DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

The first half of 2019 was marked by the uncertainty of whether the Federal election would happen before, during or after students had begun their ANIP placements. We are therefore particularly grateful to our hosts across Parliament, government agencies, embassies and NGOs who enabled 82 students to undertake internships this semester.

As the ANIP policy workshops are now concentrated during Orientation Week, we have been fortunate with the range of alumni who have kindly returned to campus to speak with our current cohort of students. This semester we had a strong focus on the public service with alumni speakers from the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Parliamentary Library. We are extremely appreciative to Sophie Fisher (ANIP ’14), Harry Greenwell (ANIP ’99) and Luke Buckmaster (ANIP ’94) for sharing their experiences and expertise. Hearing about how the policy research context varies so significantly between our different host organisations makes these sessions with alumni one of the high points for our students.

Another important forum for ANIP to connect with its alumni is the ANIP Advisory Board, and we are grateful to Sophie Ryan (ANIP ’05), Chief Executive Officer at the Sony Foundation Australia for joining the Board. Sophie has a distinguished career in international law, business and philanthropy, which I am sure we will draw heavily on, as our current students have strong interests in all three areas.

First semester has also been marked by several departures from the ANIP team. Christina Rose played a major role in developing the program over the past two years as Senior Administrative Officer and has now taken up a new role with the ACT government. Jasmine Henkel has been the Communications Coordinator for ANIP's national recruitment campaign and our Alumni celebrations last year, and is moving into the Commonwealth public service. We’re also losing Veronique Therasse who assisted in managing student admissions and developed the CASS Careers Initiative that sought to engage students with new employability opportunities. It's been a real pleasure to be part of a such a talented team, each of whom has contributed so much to the Program.

Joining the ANIP team is Jane Coultas who has significant experience across ANU. The coming semester will begin with the launch at the National Museum of Australia of a series of policy briefings by ANIP students who undertook internships with Latin American Embassies in Canberra last year. Together their ANIP projects provide a comprehensive overview of Latin American immigrants in Australia. ANIP alumni are welcome to attend this event which will bring together policymakers, diplomats, community leaders and researchers.

Associate Professor Laurence Brown
Latin America Policy Briefings Launch

Thursday 25 July, 2pm – 4pm
Peninsula Room, National Museum of Australia, Canberra

ANIP and the Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies (ANCLAS) at The Australian National University invite you to the launch of the ANCLAS Latin America in Australia Policy Briefings.

This Policy Briefings series outline the dynamics of migration, integration and identity for 14 Latin American countries and is the product of a unique research collaboration between ANU and the Embassies of Latin America, supported by funding from DFAT’s Council on Australia Latin America Relations. The Embassies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, EL Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela each supported student researchers to undertake a research project with their migrant communities as part of the Australian National Internships Program.

Join us to celebrate the significant impact made by Latin American immigrants in Australia, and hear from researchers, policymakers and community leaders about the diversity of contributions and connections to Latin America.

One of the ANIP students who was part of the collaborative project was Alexis Castro Robles from the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, hosted by the Embassy of Guatemala in Canberra. His ANIP research project constructed a community profile of the Guatemalan-born population in Australia who arrived predominantly as political refugees between the 1970s and 1990s and as economic migrants ever since. The research project is being used by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala and led Alexis to undertake Honours at UNSW this year.

“ANIP gave me the opportunity to become engaged with a largely under-represented community living in Australia: the Guatemalan-born community,” says Alexis. “I focused on creating a community profile that details historical Guatemalan migration and refugee settlement waves and what distinguishes Guatemalans from other Latin American communities in Australia... ANIP has provided me with the skills to conduct a survey with Guatemalan refugees, and I have learned how to use recent census and migration data. I am now applying these skills to my Honours thesis which aims to refresh the concept of political participation to include the actions of refugees such as those who came from Guatemala to Australia.”

To celebrate the work of Alexis and many other students as part of the Latin America in Australia project, join ANIP and ANCLAS at the National Museum of Australia to launch the Latin America policy briefings.
Public policy internship programs in the US and Britain were part of the founding vision of ANIP. A quarter of century on, we are still drawing inspiration from international initiatives such as Harvard’s Women and Public Policy Program, University of Chicago’s Policy Labs, University of Manchester’s QStep Program, Stanford’s Life Design Lab and Yale’s Grand Strategy Program. Founding ANIP Director John Power offers the following review of Yale’s program.

Two recent books tell the story of the initiative taken by Yale University nearly two decades ago: Teaching Common Sense: The Grand Strategy Program at Yale University by Linda Kulman (Westport, Prospecta Press, 2016) and On Grand Strategy by John Lewis Gaddis (London, Allen Lane, 2018).

The first of these books was written by an experienced journalist working to a brief, and the second was written by one of the initiators of the Grand Strategy Program – also a distinguished historian who has contributed substantially to our understanding of modern security concerns. Apparently, modern political science has, in his view, not contributed much in this area, for the historian Gaddis prefers ancient scholars, such as Thucydides and Sun Tzu. It is unsurprising then to learn that Gaddis doesn’t “like the word ‘internship’” (Kulman, 2016, p. 122). It may be that internship programs have become too popular, for one of the chief rationales for the new program at Yale was that it catered for a need that was most acutely felt by students at an Ivy League University. Namely, the need for the training of future elites to be more concerned with the uncertainties that inevitably surrounded the formulation of Grand Strategies.

For this reason, the involvement of strategically minded practitioners has from the start of the Grand Strategy Program been emphasised, which differentiates it from the majority of existing internship programs. Therefore, a distinguished practitioner of governance – such as Charlie Hill – has been accorded high academic status.

There may, however, be a substantial price to be paid; the contribution modern political scientists could make to the Program is completely ignored. To illustrate this neglect, I came up with a list of several political scientists who have been connected in my mind with Yale: Bruce Ackerman, Robert Dahl, Robert Lane, Harold Lasswell, Ed Lindblom and Stephen Skowronek. Not one of these made it to the index of either of the aforementioned books. Instead, students are encouraged to learn from the experience in governance of such practitioners “in the twentieth century Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Winston Churchill, Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Adolph Hitler, Mao Zedong, Kennan, Kissinger, and Ronald Reagan” (Kulman, 2016, pp. 36–7). Perhaps some future enterprising student in the Grand Strategy Program or one of the other numerous internship programs could compose a paper showing what modern political scientists have to offer?

Sophie Fisher, ANIP ‘14: Sophie did her ANIP internship in 2014 at the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) where she researched disproportionate conservation burden on small island developing states in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. Sophie’s internship led to employment at AFMA and later she was part of the Australian delegation at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Technical and Compliance Committee meeting. In 2018, Sophie moved across to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Office of the Pacific to work on Pacific Security Cooperation. “Undertaking an ANIP internship helped to open a lot of doors for me and has had a significant influence on my career path to date,” Sophie says. “I continue to recommend the program to friends and colleagues as an unparalleled opportunity at ANU.”

Matthew Bowes, ANIP ‘18: Matthew did his ANIP internship last year in the House of Representatives, and soon after he won the EA Lyall Award from the Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) ACT for achieving the highest mark in the Bureaucracy and Public Policy course at ANU. Matthew was also part of the ANU project team responsible for Smartvote Australia, an innovative online platform that matches voters to candidates and parties that share their policy positions. “I’ve found projects like Smartvote and ANIP are great for your confidence.” Matthew says. “They give you a chance to overcome your fear about interacting with politicians and political leaders, and see their human side.”

Jessica Apolinar, ANIP ‘19: Jessica undertook her ANIP internship in semester 1 this year in the ACT Legislative Assembly. “During my internship I researched and developed a business case for a policy idea to help growth and development in Tuggeranong,” says Jessica. “The research project pushed me to step outside of my comfort zone. It challenged me to think broadly and opened my mind to topics that I hadn’t considered before. Most importantly, it helped me to grow and refine my writing, communication, management and problem solving skills in a way that only this kind of experience can provide.” Upon completion of her placement, Jessica was offered a job by her host. “My ANIP internship has been a rewarding and worthwhile experience,” she says. “It has provided me with further employment opportunities, valuable experience and connections, and the chance to work on an interesting project that is so close to home.”

THE GRAND STRATEGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT YALE UNIVERSITY
The Ken Wanganeen scholarship was established in memory of the distinguished Indigenous Australian, Mr Ken Wanganeen. Mr Wanganeen completed his first degree with honours at Flinders University and later became Assistant Secretary in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. He was committed to constructive ways of bringing the people of Australia together.

The Ken Wanganeen Scholarship is open to Indigenous Australians enrolled in ANIP. It was established to encourage young Indigenous Australians to develop their leadership skills and aspire to leadership positions in their community through undertaking an ANIP internship.

ANIP ’18 intern Mikayla-May Brinckley was awarded a Ken Wanganeen Scholarship to undertake her ANIP internship in the House of Representatives. She worked in the office of the Minister of Indigenous Health on a report to reduce rheumatic heart disease and renal disease.

“Having young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students doing ANIP means we are able to have our voices heard and represent our communities and people,” says Mikayla-May. “We’re able to help shape policy and give our communities the best outcomes by centring our knowledge and solutions. During my time at ANIP I worked with data from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure that our voices are captured in the planning to reduce the rates of these diseases in Indigenous communities. I enrolled in ANIP as I wanted to ensure I was gaining the best experience I could in the health sector, while also playing my role in helping ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are at the table when finding our own solutions to problems. The best way forward for Indigenous policy and solutions for issues in Indigenous communities comes from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people ourselves.”

HELP SUPPORT ANIP’S NEXT GENERATION

ANIP Travel Grants enable students from across Australia to participate in the unique experiences provided by the Program. As a merit-based applied policy research project, ANIP has a strong history of promoting equity and diversity in Australia’s leading institutions, and the Travel Grants play a central role in increasing that accessibility. Donations of any size are welcome. If you would like to support the ANIP Travel Grants, visit: anip.anu.edu.au/about/anip-endowment

TELL US YOUR STORY

What was your ANIP experience? Where did it take you? Share your story with us by emailing internships@anu.edu.au and give us your feedback via our Alumni Survey: https://alumniandfriends.anu.edu.au/surveys--forms/anip-survey