believe the Intern Program is invaluable for any young Armenian interested in his or her Church and heritage."

Lara, 19, who hails from Annandale, Va., where she is a member of St. Mary Armenian Church of Washington, D.C., worked in the Diocesan accounting office. She attends Virginia Polytechnic Institute. While Lara gained from the Diocese, she also contributed to its operations: "This past month as an Intern was very challenging as well as rewarding to me. This Fall I will be returning to Virginia Tech, to possibly pursue a degree in accounting. Through the internship, I gained a better understanding of what the accounting profession entails."

Charles, 24, a member of the Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension, Trumbull, Conn., received a B.A. Degree in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Connecticut and recently

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completed an M.A. in political science at the same institution. He worked in the public relations department at the Diocese, completing a catalogue for the St. Vartan Bookstore. This, he said, gave him new insights into the vast wealth of materials the Diocese has on religion and Armenian language, literature, poetry, history, music, art and culture. He noted that the staff were, "All so active and involved. It isn't a question of quantity -- because they are relatively few in number -- but quality. They are all top-flight people." He had special words of praise for His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese: "Serpazan Hayr has tremendous drive and energy. He moves about like a man of 30. He is a real inspiration."

Noyem, 20, a member of St. Mark Armenian Church, Springfield, Mass., is studying Communications at the University of Massachusetts. She worked with the ACYOA Seniors at the Diocese, developing brochures and other promotional materials.

"The experience was a challenge," she said, "because I had to learn to use my creative abilities to the fullest."

The Interns began their tenure at the Diocese in mid-July. They received travel expenses, lodging and meals. At the Diocese they also had the opportunity to take part in many of the activities in the annual "Teacher's College" and the "The Armenian and His Culture/The Ayvasian-Bedrosian American Studies Program." It was exciting and eye-opening for them all.

Perhaps Charles summed up the month at the Diocese for all of the Interns when he stated: "The various lectures and courses on religion and Armenian language, history and culture were really fantastic. There was so much to learn. Serpazan Hayr's presentation on Gomidas was superb, and the professional lecturers and educators were outstanding in every way. I think we all learned a great deal. Personally, for me, it was a really enlightening experience and one I will never forget."

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FIVE YOUNG ARMENIANS PARTICIPATE IN DIOCESAN SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

Five young Armenians are participating in the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America's Summer Intern Program, which has been described as an "unique educational experience."

The Intern Program, now in its third year, gives the young people an excellent opportunity to serve the Church, to be a part of Diocesan operations, gain first-hand knowledge and experience, and learn about the Church's operations and objectives from a practical perspective.

The 1988 Interns are Rachel Abrahamian, Sekita Ekrek, Lara George, Charles Goorhigian, and Noyem Zeroogian.

Rachel, 19, working in the Armenian Language Lab and Resource Center (ALLARC), is a member of the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection, New Britain, Conn. Her parents are Paul and Margaret Abrahamian. She is a sophomore at the University of Connecticut, majoring in business administration. Rachel is a member of the ACYOA Seniors and has been a Sunday School teacher for a year.

Sekita 22, is a member of St. Mary's Armenian Church, Washington, D.C. Her parents are Krikor and Selva Ekrek. She graduated in May from George Washington University with a B.B.A. in Marketing and a minor in French. Sekita is working with the ACYOA Seniors at the Diocese, and aspires to a career in advertising.

Lara, 19, hails from Annandale, Virginia, where she is a member of St. Mary's Armenian Church of Washington, D.C. The daughter of Robert and Doris George, she attends Virginia Polytechnic Institute where she is majoring in biochemistry. She is presently working in the Diocesan accounting office.

Charles, 24, is a member of the Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension in Trumbull, Conn. His parents are Martin and Louise Goorhigian. He received a B.A. Degree in Middle Eastern studies from the University of Connecticut in May, 1986, and recently completed an M.A. Degree in Political Science at the University of Connecticut. Charles is working in the Diocesan public relations department.

Noyem, 20, is a member of St. Mark's Armenian Church, Springfield, Mass. She is studying communications at the University of Massachusetts. Her parents are Harry and Jennie Zeroogian. Noyem is working with the ACYOA Seniors at the Diocese, developing brochures, flyers, and other promotional materials.

The Interns began their tenure at the Diocese in mid-July. They receive travel expenses, lodging and meals. They will continue in the program through mid-August. In the past, some Interns have stayed on as Diocesan staff members. These included Anthony Barsamian, a 1986 Intern who served as Executive Secretary of the ACYOA Seniors; and 1987 Interns: Carol Cholmakjian, who served as public relations liaison for Vehapar's historic visit; Garo Papazian, DRE Administrator; and George Devejian, who assisted in the Primate's Office and is now studying for the priesthood at St. Nersess Seminary.

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news!

Contact: Nicole Mazmanian
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1991 DIOCESAN SUMMER RESEARCH INTERNSHIP

The annual Diocesan Summer Internship, for undergraduate or graduate students who are at least 21 years of age will be offered this summer, at the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America in New York City.

This program will be held from June 16-July 27, 1991. Students will work in one of the following Diocesan departments: the Department of Religious Education, the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center, the Armenian Language Lab and Resource Center and the Department of Public Relations. Each intern will work on a specific project-which will culminate in a research paper at the end of the internship.

The six-week research program, expanded from the four-week program of previous years, will also familiarize the students with Diocesan operations, and include instruction in Bible study, Armenian language and culture. In addition, the interns will be exposed to the culture of New York City.

Accommodations at New York University, meals and a weekly stipend will be provided. Internship credits may be available through the student's university. Students are encouraged to apply now and to discuss the possibility of Independent Study with their advisors or instructors.

For further information and application forms, please write or call Nicole Mazmanian at 630 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10016, (212) 686-0710, ext. 37. The deadline for all applications and supporting documents is April 19, 1991.

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