



Emily Alayan **MS / 1st Year**

San Francisco State University

Emily Alayan is a first-year student in the speech-language pathology master's program at San Francisco State University. Her focus is integrating AI into speech-language pathology to transform care for individuals with speech and language disorders. As a student at Stanford, Emily contributed to research leveraging AI for early and precise disease detection. Witnessing technology's potential to transform healthcare inspired her ambition to revolutionize care for patients with speech and language disorders. Emily has contributed to improving Armenian healthcare through her work with healthcare nonprofit Meduni, helping to deliver medical equipment to Armenian hospitals. Recognizing the lack of speech and language services in underserved Armenian communities, she is committed to ensuring every individual can access high-quality care regardless of circumstances.

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AWARDS

The AAMS Scholarship

To

Emily Alayan

*For Exemplary Academic Accomplishments and
Outstanding Service to the Community*

**Given on This Thirteenth Day of February, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four
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Stella Gukasyan **DPH / 2nd Year**

Tulane University School of Public Health
and Tropical Medicine

Stella Gukasyan is a second-year doctoral student pursuing a Doctor of Public Health at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She has 20 years of experience in education, public health, and healthcare. She has collaborated with federally qualified health centers in Los Angeles, including those serving the Armenian-American community, to enhance the quality of primary care. Stella holds a master's in human development and psychology from Harvard and a bachelor's in biology from UC San Diego. Stella has traveled across Armenia speaking on the emergent risk of HIV/AIDS given high migration and post-conflict situations. Her doctoral research will focus on how post-conflict biological stress and trauma embed within individuals and impact health outcomes for Armenians of Artsakh.

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Alec Ohanian

MD / 4th Year

UCSF School of Medicine

Alec Ohanian, a 4th-year medical student at UCSF with an MPH from Johns Hopkins, is dedicated to improving health in Armenia. His work there includes leading a multi-institutional study with the KATIL Charitable Foundation, Johns Hopkins University, and Yerevan State Medical University on the needs of children with type 1 diabetes and advocating for improved government-supplied glucose monitoring systems; overseeing humanitarian aid distribution in Syunik as vice-president of All for Armenia; and building healthcare capacity through grants and technical expertise as a board member of the Armenian Healthcare Association of the Bay Area. Alec has committed to devoting his life's work to improving Armenian health and inspiring others to do the same.



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Serly Thomasian

MD / 1st Year

Oakland University William
Beaumont School of Medicine

Serly Thomasian, a first-year medical student at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, was born and raised in Kuwait. She moved to the U.S. at age 17 by herself, where she faced significant challenges adapting to a new culture and educational system. Through the COPE Health Scholars Program, she worked with Armenian immigrant patients facing similar struggles, especially in healthcare. This gave her insight into the nuances of medical care and communication. Her community service also includes tutoring pre-med students, fundraising for displaced Armenian families in Syria, volunteering for war survivors in Armenia, and leading the Armenian Students' Association in college. Her experiences fueled her desire to focus on improving her community's healthcare quality and understanding and providing opportunities to Armenian communities in the Middle East.



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Araz Majnoonian

PhD

UC San Diego

Araz Majnoonian is a Global Health PhD student at UC San Diego and a mixed-methods public health researcher with experience in infectious disease epidemiology, dissemination and implementation of interventions, tobacco control policy, and gender-based violence prevention. Her research interest focuses on understanding the intersectionality between historical and social factors, as these often intertwine and profoundly impact health and well-being, especially for women and vulnerable groups. She is currently involved in a project on dementia and Alzheimer's risk perceptions among the Syrian refugee population in San Diego. Araz has also worked closely with the Women's Support Center in Armenia, an NGO providing comprehensive domestic violence services nationwide. After finishing her PhD, Araz hopes to continue contributing to public health research and interventions in Armenia.



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Eddie Galstian Memorial Scholarship

To

Araz Majnoonian

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David Pogosyan

MD / 1st Year

University of Arizona College
of Medicine - Tucson

David Pogosyan is a first-year medical student at the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson. He earned his bachelor's degree in neuroscience from UCLA. David is passionate about integrative medicine, which bridges Eastern and Western medical practices. David aims to further explore integrative medicine in medical school. Before starting medical school, David volunteered in Armenia through Birthright Armenia, gaining clinical experience working in Yerevan hospitals and deepening his understanding of healthcare across cultures. This meaningful experience allowed David to reconnect with his Armenian heritage—central to his identity and career goals. David envisions leveraging his medical skills to address the specific health needs of Armenians, both locally and globally.



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Kaftarian Family Scholarship Fund

To

David Pogosyan

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Ara Hartounian

DDS / 3rd Year

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

Ara Hartounian is a third-year dental student at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC. He was born and raised in Aleppo, Syria, and emigrated to the United States at the age of 15. During the summer, Ara is a volunteer at Camp Zavarian, teaching the children Armenian songs and folk tales. He spends weekends providing dental care and education to underserved Los Angeles communities through USC's Mobile Clinic and Union Rescue Mission. He is currently Senator of the 2025 class and President of the USC Armenian Dental Student Association. Last year, he received the USC Friends of Dentistry Endowed Scholarship Award. This summer, Ara aspires to help incoming dental students adapt socially, establish a supportive community for Armenian students, and provide guidance.



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Katia Khanlian

PharmD / 1st Year

USC Alfred E. Mann
School of Pharmacy

Katia Khanlian is a first-year pharmacy student at the USC Alfred E. Mann School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from UCLA in 2023. Her interest in pharmaceutical sciences was sparked during her biochemistry studies. As an undergraduate, she worked as a pharmacy technician serving an Armenian-speaking community, participating in initiatives to translate Armenian medication directions to eliminate potential language barriers in healthcare. Inspired by her studies at USC Mann, she seeks to provide health screenings to underserved individuals to prevent chronic diseases. Katia looks forward to continuing to serve the Armenian community as a pharmacist and giving back to the culture that shaped her.



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