This year has been very challenging for ANIP. For only the second time since 1993 there were no placements in Parliament House in Semester 2 due to the federal election. As a result our student numbers were significantly down. However, the prospects for Semester 1, 2011 are looking much better. Student numbers are up and the interest from MPs and Senators is very high and we are looking towards a very exciting and productive year for ANIP. 2011 will also be a year of change for ANIP. After more than 10 years in the job I have decided to retire as Director of ANIP. This won’t formally happen until the end of next year but before that I will be taking some well-earned long service leave. Effectively, first Semester 2011 will be my last as Director of ANIP. I will write some more about my time with ANIP in the next issue of our newsletter. Even though I am finishing up as Director, I won’t be disappearing from the ANU for a while. I am looking forward to commencing as a Visiting Fellow in the College of Arts and Social Sciences at the end of next year. I will be more than happy to meet up with former Interns, write even more referee reports than I do now and attend as many ANU graduation ceremonies as I can.

Associate Professor Robert Campbell

ARGENTINE CONNECTION

In November this year I presented a seminar on long term trends in Australian agriculture (“Las Tendencias a Largo Plazo en Agricultura Australiana”) to a visiting delegation from La Delegación de la Asociación de Cooperativas Argentinas. This has become an annual event and is the fifth occasion on which I have made a similar presentation. Members of the delegation are middle level managers from grain cooperatives throughout Argentina. Each delegation spends a few weeks in Australia to learn about Australian farming and in particular grain growing and marketing. I was asked to make a contribution to the delegation’s Canberra visit because of my background in agricultural and economic policy. However, it initially turned out to be something of a challenge due to my lack of Spanish language skills and the fact that hardly anyone in the delegation spoke English. My Spanish has since improved but the audience is still largely non-English speaking. On the first occasion a few years ago my PowerPoint presentation was in English and I used the tour leader travelling with the delegation as a translator. I learned very quickly how it difficult it can be giving a somewhat technical presentation and stopping after virtually every sentence to have my words translated. After
struggling through that process a couple of times I decide to do something about it – and this is where another ANIP connection comes in. First, I decided to improve my Spanish language skills. Second, I decided to convert my PowerPoint presentation to Spanish. To do this I asked a former Intern, Cheree Sefton, to help out. Cheree was studying Spanish at the ANU and had been an ANIP Intern at the Embassy of the Argentine Republic. She expertly produced a Spanish version of my PowerPoint presentation. The presentations have generally been well received and the delegates have found it interesting to compare Argentina’s agricultural sector with Australia’s. The main trend of interest is how Australia has changed from “riding on the sheep’s back” where agriculture dominated our exports, to a declining sector relative to other parts of the economy (especially services) where the number of farms has declined, farmers have been caught in a long term cost-price squeeze yet farming has grown in absolute terms. Farmers have done that by being innovative and achieving huge productivity gains. It’s actually a very positive story to tell. However, I have found that in recent times I have had to modify my presentation and take some things out and put other things in as circumstances like drought, floods and locusts have changed the outlook for farming. Cheree has graduated from the ANU in Arts and Laws and moved on to establish her career and I have found that I have had to modify my presentation using my ever-improving Spanish. It has worked out so far but it is likely that in the future I will need expert help. When that happens I will again be looking for assistance from one of our Interns and it will probably be someone who is fluent in Spanish and like Cheree, has been placed with the Argentine Embassy.

Associate Professor Robert Campbell

WHERE ARE THEY NOW??

Pamela Cohen

Where am I now? I often ask myself that – and how I got here. My name is Pamela Cohen. I completed my internship with ANIP in 2002. My interest in history resulted in my being placed at the National Archives of Australia.

I was given the task of researching the history of the ‘Letters Patent Constituting the Office of Governor General’, one of Australia’s birth certificate documents. The Archives provided me with access to all the documentation they had on the document including the Great Seal. I wrote a history of the document and the Great Seal focussing on the visual images and historical allegories they contained.

What did this experience provide me with? Firstly I was able to work with documents that I would never have had access to previously – a genuinely fascinating and exciting process of discover, at times, almost a detective story venture. Secondly, I had to access documents from Great Britain and work with the Royal Mint and the Chancellor’s Office in Britain to access records on the Great Seal and other documentation provided to Commonwealth nations from the Crown. The research experience has been invaluable to providing me with the knowledge of what depths are needed if one is to write original work. One of the features of the experience was learning to negotiate across global networks to develop deeper understanding of the history surrounding British settlement.

How do I use my experience, skills and knowledge? In the years since I finished my studies at ANU I have taught English and History in secondary schools in both New South Wales and in the ACT. I am currently the Head of English at Carroll College Broulee. One of the greatest benefits I have had from my time with ANIP is the networking and contacts I made through the internship. Some of the people I contacted are now academic and personal mentors and friends.

I encourage any student to avail themselves of this experience. In will value mine as one of the most significant of my time as a student at ANU.

Pamela Cohen
Jee Hyun Park

Have you seen the debut of a creatively designed, sexy looking minicar called ‘Barina Spark’ in the Sydney Motor show last month? Well, that’s my baby.

I was an exchange student from Sogang Univ. (Korea) to ANU in 2005. I joined the ANIP program during my second semester of studies at ANU. I was placed in MP Andrew Laming’s office and conducted a research on Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) which was a hot issue in Australia back then.

Since then I returned to Korea, finished my bachelor’s degree on British and American culture, and joined a Korean subsidiary of ‘General Motors’ (i.e. GM-Daewoo). I have been working as a product manager in the Int’l Sales division where I have been involved in a number of interesting projects including the ‘M300’ project (which is the Global project name for GM’s very first minicar).

Looking back on the last 4 years, I think I have literally grown, both personally and intellectually, with the development of the project. As a product manager I have delivered market voices from more than 150 countries all over the world, and have met with people from many different backgrounds.

I strongly believe that my internship experience was greatly beneficial for me in preparing my career, since it broadened my scope of cultural understanding and also equipped me with the capability to tackle issues from multiple perspectives (since my research was a comparative study of VSU in an international student’s perspective!) Also the interpersonal skills that I gained during the internship by interviewing a number of students turned out to be very helpful in a situation where I had to interact on a daily basis with internal and external customers.

All in all, I am grateful to this day of the opportunity to participate in ANIP. I don’t know what adventures are waiting for me in the future but I have no doubt that I will proudly carry along my unique experience at ANIP where ever my next step might be.

Jee Hyun Park

Bella Counihan

Since being an intern in the ANIP program, I have been working as a researcher for the Age newspaper at parliament house and writing political odd ball pieces for Fairfax’s National Times website. It’s been an exciting year as you can imagine! Despite complaints that it was a dull campaign, it never seemed it from this end. I had my internship at parliament house and in a way it was an opportunity to see what happens in the office of a member of parliament. It has been valuable to have been on both sides of this weird symbiotic relationship that exists between media and politicians, and was very much worth doing. I’ve since written on exorcisms, certain shoe-throwing incidents, twittering pollies, fake Julia Gillard’s, eccentric campaigns and gay dinosaurs. So stay tuned, you never know what will happen next.

Bella Counihan

GOVERNOR GENERAL

I have been lucky enough to receive many fine invitations in my time, but few were equal to that I received to attend a reception with the Governor General. My invitation to attend the reception for ANIP Interns with Her Excellency, the Governor General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, at Government House, came on fine white cardboard, with a regal embossing of wattle and strict instructions for the event.

As a former ANIP intern, from Semester 1 2010, I felt privileged to be invited to attend and confirmed my attendance immediately. With the day approaching, my confusion over what to wear for such an important occasion was equalled by confusion over just the right conversation points to make with Her Excellency. As we arrived, I need not have been so concerned. We were welcomed to Government House by the Manager of Household Operations Mr Mark McConnell, and ushered into the main reception room, to enjoy drinks and canapés. Shortly after our arrival, Her Excellency, the Governor General and her husband, Mr Michael Bryce AM AE began to mingle amongst the interns. In a most accomplished fashion, Her Excellency met and
talked merrily with all assembled, and her charm and welcoming attitude removed any nervousness. After being introduced to her Excellency, I talked briefly with her about my completed internship and what I had gained from the program. Many other interns were also able to discuss their involvement in the program and their studies with her Excellency. Having met all assembled, Ms Bryce proceeded to formally address the reception, welcoming us all to the residence and noting the importance of the Australian National Internships Program.

After the formal conclusion of the proceedings, Her Excellency departed, but the Manager provided a tour of the building, which for many was almost as exciting as the just finished reception. In a manner befitting the residence of a Head of State, the House is adorned with many outstanding and important Australian artworks, on loan from the National Gallery. A particular highlight was being allowed into her Excellency’s study, and seeing a whole series of Sidney Nolan paintings along a hall.

Having concluded the tour, we were left to depart the House, before one final moment of pausing for a photo on the steps of the House, where many new Prime Ministers and their Ministries have posed following their swearing in. This moment for pause was a fitting end to the reception, held to acknowledge the role of the internships program, in providing student with a rare and unique insight into the many parts of the government and decision making process of the nation.

James Boyers

GRADUATION

An exciting and significant event for Interns is their Graduation ceremony, where they receive the degree certificate and are acknowledged publicly for your achievement. Best wishes all those who have recently graduated. In the words of Dr Seuss “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go.”

Ashley Cooper, Intern in S2 2009 graduated with Bachelor Arts/Bachelor Laws at Griffith University after completing the Washington Internship.

Xander Ryrie S1 2010 Intern was placed at the Land Warfare Studies Centre. Following his career choice Xander is undertaking further study at ADFA. He is pictured with the Director at his recent graduation.

Emma Brill was an Intern in S1 2009 and went onto Postgraduate studies, graduating from the Master of Strategic Affairs. Emma is pictured with Prof. Hugh White.

Carrick May, Intern in S1 2010 has secured a position with the Australian Federal Police and graduated in the Master of Politics & IR at UNSW.
CONGRATULATIONS

*Dr John Minns was awarded the Higher Education Teaching’s highest honour - the 2010 Prime Minister’s Award for Australian University Teaching. Dr Minns has hosted Interns as Director of the Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies (ANCLAS) and senior lecturer in Politics and International Relations at ANU. We congratulate him on this prestigious award

*Christopher Roberts - Intern 2002 on the birth of his daughter
*Sarah Sloan - Intern 2010 on her engagement
*Kara Hall and Andrew Muratore - Interns 2010 on their recent marriage (see story in next issue)

Robert and Cheryl would like to wish all of our friends, colleagues, placement hosts, former Interns and those Interns joining us for the first time in 2011, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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REMINDER
Application Closing Date for Semester 2, 2011 is Friday 29 April 2011