



Uni↔Capitol Washington Internship Programme

“Matching good people with good people in good places”
Individually-matched internships in the U.S. Congress



2017 program guide

First Edition

Welcome to the 18th program year of a unique exchange between Americans and Australians taking place in the United States Congress!

History

Beginning in March of 1999, a set of internship opportunities was designed and created in Washington, DC exclusively for Australian university students, with the first group arriving in January 2000 and lasting 6 weeks. By 2003 the demand on Capitol Hill for more Australian student interns and for greater diversity in field study evolved naturally into a multi-university expansion since known as the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme (UCWIP). Personalized experiences and recognition as young professionals are among the hallmarks of this exchange. UCWIP currently includes 10 participating Australian universities. Internships are 8 or more weeks and full-time. UCWIP seeks to match 12 to 14 students annually and exclusively to Congressional offices.

Principles and Achievement

A core principle of the UCWIP is to match good people with good people in good places: 184 students have been successfully matched across the first 17 years, including the modest single-uni beginnings. Internship prospects are offered in Democratic and Republican offices in the House and the Senate as well as one non-partisan commission office. Matched students are drawn from a breadth of academic disciplines including international relations, politics, commerce, law, political communications, economics, the sciences, and of course American studies. UCWIP's success is due to the commitments of numerous individuals and organizations towards enhancing or building new American-Australian relationships. Since its inception, dozens of statements in the **Congressional Record** along with news media accounts in both countries have confirmed the importance and value of this concept. In 2006, two speeches in the Australian Parliament extended this official recognition to **Hansard**. In 2014, there was a [Floor speech](#) in the US House of Representatives honoring a UCWIP intern.

Practices

UCWIP interns are accorded significant access to the US political system and institutions across their internships each January/February. In-office experiences will vary widely according to the needs of the congressional hosts. Administrative functions, constituent liaison, and legislative research and support have been among past internship touchstones. Offices typically encourage interns to attend hearings, briefings and press conferences both on and off Capitol Hill. Separately UCWIP organizes additional, entirely optional experiences such as: briefings or roundtables with present/former US/Australian officials, journalists and other Washington touchpoints; a day-trip to Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania, another to the origins of the American republic in Philadelphia (Independence Hall, Congress Hall and the National Constitution Center), and another to the United Nations and Australia's Mission to the UN in New York. Starting with the 2004 program, UCWIP has organized an annual Capitol Hill reception in honor of each intern group; locations have been reserved by a Member of Congress with catering provided by UCWIP's university partners. [A video of the 2016 reception is available through this hyperlink.](#)

For the January/February 2017 program, 18 congressional offices form a specific and confirmed universe of prospective hosts:

Rep. Robert B. Aderholt (Republican of Alabama)
Rep. Andre Carson (Democrat of Indiana)
Rep. James Clyburn (Democrat of South Carolina)
Rep. Joe Courtney (Democrat of Connecticut)
Sen. Mike Crapo (Republican of Idaho)
Rep. Rodney Davis (Republican of Illinois)
Rep. Peter DeFazio (Democrat of Oregon)
Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (Democrat of California)
Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (Republican of Florida)

Released 1 March 2016

Sen. Al Franken (Democrat of Minnesota)
Rep. Alcee Hastings (Democrat of Florida)
Sen. Robert Menendez (Democrat of New Jersey)
Rep. Jerrold Nadler (Democrat of New York)
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Republican of Florida)
Rep. John Shimkus (Republican of Illinois)
House Judiciary Committee (Minority office)
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (Minority office)
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

UCWIP offers individualized attention to the student interns before, during and after their internships. Notable measures of past intern success have included numerous letters of recommendation from congressional hosts; Floor recognition for legislative work; extended internships; a Member request to recruit a student for an American summer internship; and congressional job offers (with two accepted). Alumni later pursuing professional work in the Australian public sector, for example, have attained positions in the Prime Minister's office; in a variety of federal departments and agencies as well as in the states; at the Australian Consulate in New York; at the Australian Embassy in Washington, DC; and, the Australian Mission to the United Nations.

Leadership

UCWIP was created in Washington, DC by Eric K. Federer, who has also directed the program *pro bono* beginning with its single-uni origins in 1999. Federer was a senior congressional advisor for a dozen years as communications director/press secretary for Rep. Norm Mineta of California, the House Transportation Committee, and Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut. During that time, Federer began frequent speaking tours at numerous universities, business groups, and think tanks across Australia regarding U.S. policymaking, politics and press. Federer is currently Managing Director, Business and Public Policy, Office of Government Affairs, KPMG LLP. He is a Board member of the congressionally-chartered National Conference on Citizenship, an Honorary Board member of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, and a member of the Washington, DC Advisory Council for Global Kids. He has been listed in *Who's Who in America* annually since 2000 and *Who's Who in the World* since 2015. In recognition of UCWIP, Federer received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Internationalisation in 2011 from the University of Queensland. **In 2015, Federer was honored with appointment as a Member in the Order of Australia.** Daphne Clones Federer, herself a former senior congressional staffer with the bicameral Joint Economic Committee, assists in the 'matching' process and on-the-ground support. **It should be noted that UCWIP is not an entity; UCWIP facilitates.**

Applications and Preparations

Each participating university determines administrative and application procedures in conjunction with UCWIP. Due to the mandatory course-credit nature of the internships, each university is considered the controlling entity for participation in UCWIP. Internships are unpaid. Deadlines are uniform and set by UCWIP. Annual telebriefings are scheduled with universities and interested applicants typically in late April/early May. Applications in hard-copy are due to UCWIP by June 15th. UCWIP then proposes/facilitates matches by the end of June, with matches confirmed in July. **The 2017 internships will run from Tuesday, January 3rd through Friday, March 3rd.** Participants should plan to arrive in Washington, DC between December 27 and 30, 2016. Planning a personal budget and fundraising cannot be overemphasized. Air travel, accommodations, commuting, food, visa, etc. are estimated to be A\$10,000+ and an overall budget minimum as A\$15,000+, assuming an exchange rate of \$A1.00 = US\$0.75. Applicants are asked to provide assurances that they have or will raise this capital.

UCWIP is competitive and seeks mature, engaging, articulate students to serve as ambassadors for themselves, their universities, and Australia. Since the advent of the multi-university format for the 2004 program, more than 60 applications have been received annually on average, with an average of 70 in most-recent years. **No quotas of any sort are applied.** Applicants are asked to demonstrate an understanding for and an appreciation of the American political process. Students should aspire to benefit from the experience academically, professionally, culturally, and personally. Academic study and achievement are among many factors considered. Paid or voluntary work experiences, sophisticated interpersonal skills, resourcefulness, communications skills and general knowledge are top assets. Applicants must provide a free-style one-page essay explaining why this opportunity is of general interest. Applicants must then choose between one and four offices from the list of prospective congressional hosts for 2014 and advocate for those specific internships. UCWIP then seeks the best 12 to 14 matches annually taking all these factors into account from all applicants.

UCWIP regards participants as young professionals. Resources offered include a referral to upmarket sharehouse arrangements in northern Virginia; counsel towards the US Government-required J1 visa; continual on-the-ground guidance. The J1 visa is obtained by each successfully-matched student through US consulates (typically Sydney, Melbourne and Perth) and in direct conjunction with their congressional hosts, a process enabled through the Council for International Educational Exchanges; CIEE's Australian affiliate is Student Placement Australia and New Zealand. The total cost of securing the J1 visa through SPANZ/CIEE and a US consulate may be estimated at A\$1,700 (a sum included in the above budget estimate.) All internships are designed to evolve quickly into direct relationships between congressional host and student, the accommodations provider and student, etc. **For the specific rules and procedures to take advantage of the accommodations referral – which is an entirely optional housing arrangement – please enquire with your university contact;** UCWIP is the facilitator. **Only Australian citizens (including dual nationals) enrolled within the 10 participating universities are eligible to apply to UCWIP and should do so through:**

Eric K. Federer, Founder and Director

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What some others have said about UCWIP

The Sydney Morning Herald

Study local, think global (*excerpts*)

by Elizabeth Kelleher

August 5, 2010

Overseas internships are giving students an edge in pursuing their careers, writes Elizabeth Kelleher.

"Each experience opens the door to the next bigger, better opportunity," says University of Wollongong student James Deane of the internship he recently completed at the office of Congressman James Clyburn in Washington D.C. "It's difficult to describe how much you get out of working in a leadership office in the United States for a year because every day something new or exciting would happen," Deane says. "In a practical sense, it gave me the ability to stand out from the crowd. The internship definitely captures the attention of selection committees and job interview panels."

Deane, 25, is one of a growing number of students who are taking advantage of overseas internship opportunities to jumpstart their careers. He visited Capitol Hill as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, which is offered through the University of Wollongong, the University of Sydney and the University of Canberra. The program takes 12 students annually from a range of academic disciplines, including international relations, politics, communications, commerce, law and science.

A senior lecturer in history and politics at the University of Wollongong, Dr Anthony Ashbolt, says the Washington internships are particularly valuable because they immerse the students in a different political culture.

"[The internship] challenges them and perhaps at times confronts them, in ways that contribute positively to their understanding of politics." ...

Capitol experience leaves a lasting impression on aspiring student

When University of Wollongong student Lily Jade Frencham, 22, applied for the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program in May 2008, she was skeptical about her chances of being selected. She knew there had been a record number of applicants and "every step of the selection process, I was sure I'd be knocked out... I almost didn't write the application essay component because I thought there was no point."

But Frencham, who will graduate with a bachelor of laws/bachelor of media (journalism) in December, made it through and was soon working as a press intern in the office of Congressman John Tierney.

"The internship has inspired me to always strive to reach for what you most want. It has inspired me to persist and to push further than I ever would have otherwise, with the knowledge that the only time you're not guaranteed to get what you most desire is when you don't try," she says. "It's been an incredible stepping stone. It was actually directly due to my internship that I was approached by the Oaktree Foundation to direct and lead a youth delegation to the United Nations Summit in New York City. For me, that's pretty much a dream come true."



Seeing Capitol Hill from Down Under *(excerpts)* **By Kris Kitto** **February 24, 2009**

Australians interning on Capitol Hill this winter say the biggest surprise about American politics is how friendly people are....

"I've had people say, 'Are you English? Are you Australian?' " says 19-year-old Alex Maschmedt of his phone conversations with Rep. Mike Castle's (R-Del.) constituents. "I find that if people do pick up on the accent, they haven't reacted any other way than very friendly."

His countryman John Fowler, 23, an intern for Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.), says he was taken aback by the collegial atmosphere in Congress. "I expected it to be a bit more rigid," he says, adding that he was pleasantly surprised to see that many lawmakers don't take themselves too seriously.

Perhaps Maschmedt, Fowler and the 10 other Australians here as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program are being generous with their compliments. Their two-month-long stints have already exposed them to the friendly and not-so-friendly aspects of politics in America, yet they nearly always seem to find the bright side.

"It's this sense of personal growth, enterprise and being able to represent yourself so well so young," says [Eric] Federer, a former Capitol Hill staffer....

Federer started the program after vacationing in Australia in 1992 and noticing from Australians both a curiosity regarding American government as well as misinformation about his home country. He returned to Australia several more times and began mulling the idea of an exchange between the two countries. ...

"I believe Congress is one of the great meeting places on this planet," he says....

Federer donates all of his time to organizing the program, and now has some 60 yearly applicants from whom to choose 12 participants, who fund the internship on their own. Federer custom matches the interns to a participating congressional office according to their goals and interests.

Many lawmakers see the value of the cultural exchange.

Eric K. Federer, Founder and Director

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“We have found it very helpful,” says Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), who recalls having hosted at least two or three Australian interns. “They’ve been able to provide some diversity” in the office, and have exposed his staff to different points of view, he says.

Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) agrees that it has been nice to get “input from someone from that part of the world.” “It’s an incredible insight in our office,” he says.

This year’s interns watch their bosses closely and have seized on the opportunities their offices have given them. One intern couldn’t attend a group interview with The Hill because he was accompanying House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.) to the Democratic retreat in Virginia. Another is extending her internship in Sen. Chris Dodd’s (D-Conn.)

One of Maschmedt’s highlights in Castle’s office was a trip to the congressman’s district before Inauguration activities. He helped the congressman distribute tickets to his constituents. “It was extremely interesting to see people’s faces,” Maschmedt says. “I never expected in my life I’d end up in Wilmington, Del., handing out tickets to the Inauguration.”



Down-Under Interns *(excerpts)*

By Timothy Taylor February 8, 2006

Instead of surfing and tanning, 12 Australian university students are spending their summer breaks in a cold and wintry Washington, D.C., to learn about the Congressional process and U.S.-Australian relations. The students are participating in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship program, which selects undergraduates from seven of its participating Australian colleges and universities to come to Washington and partake in the political feast better known as Washington politics.

Ryan Conroy and Jessica Gurevich said that they have both come to enjoy their time in Washington for the [eight]-week internship program. Gurevich, who interns in Rep. Mike Castle's (R-Del.) office, said that she could not have passed up the opportunity to work in Congress. She also described her colleagues as a "family," in which she and her co-workers have taken a mutual liking for one another and have been able to learn of the cultural and political similarities and differences....

[Director and founder Eric] Federer likened the program to the Fulbright Scholar Program "with a twist" (Fulbright, sponsored by the State Department, allows students and other scholars to study in different sections of the world). However, he said that the Uni-Capitol program is unlike any other program because of its focus on the students as individuals.

The application process is key in pairing a student up with a host office, Federer said. Conroy, an international relations major with a focus on law and the arts, interns in the office of Rep. Sam Farr (D-Calif.), who serves on the Appropriations subcommittee on Agriculture, rural development, Food and Drug Administration and related agencies, which has congressional oversight of the Health and Human Services Department. Conroy said that he is interested in both international and domestic policies and health issues Conroy added that working in Farr's has afforded him the opportunity to attend briefings on such issues as a United Nations response fund to assist developing countries.



Congressional Record

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AS AMBASSADORS TO AND FROM CONGRESS
SPEECH OF **HON. JERROLD NADLER** OF NEW YORK IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 4, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, there is a long list of people and institutions that have helped our nation flourish through our nearly 228 years of independence. One of our greatest traditions as Americans is to welcome friends from around the world into our lives--sometimes professionally and sometimes personally.

Most congressional offices host American college students, to help our nation's future leaders understand the political complexities affecting our constituents and our jobs as their representatives. Now, thanks to the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, some of Australia's best and brightest university students have had the opportunity to participate in six-week, full-time internships in House and Senate offices. These internships have proved to be an invaluable learning experience, both for the students and for their hosts.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
SPEECH OF **HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE** OF DELAWARE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 15, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, each year America hosts thousands of foreign students from around the globe. For those of us who develop a professional or personal relationship with any of these individuals, we are truly enriched by their different perspective on the world....

For over 100 years, Australia and the United States have enjoyed a unique partnership that has endured world wars, economic malaise, and our current battle with terrorism. This tradition continues through the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, which provides Australian students with the opportunity to experience American democracy first-hand through internships with Congressional offices.

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
SENATOR **DEBBIE STABENOW** OF MICHIGAN
January 26, 2006

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, each year congressional offices host American college students as interns, to help our future leaders learn about public service and see how their Government works firsthand. Today, I would like to let you know about a program that gives Australian students the opportunity to experience our democratic and legislative process. It's called the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program.... Twelve of Australia's brightest are here, pursuing knowledge and understanding. In so doing, we are all finding new reasons to like an old friend....

The selection process for the students is competitive and intellectually rigorous, ensuring the highest quality applicant. All participating students are comprehensively matched with a congressional office and corresponding position. They come from a wide range of academic disciplines and bring as much knowledge and understanding to our offices as they take away.... Australia continues to be one of America's strongest allies. Our greatest gift is the friendship born of shared values. I thank the Uni-Capitol Program and these Australian interns for their hard work, and I wish the program continued success.

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
STATEMENT OF **SENATOR MIKE CRAPO** OF IDAHO
January 23, 2007

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, as modern communication makes our world increasingly smaller, linking global societies at unprecedented business, government and social levels, it is critical that America and other democracies worldwide engage in

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a process of ongoing co-education about the efforts and work of democratic governments. This educational exchange is best facilitated by hands-on learning and personal experience. A terrific example of this effort is the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, in which outstanding college students from seven of Australia's top universities compete for the opportunity to serve as interns for Members of the U.S. Congress....I am fortunate to be able to participate this year. Charis Tierney from Brisbane, Queensland, has been a wonderful addition to my office this winter.

She says of this opportunity: *The UCWIP has been a once in a lifetime to not only observe but participate in the work of the U.S. Congress. Working within Senator Crapo's office has given me the kind of unique appreciation for the United States Senate's work that can only be gained from behind the scenes. My daily interaction with the fantastic staff of the Senator's office has only enhanced the experience. ...*

This valuable program bridges the 9,000 miles that separate the United States and Australia with the friendship of shared experiences and realization and application of common goals and interests.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
SPEECH OF **HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN** OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 8, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, as we listen to our constituents, grapple with their needs, speak out, legislate, and otherwise work to improve their lives and the life of our Nation, we take great pride in the ability of Congress and our system of government to inspire the world beyond our borders. But just as important as this inspiration is the recognition of what we all can learn from that world, from people who want to study, visit or otherwise immerse themselves in this great institution as a means towards better understanding the United States.

For the last 8 years, a unique international exchange has taken place here in Congress. Future leaders of Australia have participated in what's known as the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Through this program each year, one dozen of Australia's best and brightest university students have been carefully matched to House and Senate offices for two-month full-time internships. These internships have enabled me and many of my colleagues to share our pride in the American republic while at the same time learning more firsthand about the Australian commonwealth, its people, its ideas, and our numerous shared values.

It is an understatement to say that Australia and the United States are close allies globally or that we merely have such similarities as vibrant democracies, free-enterprise economies, and diverse societies. We are in many ways close cousins with complex national histories. That is what these young Australians get to learn as they are welcomed here, and how we profit by their all-too-brief presence among us.

This year, it has been my pleasure to participate in this program for the third time and host Sylvia Gaston from the University of Melbourne. Her kindness, can-do spirit, eagerness to learn, and willingness to share her views with me and my staff have made her an exceptional ambassador for her university and for her country. During her time with us, the closeness of the Australian and American peoples is clearly evident, just as it is evident that this exchange is not merely an academic exercise or even confined to Congress. It is about building for tomorrow, about personal and professional growth, and about lasting international friendships....

Madam Speaker, many of my colleagues have recognized this effort over the years. I did so myself 4 years ago when the annual intern group was much smaller and drawn from only a single Australian university. It is heartening to see how much this program has grown, thrived, and how tribute has been paid not just here but in the Australian Parliament....

My great hope is not only that this program continues, but that others will be founded in its spirit and focused towards as many peoples and places as possible in our world.

HONORING THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
SPEECH OF **HON. JOE COURTNEY** OF CONNECTICUT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 7, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for decades the United States has looked towards Australia as one of our closest of cultural, economic and security partners. This is true not just between the two governments but among Americans and Australians who have crossed the Pacific to visit with or work with each other. I am pleased to rise today to recognize the

Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, which annually delivers some of Australia's best and brightest university students to a bipartisan and bicameral array of congressional offices for two-month internships.

This is the first year that I have been privileged to participate in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. A student emissary to my office, Anthony Bremner, has added first-hand value to our understanding of global issues and perspectives as seen from Australia. Anthony, who visits us from the University of Queensland, is a text-book example of the high caliber of this program. Over the past two months, he has applied his volunteer experiences from the constituency office of Australia's newly elected Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, to my office. During this time, Anthony has attended committee briefings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted my staff with research.....

Anthony is not alone in this effort. This year, a record 13 students from all across Australia were matched with as many congressional offices. They were drawn from seven Australian universities in four different states and the Australian Capital Territory. Far from a solely academic exercise, the Uni-Capitol program is a practical investment in our global community, given the diverse array of congressional participants and an equally diverse array of student interests ranging from law to commerce, from the environment to communications, from international affairs to American studies....

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2008

STATEMENT OF **SENATOR MIKE CRAPO** OF IDAHO

February 11, 2008

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I am proud to be involved for a second year in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, an exchange program in which outstanding college students from Australia's top universities compete to serve as interns for the U.S. Congress. The program is in its ninth year of bringing the Washington experience to our friends from Australia, firsthand. In addition to working in congressional offices, the program provides students with a number of other opportunities and activities, including visits to historic sites, visits to government agencies, meetings with government leaders, and educational events.

This year, Suzi Allan, a student from the University of Canberra, Australia, is taking a 2-month hiatus from her communications degree to help me serve Idaho constituents. Of the program, Suzi says, "The UCWIP has given me the unique opportunity to gain firsthand insight into the world's most influential government. I have had incredible experiences while working in Senator Crapo's office and have enjoyed learning more about the U.S. Congress. Working in the heart of America's political establishment is a fantastic experience that I will always remember." ...

Free nations have a responsibility to work together to promote the liberty that have provided social, cultural, and economic success. Bringing young people together in their formative educational years promotes these partnerships for prosperity across national lines and highlights our Nations' shared goals and interests. I am pleased to be able to participate in this well-crafted and successful program.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

SPEECH OF **HON. SAM FARR** OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 12, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. This program is a wonderful educational experience for both the intern who works in a congressional office, and for the office who receives an intern from the program. The program annually delivers some of Australia's best and brightest university students who have a passion for and commitment to civic engagement and public service to congressional offices for 2-month internships....

This year I welcomed a wonderful student-ambassador to my office, Stephanie Lyons, who has shared with us her experiences as a newcomer to Washington from the perspective of an Australian. Stephanie, who visits us from the University of Canberra, is a great example of the high quality students who are involved in this program. With a bachelor's degree in communication, specializing in public relations and political communication, Stephanie will this year commence her honors degree, drawing upon her experiences here in Washington as a research stimulus. Throughout her time in this office, she has had the chance to pursue her interests in the media and a range of issues, from foreign affairs, human rights, and diplomacy to science and the environment.

Eric K. Federing, Founder and Director

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Over the past month, she has been an invaluable asset to this office. She has attended committee briefings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted my staff with research. Her Australian accent has garnered the attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. She is often asked to share her experiences in Washington, DC.... I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and, again, thank Stephanie Lyons for her participation and hard work.

RECOGNIZING THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
SPEECH OF **HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS** OF FLORIDA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 5, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Since the inception of the Uni-Capitol program, I have participated in this relationship building program.... I have benefited greatly by the work of unique and talented individuals that produced top-notch work to both of my offices....This is the first year that I have also hosted an intern at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe in my capacity as Chairman. I have been pleased to host two amazing young women, Siobhan Coughlan and Katrina Mae.

Siobhan Coughlan, who is in her third year at the University of Queensland, first arrived in the Helsinki Commission's office on January 3, 2008, and since then has provided able, thorough, and important assistance to the professional staff of the Commission. Over the past two months with the Commission, Siobhan has demonstrated her honorable personal character and integrity in the way she confronted the topic of human rights and democratic principles and the manner in which she interacted with staff on economic development and tolerance issues in a domestic and international context. Siobhan has served our organization in a number of capacities, and at each stage has proven to be valuable because of her professionalism, her drive to succeed, and her ability to work well within a group dynamic. Siobhan always demonstrated the highest level of conscience in keeping the respectability of our program as she sought to achieve our common goals. Siobhan brought her courteous and positive demeanor to hearings, briefings and events that the Commission held and events she attended on behalf of the staff here at the Commission. Much as been gained by having an international student at our side and Siobhan has greatly contributed her experiences, ideas, and thoughts that are shared by our good Australian friends across the water. I am delighted that she's able to extend her internship for another two months.

In her short time here, Katrina Mae has become an indispensable asset to my office. An undergraduate law student at the University of Wollongong, Katrina came to my office with an ardent interest in civil rights and a desire to work with individuals who support policies that encourage tolerance and cooperation across racial and cultural lines. Over the course of her two months, she has attended hearings and briefings on a myriad of policy issues, drafted countless constituent correspondence, assisted visitors and callers in her always patient and thoughtful manner, and helped several staffers with legislative research and special projects. While her professional skills and academic credentials are certainly impressive, Katrina is also an absolute pleasure to work with. No matter the assignment, she is always eager to help and approaches every new task with a smile. The anecdotes of her adventures as a first-time visitor to the United States were a constant source of entertainment, and her tales of life in Australia gave our office a greater understanding of her country's rich history, culture, and values. Katrina arrived on Capitol Hill hoping to acquire a better understanding of the U.S. legislative process, and it is my sincere hope that she benefited as much from this experience as we did from having her with us. ...

Over the last nine years, my staff and I have greatly benefited from the relationships that have been made from the result of this program as it continues to provide all of us an extraordinary experience with our friends on the other side of the ocean. It has been a great privilege to host Siobhan and Katrina and I ask all my colleagues to extend their open arms to the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to our Australian friends in the future.

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
SPEECH OF **HON. JOE COURTNEY** OF CONNECTICUT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for decades the United States has worked closely with Australia on issues of great importance to our two nations. Australia has stood out among the international community as a friend of the United States and remains one of our closest cultural, economic and security partners. It is in this spirit that a program was launched 10 years ago to further foster those close ties. Since that time, the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program has delivered to the United States approximately 100 of Australia's best and brightest to serve as interns in a variety of Federal agencies and congressional offices.

During my first term in Congress, I was privileged to welcome Anthony "A.J." Bremmer to my office. Anthony was a welcome addition to my congressional staff and he quickly became an integral part of the team. When the opportunity arose again this winter to participate in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, I immediately agreed to welcome another Australian "ambassador." Jehane Sharah, much like A.J., has quickly become a valued part of our staff. Jehane has demonstrated a maturity and a curiosity beyond her college years. Prior to coming to the United States, Jehane worked for two members of the Australian parliament. This experience has helped her flourish during her short time in Washington. She has attended briefings, assisted constituents, and worked with my staff on a variety of research initiatives. Jehane also has an extensive background in communications, serving as a senior reporter for a newspaper in Canberra. As a result, she has assisted my communications director on a number of important projects. Jehane truly is an exceptional ambassador for the people of Australia....

From my experience, it is clear that this program will help foster a new generation of understanding and shared experiences between our two countries. One example of this can be seen in a recent feature piece written by Jehane for the Sunday Canberra Times. The article details her experience at the inauguration of President Obama, an event that united not only the people of our country, but those around the world as well....

Madam Speaker I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to once more thank Jehane Sharah for her dedication and hard work.

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2009
STATEMENT OF **SENATOR MIKE CRAPO** OF IDAHO
January 27, 2009

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I am proud to be involved for a third year in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, UCWIP, an exchange program in which outstanding college students from Australia's top universities compete to serve as interns for the U.S. Congress....

This year, Nicholas Tam, a student from Melbourne University in Australia, is taking a 2-month hiatus from his law degree to help me serve Idaho constituents. Of the program, Nick says, "Working with Senator Crapo has been a gateway to developing a nuanced, sophisticated understanding of the United States and its precise position and role in the world. UCWIP has been culturally enriching and enhancing of my own professional development. It has been a real privilege to aid in the advancement of strong conservative principles whilst working here in the United States Senate." Nick is a terrific temporary addition to my staff and, like past interns, an intelligent individual, hard worker and personable....

[T]his educational and highly successful exchange program has earned a rightful place among leading international academic exchange opportunities. I am honored to continue to participate in this well-crafted and successful program.

IN HONOR OF CASSANDRA LAWRY AND THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME
HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE OF DELAWARE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme. This program provides Congressional offices with not only tremendous Australian students and employees, but also wonderful people, and I am pleased to have hosted a number of students--including our most recent student, Cassandra Lawry--over the past several years.

The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme was founded in 1999 to offer students from Australia's top universities the opportunity to learn and appreciate the American political system, serve as ambassadors for their country and gain valuable academic and professional experience. Each year, after competing for admission into this highly selective program, these students put their studies on hold and come to Washington, D.C. to intern for eight weeks, largely at their own expense. The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme is not only beneficial for the Australian students, but also for their new co-workers, who are able to gain insight from their unique perspective on political issues.

This year, I have the privilege of hosting Cassandra Lawry. Cass comes to us from Sylvania in New South Wales and is currently completing her bachelor's degree at Wollongong University, where she is studying history and politics. During her

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time here, Cass has attended briefings, drafted constituent correspondence and assisted my staff with various other administrative duties. Cass's work ethic and positive attitude have made her a great addition to our team. She hopes that experience gained from her internship on Capitol Hill will provide valuable knowledge that she can use in the completion of her degree when she returns home. Following graduation, Cass plans on returning to Washington, D.C. to work on Capitol Hill.

Once again, I thank and commend Cassandra Lawry for her outstanding service to my office and this country, as well as the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme for connecting us with numerous other dedicated students like her. I look forward to continuing our partnership for many years.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. SAM FARR OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program.... This year, I welcomed an outstanding student-ambassador to my office, Erin Riley, who has shared with us the different perspective she offers as a newcomer to Washington, D.C. Ms. Riley joined my office from the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, and has proven to be a shining example of the high caliber of students who are involved in this program. Currently undertaking a Master of Letters degree in U.S. Studies, Erin has relished the opportunity to see the practical application of her studies in American politics and has had the chance to gain hands-on experience in working on domestic issues, especially health care policy.... The Uni-Capitol program gives its students practical experience and allows them to gain knowledge and understanding of the internal workings of the United States Government....

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to help foster international connections by participating in this rewarding program. It is truly heartening to see how much this program has grown over the years, and I look forward to its continued success. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program and, again, thank Erin Riley for her admirable participation and diligent work.

RECOGNIZING THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

STATEMENT OF **SENATOR MIKE CRAPO** OF IDAHO

February 22, 2010

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, today I wish to take note of a great international internship program that is now celebrating its 11th year. I am proud to be involved for a 4th year in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, UCWIP, an exchange program in which outstanding college students from Australia's top universities compete to serve as interns for the U.S. Congress....

Benjamin Watson, a student from the University of Western Australia, is spending a couple of months in my office, helping me serve Idaho constituents. But students from the Uni-Capitol Washington Programme can be found throughout congressional offices, working for both the House and the Senate.

I asked Ben to share his thoughts about this program, and he said, "The UCWIP has truly been a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Working in Senator *Crapo's* office has given me an insight into the workings of the world's most influential democracy, adding a practical element to my studies in politics and law. My internship has given me the chance to interact with interesting people and understand the processes and procedures of U.S. Congress, within the friendly and welcoming environment of Senator *Crapo's* office."

Ben has been a great addition to my intern staff for the spring semester, and has spent many hours helping keep my schedule and activities running smoothly. His efforts are much appreciated. And I am sure that the other offices that have participated in this program feel that way toward the work of those assigned to their offices

HONORING THE UNI-CAPITOL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART OF FLORIDA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, The United States and Australia share a longstanding relationship that has allowed the two nations to cooperate on many international issues. Due to the strength and depth of this

relationship, the United States has relied on the support of our ally Australia in many of our mutual international objectives. This relationship continues to be strengthened through the cooperation of our two governments and through the cultural exchanges that occur between our nations....

[T]he Uni-Capitol Internship Program enables a select group of young Australian students to experience the work of the United States Congress. I have had the opportunity to work with three Australian students during the past five years and their professionalism and work ethic has been extraordinary.

This year my office worked with another student from the Uni-Capitol Internship Program, Matthew Robertson. Matthew is a third year law student at Deakin University in Melbourne Australia. He applied to the program with the hope to learn more about the American government. Matthew's extensive knowledge of the Australian government and legal system enhances his understanding of the American legislative process. During his time at my office he had the opportunity to attend Committee hearings, briefings, perform legislative research, and prepare memos for my staff and myself. His professionalism in the office and willingness to handle any task that was assigned to him were outstanding. It has truly been a pleasure to have Matthew in the office.

I am certain that my colleagues were similarly impressed with the work done by the eleven other Australian students in the program. I rise to commend the Uni-Capitol Internship Program for its work to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Australia; and offer Matthew my thanks for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME
HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR OF MINNESOTA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a unique international exchange program, one in which the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has participated since its inception 11 years ago.

The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme (UCWIP) matches a dozen of Australia's best university students to Congressional offices for 2-month, full-time internships each January and February. The program is nonpartisan, bicameral, and focuses on connecting people for lasting education and mutual understanding. It is a true exchange that regards its participants as young professionals looking to enter the working world with a head start of sophistication, personal growth, and international sensibilities....

I've been a proud host of an astounding quintet of Australia's finest student interns: Narelle Hards from Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia, in 2000; Louise Squire from the University of Western Australia in Perth in 2004; Lauren Reed from Deakin University, in the Melbourne metropolitan area of Victoria, in 2005; Michael Ng from the University of Melbourne, in 2007; and this year, Clara Jordan-Baird, of the University of Melbourne.

Each has brought with them knowledge of and passion for transportation. I recall vividly, for example, how Lauren Reed briefed Committee staff about her home state of Victoria and its compelling anti-drunk driving campaign. Narelle, Louise, Lauren, Michael, and Clara have each contributed broadly and directly to United States-Australia relations thanks to their insights, observation, and helping hands as our Committee workload demanded....

For this program we have to thank a longtime former congressional staffer, Eric K. Federing. Eric served as the Committee's communications director in the mid-1990s. During his personal travels to Australia, Eric discovered what he perceived to be a small, but important, gap in Australia-American relationships and he designed this program to help fill it.

Madam Speaker, we should encourage these types of international exchanges. The more that we can arrange for the finest students and young professionals from around the world to spend some meaningful time among us, the better that we will understand them and they will understand us....

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME
STATEMENT OF **SENATOR MIKE CRAPO** OF IDAHO
February 2, 2011

Eric K. Federing, Founder and Director

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Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, UCWIP. For more than a decade, this international internship program has been enabling outstanding Australian college students to participate in internships throughout the U.S. Congress.

Students participating in the program obtain immeasurable experience through their congressional internships, and participants also have the opportunity to participate in other educational experiences, including U.S. historic site and government agency visits and other learning events. I am proud to be involved in this rewarding and well-rounded exchange program, and I am grateful for the contribution Uni-Capitol Washington Programme interns continue to make in providing valuable viewpoints and helping me serve Idaho constituents.

Gemma Whiting, a UCWIP participant, has joined my staff as an intern this semester. She is studying law/arts at the University of Western Australia, where she is majoring in political science and international relations. Gemma has spent many hours helping keep my schedule and activities running smoothly, and she has been an immense asset. Her commitment and hard work are appreciated, and we are fortunate to have Gemma as a part of the team. I asked her to share her impressions regarding the program and her internship. She said, "It was an honor to be a part of UCWIP 2011. The opportunity to work in Senator *Crapo's* office has been the most remarkable experience. I could not have hoped for a more welcoming and affable office. The insight gained through this opportunity is invaluable, adding a higher level of understanding to the intricate workings of the U.S. Congress and the world's foremost democracy. This internship has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, adding priceless knowledge to my studies in Law and Political Science. I could not have had a more enjoyable or memorable experience thanks to Senator *Crapo's* office."....

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. SAM FARR OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the current participants of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program is a unique eight week experience that brings some of the most dedicated Australian university students who have exhibited a passion for civic engagement and public service to Washington, DC to work in Congressional offices.

This year, I am honored to welcome Elizabeth 'Liz' Noble into my Washington, DC office and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in this valuable exchange program, as I have since this program was established in 2000....

Ms. Noble joined my office on January 3, 2011 from the University of Canberra where she is pursuing her B.A. in International Studies and Political Communication. During her time in my office, Liz has proven herself to be a tremendously caring, intelligent and dedicated intern and I am honored to host her. In addition to serving my constituents with professionalism and respect, she has attended hearings and briefings, drafted legislative correspondence and has assisted my staffers with a variety of important research projects....

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express how remarkable the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program is and how critical it is to strengthening ties with America's allies. Participating in this special exchange is a memorable experience that will stay with Liz, her peers and my staff for the rest of their lives.... I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program and, again, thank Elizabeth Noble for her admirable participation and diligent work.

RECOGNIZING ESTELLE WALLINGFORD

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone who has been a valuable asset during her time as an intern in my office, Estelle Wallingford.

Estelle came to my office from Australia as a participant in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme. Already an accomplished student at the University of Melbourne where she studies Political Science and Philosophy, as well as Economics, she left the Australian summer to join us in DC as winter set in this January. During her time in my office, Estelle has been a quick learner, picking up and understanding the similarities and differences between our U.S. Congress and

Australia's Parliament. At the same time, she has excitedly shared her knowledge and culture with my staff, leading them in their first ever celebration of Australia Day.

Estelle's love of Australia and desire to share it with others in the United States was exemplified by her efforts to revive the House's Friends of Australia Caucus. During a project to update a listing of Congressional Member Organizations for my office, she realized that there are caucuses fostering friendship between the United States and a number of other nations, but not one for Australia. I am proud to report that through her efforts to reach out to other Members of Congress and her own embassy, Estelle's vision of the Friends of Australia Caucus is already taking shape.

I join my colleagues in congratulating Estelle Wallingford on her accomplishments during her time in the United States and thank her for her hard work and knowledge she has imparted to me and my staff. I wish her the best in her future endeavors as she returns home, to Australia.

HONORING JOSH UNDERWOOD

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT OF ALABAMA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Mr. Josh Underwood, one of the twelve interns from the Uni-Capitol Washington Program, UCWIP who is currently interning in my office. The Uni-Capitol Washington Program has paired some of the brightest Australian students with various congressional offices for more than a decade and I am happy to have been a host.

Josh comes from University of Queensland and is studying law and philosophy. Over the past month, I have found him to be outstanding in his duties and going above and beyond our expectations. When complimenting Josh to Mr. Federer, the director agreed saying "Josh has been a standout among standouts in everything I've organized" and I agree wholeheartedly. He has attended committee hearings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted me as well as my staff with research. His Australian accent has garnered the attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. Josh's commitment, hard work, and presence have been an asset to the office and he will be sorely missed by all....

These student placements are enhanced by the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. We are grateful for these friendships and it is our hope that they strengthen the diplomatic ties of our great countries.... Simply put, this program selects incredibly talented individuals that are a pleasure to host and work with. It was an honor to have Josh in our office and would wish him the very best, but I sincerely doubt he needs it. Josh, thank you again for your hard work and dedication.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. SAM FARR OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Since its inception 13 years ago, the program has placed some of Australia's best and brightest university students, who have exhibited a passion for civic engagement and public service, with House and Senate offices for two-month full-time internships annually....

It is an understatement to say that the United States and Australia are close allies globally, or that we share many political and economic traits. We are in many ways akin to extended family, sharing much tied history and culture. It is in this spirit that the program was launched 13 years ago to further such relations....

Ms. Jessica Boddington joined my office ... from the University of Queensland, where she is simultaneously pursuing degrees in International Relations and in Economics. During her time in my office, Jess has proven herself to be a caring, intelligent and dedicated intern, and I am honored to host her. In addition to serving my constituents with professionalism and respect, she has attended hearings and briefings, drafted legislative correspondence and assisted my staffers with a variety of individual projects...

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express how remarkable the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program is.... As United States Members of Congress we have a responsibility to serve our constituents well, but also a unique opportunity to reach out to a

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myriad of people across the globe. As such, I would encourage all of my colleagues to open their doors to students from overseas, so that we can share our culture and democratic institutions. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program and, again, thank Jess Boddington for her admirable participation and diligent work.

RECOGNIZING THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

HON. MIKE CRAPO OF IDAHO IN THE SENATE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2012

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, UCWIP. Our Nation has benefited from the service of outstanding Australian college students who participate in internships throughout the U.S. Congress through this program.

The program is providing students with the opportunity to obtain considerable experience through their congressional internships, while also making available other educational experiences throughout their time in the United States. Uni-Capitol Washington Programme interns have helped me serve Idaho constituents, and I am grateful for their efforts and dedication.

Chris Colalillo, a UCWIP participant, has joined my staff as an intern this semester. Chris is studying bachelor's of law and arts at the University of Western Australia, where he is double majoring in political science and international relations and ancient history. When he graduates, Chris plans to work in a law firm and eventually go into Federal or State politics. Chris has been great to work with, and he was very quick to learn his role and responsibilities in the office. He is very intelligent, eager, and always puts forward his best work. He has shared with us some of the political and cultural differences between the United States and Australia, and it has been a great learning experience for both Chris and the staff.

Chris shared his impressions regarding the program and his internship. He said: *The UCWIP has been a unique opportunity to further my knowledge in the legislative process of the United States, enabling me to develop an appreciation for democratic systems of government as well as providing me with practical experience that will facilitate my theoretical studies in Political Science and International Relations. The welcoming nature of the staff within Senator Crapo's office has made this internship an enjoyable experience*

The program is shaping young leaders who are helping to deepen understanding between our two nations while providing outstanding constituent support....

A TRIBUTE TO NIALL O'SHEA AND THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JOE COURTNEY OF CONNECTICUT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, for decades the United States has worked closely with Australia on issues of great importance to our two nations. Australia has stood out among the international community as a friend of the United States and remains one of our closest allies today. Thirteen years ago, a program was launched to place Australian students in offices in our Nation's Capital. Since that time, the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program has delivered to the United States some of Australia's best and brightest to serve as interns in a variety of federal agencies, congressional offices and committees.

When the opportunity arose again to participate in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, I immediately agreed to welcome another Australian "ambassador." This is my third time hosting an intern from the program, and once again my office and I have been pleased with the positive contributions of Niall O'Shea, who was placed in our office. He has attended meetings and briefings, assisted my staff with various research initiatives, and helped serve my constituents of the Second District of Connecticut. His impeccable and clipped Australian accent is a real treat for visitors and callers from Connecticut whom he has interacted with. Niall's participation in this program has provided him with new opportunities and experiences that only the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program could provide. While in the program Niall has attended events at the Australian Embassy and listened to speakers from the State Department. A well-rounded college student, Niall will be receiving a dual Bachelor degree in law and art when he graduates from the University of Western Australia....

Mr. Speaker ... I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to once more thank Niall O'Shea for his dedication and hard work.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. SAM FARR OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TUESDAY, February 4, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Since its inception 14 years ago, the program has placed some of Australia's best and most passionate university students with House and Senate offices for two-month full-time internships annually. These internships have enabled me and my staff, who have participated since the program's inception, to share in our common values and ideals while at the same time learning more about the culture and people of Australia.

This year, I am delighted to welcome Elizabeth Flora into my Washington, DC office.... Elizabeth joined my office on January 2, 2013 from the University of Canberra where she is pursuing her B.A. in Communications and Media. During her time in my office, Elizabeth has proven herself to be a caring, humorous, intelligent and dedicated intern and I am honored to host her. In addition to serving my constituents with professionalism and respect, she has attended hearings and briefings, drafted legislative correspondence and has assisted my staffers with a variety of important research project....

Founded and directed by former House and Senate staffer, Eric Federing, the program fosters cultural and educational exchanges between the United States and Australia. Mr. Federing deserves distinguished praise for his efforts and dedication in coordinating this program, and the support and opportunities he provides to all participants is truly incredible.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express how critical this program is to strengthening ties with America's allies and offering inspiration for the students of today that may become the leaders of tomorrow. Participating in this program has been a remarkable experience that has inspired Elizabeth for her future endeavors and gave my office the sincere pleasure of having an Australian working among us. I extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Federing for developing and organizing this program, to my fellow Members of Congress and their dedicated staff for hosting, to Elizabeth for grasping this opportunity with an open heart and a curious mind and to all participants for engaging in public service. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program and, again, thanking Elizabeth Flora for her admirable participation and diligent work.

HONORING WILLIAM ASHFORD

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT OF ALABAMA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2013

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Mr. William Ashford, who is interning in my office with the Uni-Capitol Washington Program. The Uni-Capitol Washington Program (UCWIP) has paired some of the brightest Australian students with various congressional offices for more than a decade and I am happy to be a host again this year. Will comes from the University of Wollongong and is studying engineering and commerce. Over the past month, I have found him to be outstanding in his duties and going above and beyond our expectations. He has attended committee hearings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted me as well as my staff with research. His Australian accent has garnered the attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. Will's commitment, hard work, and presence have been an asset to the office and he will be sorely missed by all.

The program has been in force for 13 years thanks to the vision of Eric Federing, its director and founder. The students who are selected come from a variety of academic disciplines, but all have a common interest: promoting the U.S.-Australia relationship. These student placements are enhanced by the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. We are grateful for these friendships and it is our hope that they strengthen the diplomatic ties of our great countries.

I would like to thank Eric Federing for the opportunity to host Will over the past several weeks. To date, over 130 interns have come through his program representing 8 different universities over the program's lifetime. It enhances opportunities for the individuals who come and enlighten those who they come to. After the internship, many receive jobs on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. or go to work with Federal or various State Parliaments in Australia. Other interns have gone on to work in the Australian Embassy or The World Bank. Simply put, this program selects incredibly talented individuals that are a pleasure to host and work with. It was an honor to have Will in our office and I wish him the very best in the future. Will, thank you again for your hard work and dedication.

Eric K. Federing, Founder and Director

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HONORING MATT COWDREY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN OF FLORIDA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 11, 2014

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYebwyXoX8&feature=youtu.be>

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Matt Cowdrey on being named Australia's 2013 Multi-Class Swimmer of the Year. Matt is serving as a fellow in my office as part of the UNI-Capitol Washington Internship Program, which is ably led by Director Eric Federing. Matt is no stranger to success. He is the most decorated Paralympic athlete of all time in Australia, having won 13 gold medals, and 23 overall in Athens, Beijing, and London. Even though Matt was born Down Under, he exemplifies the American spirit and is a testimony to the power of hard work and determination. Matt, it has been wonderful having you be part of our congressional team. I look forward to hearing all about your future successes, including from the pool in Rio in 2016, and likely someday in the Australian Parliament. Congratulations, Matt, once again, on all of your amazing accomplishments. It has been great having you on our team.

A TRIBUTE TO HANNAH BLYTH AND THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JOE COURTNEY OF CONNECTICUT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, for decades the United States has worked closely with Australia on issues of great importance to our two nations. Australia has stood stalwartly as a friend of the United States and remains one of our closest allies today. Last year I worked with the Department of Commerce to organize a trade mission of Connecticut companies to Australia. As part of the trip planning, I was pleased to work closely with Australia's Ambassador to the United States, Kim Beazley, who joined me on a visit to Connecticut last spring. As Australia and the United States increase export and defense collaboration in the coming years, we must continue to strengthen our bilateral relationship with Australia....

During my first term in Congress, I was privileged to welcome Anthony Bremmer to my office, and since then my office has hosted Jehane Sharah and Niall O'Shea. When the opportunity arose again to participate in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, I immediately agreed to welcome another Australian "ambassador." Once again, my office and I have been pleased with the positive contributions of Hannah Blyth, who was placed in our office. She has attended meetings and briefings, assisted my staff with various research initiatives, and helped serve my constituents of the Second District of Connecticut. Prior to coming to the United States, Hannah worked for the Parliament of New South Wales as a Policy and Project Officer. With an avid interest in American politics and international relations, Hannah hopes to grow her experience and knowledge of the American political landscape during her time in my office. Hannah is truly an exceptional ambassador for the people of Australia.

Hannah's participation in this program has provided her with new opportunities and experiences that only the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program could provide. While in the program Hannah has attended events at the Australian Embassy, met with State Department and USAID officials, and toured the United Nations headquarters in New York with the Australian Mission to the U.N. A well-rounded graduate student, Hannah will be receiving a Master's degree in U.S. Studies from the University of Sydney's United States Studies Centre when she graduates later this year....

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all of my colleagues to open their doors to students from around the world so that they can share in our great democracy. Similarly, I would encourage American university students to seek established and creative ways to connect with their counterparts around the globe. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to once more thank Hannah Blyth for her dedication and hard work.

IN HONOR OF DOMINIC JARVIS
HON. SAM FARR OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary work of Dominic Jarvis, an Australian student who has done excellent work in my office through the well established Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme. Dominic came to us as an Environmental Studies student from Griffith University in Queensland, Australia. A self-proclaimed "pragmatic advocate in social equity and justice, environmental conservation, peace and democracy" he has been a fantastic attribute to our office here and has worked hard on the issues most important to the constituents of the Central Coast. Dominic's undeniable passion for green policy and environmentally friendly politics has been a pleasure to witness in the workplace.

We have had the opportunity to host students through this program for many years and Dominic has done well to uphold the high caliber of work that we have come to expect from these international students. The Uni-Capitol Internship Program has done an outstanding job in providing an opportunity for political and cultural immersion for over 140 students in its 15 years of garnering cross-cultural connections and I am very proud to have been a participant in this fantastic exchange both this year and in the past. I would like to recognize the importance of these programs in creating stronger multi-cultural ties and better relationships between nations at all levels.

Mr. Speaker, Dominic has been an outstanding ambassador of Australian culture and academic prowess. He is a pleasure to have in the office and executes his duties in such a cheerful and effective manner that I am sure his absence will be stark when he returns to Australia to complete his academic pursuits. I thank him once again for the time he has spent working in our office and the mark he has left on my staff, my district, and myself.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
HON. SAM FARR OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. This program is a wonderful educational and cultural exchange for both the congressional intern and office. The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program annually delivers some of Australia's best and brightest university students for two month internships in our offices. During their time in our nation's Capital, these student-ambassadors continue to develop their commitment to civic engagement and public service.

This year I welcomed student-ambassador Emma Lee who has been a great example of the high quality students who are involved in this program. Emma is a Masters candidate from the University of Sydney, with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wollongong where she was a Dean's Scholar. She has been an invaluable asset to our office these past two months.

Throughout her time in this office, she has had the chance to pursue her interests on a range of issues, from foreign affairs, human rights, and diplomacy to food security and the environment. She has attended committee briefings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted my staff with research. Her Australian accent has garnered the attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. She is often asked to share her experiences in Washington, DC.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to thank Emma Lee for her participation, time, and hard work.

RECOGNIZING GABRIELLE DEBINSKI AND MILLICENT ALLAN OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, for decades the United States and Australia have shared a special union, being one of our nations closest cultural, economic, and security partners. I rise today to recognize a unique international exchange program between our two nations: the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program

Eric K. Federing, Founder and Director

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For the past 16 years, the Uni-Capitol Program has paired students from Australia with offices on Capitol Hill. Since the program's inception, more than 170 students, from 10 partner Australian universities located across 5 of the 6 Australian states and the Australian Capital Territory, have participated. The students in this program are the best and the brightest that Australia has to offer. They bring a unique perspective to the House and Senate offices that they serve--strengthening the special alliance between our two nations and fostering greater understanding and mutual respect between us.

This year, it has been my pleasure to host two outstanding Australian students in my Washington office: Ms. Gabrielle Debinski and Ms. Millicent Allan. Gabrielle and Millicent are great examples of the high-caliber students this program provides Congressional offices. They both proved themselves to be very intelligent and hard working. Furthermore, they excelled in drafting correspondence to my constituents, researching legislative issues, and attending briefings, all while demonstrating a desire to learn about, and engage in, the important policy issues facing our nation.

Mr Speaker, I have no doubt that Gabrielle and Millicent will go on to do great things in their future. I wish them both all the very best, and the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program many more years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO SALLY KNOWLES-JACKSON AND THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
HON. JOE COURTNEY OF CONNECTICUT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, as one of our closest allies, the nation of Australia has stood steadfast with the United States as we tackle issues of great importance to both nations. Like any strong friendship, our bilateral relationship requires that we collaborate and exchange ideas. I have been fortunate to work with Ambassador Kim Beazley to foster commerce between Connecticut and Australia, and have had the pleasure of hosting the Ambassador in my home state. And for many years, I have continued learning about Australia's goals and priorities by hosting a series of intelligent, dedicated, and curious young professionals in my office through the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program....

I would be remiss not to note that this important relationship would not be possible without the dedication of Mr. Eric Federer, who year after year shepherds a new generation of Australian students into our nation's capital. Over the course of its 16 years, the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program has brought an impressive 170 students from 10 Australian universities to the United States Congress.

This year I was privileged to have Sally Knowles-Jackson join our office from the University of Melbourne where she is studying to be a lawyer. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Sally for her hard work and dedication. Curious and positive, she quickly adjusted to the fast-paced life of a Congressional office and eagerly took on the tasks and responsibilities of her position. While in the Uni Capitol program, she has had the opportunity to meet with officials from the Australian Embassy and the UN, attend briefings and hearings, meet with White House officials, members of the DC media, and learn the ins and outs of the Capitol building's historic halls. Sally has been able to learn not only about life in D.C., but also about our constituents back home in Connecticut.

When she returns to Melbourne next week it is my hope that Sally will bring with her an understanding of the American legislative process, knowledge of Washington, DC, and an appreciation for the enduring friendships our two nations have....

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once more thank Eric, Sally, my colleagues who have also hosted their own Unofficial Australian Ambassadors, as well as the nation of Australia for sharing in this truly one-of-a kind experience. I look forward to welcoming future Uni-Capitol Washington Internship students into my office.

TRIBUTE TO EMMA JAKEMAN
HON. RODNEY DAVIS OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, for the past eight weeks, I have had the privilege of hosting Emma Jakeman as an intern in my office as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Intern Programme, which brings students from ten of Australia's premier universities to Capitol Hill.

From the very beginning, Emma displayed dedication and good time management in the office. She is very bright with excellent people skills and a thirst for knowledge of the American legislative process. Many times, Emma was the first to volunteer to assist with memos or legislative research and was always delighted to help in any way.

She made the office a warm, welcoming place with her positive attitude and bright smile. Proud of her nationality, she was all too happy to enlighten me and my staff with knowledge of Australian food and traditions, even sharing with us a pavlova in celebration of Australia Day on January 26th.

Although I was only able to have her in my office for a short time, Emma will always be a valued member of Team Davis. I am thankful and proud to have had the opportunity to have hosted such a bright young student in my office. I hope she is able to return to Australia with fond memories of her time on the Hill and I wish her the best as she finishes her studies at Monash University.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS ALOMES AND THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
HON. JERROLD NADLER OF NEW YORK IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, each year congressional offices host Australian college students as interns with the Uni-Capitol program. It gives them the opportunity to learn about the American democratic and legislative process as well as see how the Congress functions on a firsthand basis.

My office is taking part in it right now, along with others in Congress. Some of Australia's brightest are here, pursuing knowledge and understanding. In so doing, we are forging bonds that will last even after they have returned to Australia. The Uni-Capitol program was born of the efforts of Eric Federing. Eric worked for more than a decade in the House and the Senate as a senior adviser. While doing this job, he lectured across Australia on American government, politics, and news media. In an effort to forge ties across the Pacific and for the betterment of both societies, Eric put together this idea in Washington in 1999.

The selection process for the students is competitive and intellectually rigorous, ensuring the highest quality applicant. Thomas Alomes of Monash University, my office's 2015 intern, surely reflects this. All participating students are comprehensively matched with a congressional office and corresponding position. They come from a wide range of academic disciplines and bring as much knowledge and understanding to our offices as they take away.

Over the two months of their internship, Mr. Federing's students have approached this opportunity with enthusiasm. Thomas has been an excellent addition to my office, producing well-written and high-quality work including memos on Civil Asset Forfeiture, the Authorization for Use of Military Force, and national security law. He has become a valued member of the team and taught us about the many commonalities between our two countries. While in Washington, DC, he has had the opportunity to learn from a wide range of officials from the Australian embassy, the DC media, and the White House. Now at the end of his internship, he can navigate the historic hallways of the Capitol like a pro.

Australia continues to be one of America's strongest allies. Our greatest gift is the friendship born of shared values. I thank the Uni-Capitol Program and Thomas Alomes for their hard work, and I wish the program and Tom continued success....

A TRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL INTERN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS
HON. JOHN SHIMKUS OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the different international internship programs that I have had the pleasure of experiencing this year. These programs represent a brilliant method of cultural and educational exchange not only for the bright young leaders of some of our closest partners but also for myself and many of my colleagues....

Mr. Samuel Edwards ... has participated in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Samuel is a student of the University of Canberra. Samuel has also shown himself to also be very intelligent and hard working. He easily slid into life at the office and was always available to help in any way he could whether that was answering phone calls from constituents or drafting office correspondence.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I want to reflect upon how these programs will only strengthen and preserve the relationships our countries enjoy. As these future leaders grow and move on through their lives, I hope they look fondly back upon their time here and are able to take back some knowledge and American values with them, throughout their life.

Eric K. Federing, Founder and Director

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RECOGNIZING MICHAEL SABLJAK

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT OF ALABAMA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Michael Sabljak, who is interning in my office as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Program. The Uni-Capitol Washington Program (UCWIP) has paired some of the brightest Australian students with various congressional offices for almost two decades, and I am happy to be a host again this year.

Michael comes from the University of Melbourne where he is studying for his Juris Doctor degree. Over the past couple of months, I have found him to be outstanding in his duties and continually going above and beyond the call of duty. He has attended committee hearings, assisted with constituent correspondence, and assisted me, as well as my staff, with research. He was asked to travel down to Alabama during the latter part of February, and Michael and I travelled over 700 miles across the Fourth Congressional District. His Australian accent has garnered the friendly attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. Michael's commitment, hard work, and presence have been an asset to the office and he will be sorely missed by all.

The program has been in force for 17 years thanks to the vision of Eric Federing, its director and founder. The students who are selected come from a variety of academic disciplines, but all have a common interest: promoting the U.S.-Australia relationship. These student placements are enhanced by the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. We are grateful for these friendships, and it is our hope that they strengthen the diplomatic ties of our great countries.

I would like to also thank Eric Federing for the opportunity to host Michael over the past several weeks through the program. To date, over 180 interns have come through his program, representing 10 different universities over the program's lifetime. It enhances opportunities for the individuals who come, and enlightens those who they come to. After the internship, many receive jobs on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. or go to work with Federal or various State Parliaments in Australia. Other interns have gone on to work in the Australian Embassy or The World Bank. Simply put, this program selects incredibly talented individuals who are a pleasure to host and work with. It was an honor to have Michael in our office over the past couple of months, and I wish him the very best in the future. Michael, thank you again for your hard work and dedication.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. SAM FARR OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, for the past 17 years, the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program (UCWIP) has granted the opportunity for a select group of Australian students from ten partner universities the opportunity to intern in a Congressional office from January to March each year. Since 1999, over 180 Australian students have had the benefit of partaking in these internships, and credit is due to Eric Federing, a former senior Senate and House Congressional staffer who founded and continues to coordinate the program. The students must undertake a rigorous application process to be successful and come from a range of backgrounds. The program is a mutual exchange--the students use their time in Washington, D.C. to develop their knowledge of American politics and have the opportunity to work on a range of issues that are of personal interest, while simultaneously sharing experiences from their home country with their office.

This year, our office is lucky to be hosting Emily Denbigh from the University of Adelaide. Emily is currently in her 4th year of a Bachelor's degree in Law and Arts, pursuing a major in Development Studies and a minor in French. She is passionate about social justice issues, and has previously undertaken an internship in Tanzania with a women's legal rights organization. She is interested in pursuing a career in international human rights law or environmental law. During her time in Washington, D.C., Emily has enjoyed learning about the dynamic American political system and California's beautiful 20th district. She has developed her knowledge of legal environmental issues, including what the American judicial system and legislators can do to combat climate change and promote conservation. She has also enjoyed talking to our constituents, who take a particular interest in her accent.

We have enjoyed hearing her accent and all of her wonderful ideas. Emily is a hardworking and highly intelligent woman. She is a strong writer and researcher and her passion for the environment and social justice shows in all the conversations I have had with her and through her writing. She has been a great asset to our team and we will be sorry to see her leave.

My staff and I have greatly enjoyed participating in the UCWIP program since its inception. I thank Mr. Federer for his hard work and dedication in bringing these Australian students to our nation's capital and for sending us Emily this session.



Senate

Wednesday, 21 June 2006

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program

[Senator Concetta FIERRAVANTI-WELLS](#) (New South Wales) (12.47 p.m.)—I rise today to speak about a very interesting and important program for young Australians. University students from across Australia are being given an opportunity to intern in the United States Congress in Washington, DC through a program now known as the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program.... The success and growth of the program has been in large part due to the manner in which these young Australians have acquitted themselves in the US Congress. We should be proud of the way these students have served as ambassadors for themselves, for their universities and for Australia.... They have done this nation and the Australian people numerous proud acts of public service, which I hope will continue for many years to come....

There are so many common values between our two countries and yet there is such a huge physical distance between us which means that contacts between individuals can be very difficult to achieve. We see in our Prime Minister and President Bush the value of a solid professional and personal relationship. The relationships these students are developing are important, particularly because the future strength of the alliance between our two countries is not going to be just about economic and military relationships but is going to very much depend on the people to people strengths that will develop in us an understanding of each other. I congratulate the students who have already acted as ambassadors for our country and ensured the growth of this program. I would encourage future university students to utilise opportunities like this when they are made available to them.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2006

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program

[Mr. Warren SNOWDON](#) (Lingiari, Northern Territory) (4.49 p.m.)—Every year for the past seven years, students from around Australia have undertaken a journey, travelling halfway around the world, often at their own expense, in order to learn about another culture, to witness another system of government and to work as part of the United States Congress. The students undertake this journey as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, a program which offers university students around Australia the chance to undertake an eight-week internship in a congressional office in Capitol Hill, Washington DC....

The Program facilitates this by enabling the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. I have often enjoyed the interaction that has occurred between my Australian and American interns. This, my colleagues, is how we build relationships which will ensure that the U.S. and Australia remain friends and allies for years to come

....
Programs like this give young Australians a once in a lifetime opportunity. This program provides students with a strong interest in civics and in progressing and developing our nation further through new ideas and new policies with an avenue through which to gain invaluable skills, knowledge and understanding and experience that will help them achieve their goals and, in turn, make their own contribution for the benefit of others.

Young Australians will go on to work all around the globe in a variety of fields and careers, as we know. It is important, however, that we have programs that offer dedicated students who have an interest in public service and public office places where they can come to learn and experience. We need to continue to foster such educational and employment opportunities so that we can continue to have a strong and vibrant pool of individuals who are equipped to represent and work for the Australian public.

I commend the many people who have made such a program possible—the congressional hosts, the variety of people and organisations that have taken time to meet and help the students during their stay, the universities involved in the program and the program coordinators who make this possible. Without their help and the help of many others, this opportunity would not be available to our students....

Eric K. Federer, Founder and Director

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A sampler of UCWIP intern experiences - 2016



A roundtable with Australian Ambassador US Kim Beazley and the Embassy's congressional liaison team, led by Amb. Peter Heyward.



A visit to the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia – a day-trip assisted by the National Park Service along Independence Mall.



A brief visit with Australia's Foreign Minister Julie Bishop during a cultural exhibition opening and reception at the Australian Embassy.



An on-set congressional news media relations roundtable in House Studio A with House Press Gallery and House Radio & TV Gallery directors Annie Tin and Andy Elias.



A roundtable with Steve Krupin - former speechwriter to Senator Majority Leader Reid, chief speechwriter for Obama-Biden 2012, and the same for Secretary of State Kerry.



Prior to a roundtable discussion at Australia's Mission to the United Nations with Australian Amb. Gillian Bird, the 2016ers were toured through the UN itself – including the floor of the General Assembly.



A reception for the 2016ers at the Center for Australian New Zealand and Pacific Studies, led by Alan Tidwell, at Georgetown University.



A roundtable with Richard E. Cohen, one of Washington's pre-eminent reporters covering Congress for more than two generations and author of the *Almanac of American Politics*.

Scenes from the annual Capitol Hill reception

Starting in 2004, UCWIP has organized an annual reception on Capitol Hill supported by all UCWIP partner Australian universities. These are a few scenes from the February 9, 2016 event, held in the historic Cannon Caucus Room courtesy of Assistant Democratic Leader James Clyburn. At least 120 people attended from across Capitol Hill and Washington, DC. A video is available via Facebook.



Rep. Ileana Rose-Lehtinen of Florida was the first of 6 Members of Congress to speak, including thanking her 2016 intern Chloe Meyer.



Rep. Joe Courtney of Connecticut followed, thanking his latest intern Andrew Elder ...



... as the gathering looked on.



Rep. Rodney Davis of Illinois thanking Andrew Heiner.



Rep. Robert Aderholt of Alabama thanking Michael Sabljak, who would later represent the 2016ers with a valedictory.



Rep. Mark DeSaulnier thanked his first UCWIP intern, Lachlan Foster.



Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida thanking Noa Bloch.



Michael Sabljak of Melbourne University closed the formal program.

Eric K. Federing, Founder and Director

Intern recollections

Thoughts on this road to Washington, DC and thereafter



Estee Fiebiger

Flinders University

Interned in 2000

Internship: Rep. Loretta Sanchez

As one of the five inaugural participants in 2000 in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme I felt a great sense of pride in being able to represent my university and Australia in Washington DC.

The internship was an amazing opportunity which allowed me to gain a valuable working understanding of the political process in America by interning in the Office of Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez. The Congresswoman had a particular interest in US foreign policy and was the ranking woman on the House Armed Services Committee. This particularly appealed to me and I was fortunate enough to be able to attend both an Armed Services and International Relations Committee hearings. Another highlight was attending a lecture given by then President Bill Clinton.

Washington DC and in particular the Capitol are amazing. There is a lot about the history of the United States that can be learnt from DC and being able to experience it in such a unique way is remarkable. Australia and the United States are alike in so many ways and have a long history of shared values, particularly evident in our close security relationship. Working as an intern gives a small insight into what binds our two countries.

The support from Eric Federling and his wife Daphne Clones Federling is what ensured the experience was professional and very worthwhile but also that we felt secure in traveling so far from home. Visiting the Australian Embassy in Washington also provided an interesting look at the work Australians are doing overseas and their support was also appreciated.

After completing my International Relations degree the internship programme encouraged me to pursue a career in politics in Australia which has led me to my employment with the Prime Minister of Australia, Hon John Howard MP. I thoroughly encourage anyone considering the internship programme to seize the opportunity and then make the experience your own.



Luke Toy

University of Canberra

Interned in 2005

Internship: Senator Christopher Dodd

The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program really does offer a once in a lifetime opportunity, on so many levels. First, there's the experience of simply being inside Capitol Hill with all of its energy and its 'buzz'. Walking inside the halls, each painted with unique history; witnessing on a daily basis what we would only ever catch a glimpse of in a heavily truncated news bulletin at home; being a small part of the whole ongoing political process.

Secondly, there's the work experience – an area largely dependent on your own enthusiasm and entrepreneurship. Working with other interns, liaising with senior staff, researching policy, attending press conferences, sitting in on committee hearings - how much you get out of the experience largely depends on you. Representing your country as one of a very small handful of Australians working on the hill provides you with an important ambassadorial role as well. But it's also an opportunity to make new and long-lasting friendships with your UCWIP group, and with people you meet in and around Washington, DC.

Thirdly, there's the ability to deepen your understanding of U.S. history and culture through exploring the surrounds of Washington's many monuments and museums; through visits to Gettysburg, Philadelphia's Independence Hall, Congress Hall; or through trips to New York, Boston or wherever your weekends take you.

But more than anything it's a chance to more wholly develop an understanding. Not just of the United States, but of what it means to be an Australian representing your country abroad, and in such an exciting environment. This program offers not just the chance to build upon your own knowledge and skills, but also to share your ideas and to exchange your views - to learn, but also to teach. It is these broader experiences, skills and relationships that will continue to serve you, as they have me, long after the internship itself is over.



Marianna O'Gorman

University of Queensland

Interned in 2006

Internship: Del. Eni Faleomavaega

It's one thing to debate issues such as climate change or Iraq in a university classroom, but getting the chance to be on the floor when those debates are battled out in front of you and the players are people like Condoleezza Rice and Barack Obama ... that's something else.

My experience as an intern on the hill was one of the best experiences of my life. My time was spent in the office of Congressman Eni Faleomavaega, someone who inspired me with his ability to voice, not only the concerns of his American Samoan constituents, but those of many other people world-wide by bringing their stories of human rights violations, natural resource degradation and other cultural exploits to the House floor. For many interns, your Congressman will be your first real boss in the working world, so having a Congressman or woman who pushes the boundaries and inspires you and your workmates to really fight hard, can have a life-long impact.

The UCWIP is different to what you may expect in an internship program. The focus is on the individual, on building relationships and opportunities. From the individual side, Eric and Daphne Federling will work with you to ensure you feel at ease in your new home and office overseas. In terms of opportunities, provided you turn up with a hard-working, open-mind attitude, you will be given many opportunities to contribute to your office in more ways than you can imagine: Darfur, Asia-pacific security, 911 and global sustainability are just some of the many issues that the UCWIP interns have worked on over the past few years. And your office colleagues will be just as memorable. I now live in DC and still pop up to the Hill, now and again, and say G'day to all the office staff.

The UCWIP was nothing short of life changing for me. The friendships formed are life-long and I couldn't imagine a better way to travel, get real-world experience and kick-start your career.



Leng Lee

University of Melbourne

Interned in 2004

Internship: Joint Economic Committee

Participating in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program represents a unique opportunity to see the inner workings of the United States Congress. Although the actual tasks interns do are often straightforward, immersion in the political life of the capital offers a great range of challenges, and complements academic study of US politics and society. For me, interning in Congress was a sort of 'boot camp' on America's political and economic life. Everybody I worked with knew a lot more about most things than I did, and were very generous with their time in teaching me what they knew.

The other highlight of the trip was spending a lot of time with like-minded Australians who were as interested in US politics as I was. It was always fun to end a day of work and debrief with the other interns. Offices differ from one to the next, from one year to the next, and even from one second to the next in how much time staff can take to get to know you. There are no real guarantees in that apart from goodwill and best intentions. There were still plenty of outside-work opportunities to see how things worked inside the Beltway. Not content to just place us in a Congressional office, Eric also organised a full program of briefings to give us a wider feel for what working in DC was like. In my year, we met with a National Journal editor, went to Foggy Bottom to hear from State Department officials, celebrated Australia Day at the Australian Embassy, and made a trip to Philadelphia.

The internship program is really more than just interning at Congress. It is a chance to learn a little bit more about what makes the United States what it is, and thus to understand one of the countries that shapes the military, political and economic course of the rest of the world. I look back at my internship experience as one of the real highlights of my university years.



Louise Squire

University of Western Australia

Interned in 2004

Internship: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

When asked to describe to my internship changed me, a whole boatload of clichés and metaphors came to mind. All of the clichés fail to describe the enormous change that this programme can bring about; in fact trying to describe the plethora of effects that the Uni-Capitol Exchange programme had on my life is like trying to describe Lorenz's 'Butterfly Effect'. I feel like a tragic 'Anthony Robbins'-esque clone when I say that it 'took off my blinders and made me realise my full potential'.

The statement 'this changed my life' gets bandied about a lot, so I don't think it captures it. Last night while watching TV I saw a hair removal product that would apparently change my life. If electrolysis can change my course, aspirations and outcomes in the way that my Uni-Capitol Exchange did, I think they're seriously undercharging at only \$89.95 per month for three months.

'It opened doors' wouldn't really cover the effects either. The intern experience is universally acknowledged to be 'amazing' and 'incredible' (the look of awe and respect is something you never get tired of) and undoubtedly is admired by potential employers and networkers; but it also makes you consider other doors that were always open to you, that you always had access to, but never realised were there.

Having this experience behind you gives you the courage to put your hand up for more amazing opportunities that you wouldn't have thought you could do before. The only comparison I can think of is that I've got "three wines worth of courage" flowing through my veins, without any of the associated giddiness or nausea. 'Gaining confidence' just doesn't describe the leap forward.

The opportunities afforded through the exchange and the lasting support of Eric and my fellow interns simply couldn't be replicated by another experience. The experience affects you as much as you choose to let it, and the broad interactions and experiences offered by the Uni-Capitol exchange ensure that those who want to learn, grow and develop will find endless opportunity to do so.



Stuart Broadfoot

University of Western Australia

Interned in 2007

Internship: Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

Challenging, rewarding, scary, exhilarating and beyond your wildest imagination. All phrases that describe this extraordinary experience known as UCWIP. The opportunity to get first hand experience in this most recognisable of world political institutions is without doubt awe inspiring. Working daily in the hustle of the Congress, you gain an insight on the many competing pressures associated with this completely different world.

I was the first Australian intern to be placed in my office, a proposition which was simultaneously nerve-racking and welcoming. There were no pressures or expectations associated with previous interns performances and I had the opportunity to craft my own experience as together the office personnel and I discovered this new experience. However, you are nervous to ensure that the experience is a positive one for the office, so that future interns are able to have access to the opportunities.

I had the great opportunity to attend a number of hearings of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and was fortunate enough to hear both Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright testify. Listening to these stalwarts of American Foreign Policy for the past 14 years was amazing, and there can be nothing but respect for their opinions.

This experience however is more than the experience of Washington DC. In one such experience we were lucky enough to be huddled with millions of others in Times Square, New York to celebrate New Years' Eve, eating pizza and drinking coffee on the middle of Broadway! The electricity of the moment is enough to make the entire trip, however it is just one of the many experiences that form this endless stream of highlights, each of them forcing you to pinch yourself to ensure that it is real! And the people you share these experiences with become lifelong friends.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and the honour and privilege of undertaking it will leave you with an eternity of memories and a profound understanding of the US as a country and its close relationship with Australia.



Elli Jacovides

University of Melbourne

Interned in 2004

Internship: Rep. James E. Clyburn

I am addicted to American Politics. I devour the news and the pundits, I argue, and I walk around in my “Obama 08” T-shirt. Most look at me puzzled and ask *why do you care?* Don’t get me wrong, I’m proud of our system and processes, but for Australians used to the height of excitement being the Speaker calling the House to “order”, the US political process is another world! We watch the *West Wing* with fascination. But it’s not until you stroll through the halls of Congress that you truly understand the absolute privilege it is to be a part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program.

I was matched as an intern with Rep. James E. Clyburn from South Carolina, then the Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus, and now the Majority Whip. His staff were kind, encouraging, and exhibited healthy doses of good, Southern hospitality. The beauty of my experience was not so much the specific work that I undertook, namely, answering phones and startling South Carolinians with my accent and responding to constituent mail. Rather, my office understood that I was in DC to learn about and live the US political system and because of this, they prompted me to see and experience as much as I could on the Hill. I was taken to many meetings, attended House Democratic Caucus meetings open to House Democrats and leadership staff only, and participated in the Democratic Caucus 2004 Issues Conference as a staff member.

My internship was heightened by the wonderful people I met and befriended. The Clyburn staff, many of whom I still keep in contact with and have visited again, added colour to my working day. The program would not have been the same had it not been for the camaraderie of our group of Interns and our shared experiences. And of course, Eric and Daphne Federer, the most gracious, caring of hosts, and now my good friends. Year after year, Eric and Daphne give up their time, open up their home and share their lives with the interns. Each intern’s personal experience is paramount to Eric, evident in the fact that Eric will not match interns into offices where he does not have a connection he trusts to be fully welcoming..

Above all, the internship taught me to always be open to opportunities. I never thought I would be ‘picked’ as part of this program but it was too great an opportunity to let pass. And had I not applied, I would have missed out on three of the best months I’ve ever had.



Lisa Sharland

Macquarie University

Interned in 2004

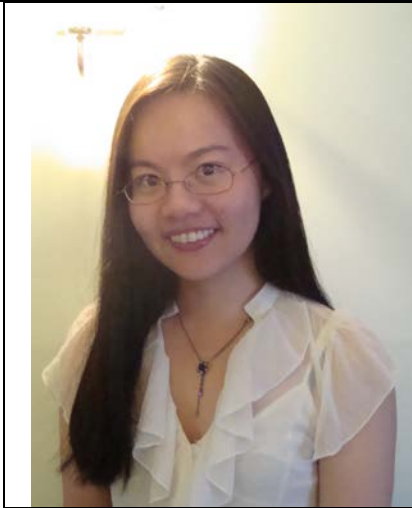
Internship: Sen. Chuck Hagel

It’s difficult to sum up the experience of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program into a few simple paragraphs and really capture the ability of the program to enhance your academic and professional development. Many adjectives come to mind that go a small way to describing the experience – exciting, challenging, daunting, exhilarating, unique, and fun. And that’s probably only just described your first morning working on the Hill!

All of your experiences in the program, including the off-the-Hill opportunities arranged by Eric Federer, have the ability to shape your understanding of the different factors that influence how policy in Washington is formulated – provided you’re open to them. It might be gaining a greater appreciation for the concerns of constituents by talking to them over the phone in the congressional office you’re interning in; understanding a little more about US-Australia relations by listening to officials at the Australian Embassy or State Department; or simply getting a sense of American history with visits to Gettysburg and Philadelphia.

The internship program challenges you at many different levels to not only increase your own understanding of the American political process, but also articulate your own thoughts on different issues. You quickly learn that it’s not simply about learning and asking questions, but that it’s a two-way exchange of ideas, and that those you work with or the people you meet are also interested in hearing your thoughts and opinions on different issues, in addition to learning more about Australia.

I was very fortunate to return to Washington DC recently to complete my graduate studies, which also opened the door to furthering my experience on Capitol Hill, and off-the Hill as a research intern in an international affairs think tank. UCWIP ensured that I was aware of the various opportunities that are on offer in Washington, and how to seize them. If you’re interested in American politics and US-Australia relations, engaging in issues and challenging your assumptions, and meeting some fantastic people along the way – then this program is for you.



Mevelyn Ong

University of Melbourne

Interned in 2009

Internship: Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Enduring the numbing wintry chill while watching the inauguration ceremony of U.S President Barack Obama, a wave of emotion sweeps through you: exhilaration, ecstasy, disbelief, hope. It is a maelstrom of great moments, fantastic people and being at the forefront of American policy-making that distinguishes the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program.

I undertook my internship at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which focuses on reinforcing the trans-Atlantic relationship between the U.S and the OSCE region. I had the opportunity to attend Secretary of State Hilary Clinton’s confirmation hearing, witnessed the testimonial of Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on U.S relations with the Muslim world, Al Gore on climate change, and had lunch with the Commission’s Chairman, Senator Cardin. I wrote memorandums on U.S- Russia relations and the domestic Russian political scene in the aftermath of the Gazprom crisis, and on the U.S-Japan-OSCE relations for the first Japanese delegation visit in the new Obama administration. In the midst of the conclusion of the Israeli elections, I assisted in the preparation and organization of a congressional delegation to Israel, Syria and Austria. I also worked on promoting the cause of the European Roma minority and assisted in research on the NATO alliance and missile defense systems. I undertook legal analysis and case work associated to the executive order demanding the closure of Guantanamo Bay and the subsequent congressional resolutions, set up a database tracking the final destination of such detainees, and also case work focusing on revitalizing links between the U.S and European-based institutions, such as the ICC, ICJ and the European Court of Human Rights. The highlight however were the enduring friendships with the Commission’s legal and foreign policy advisors, and the fellow American interns – their generosity in sharing their expertise, the dinners, luncheons and drinks we shared, and of course, their delight at Tim Tams and Australian wine, but puzzled reaction to Cadbury Crunchie bars!

Outside of Capitol Hill work, Eric arranged for our cultural and historical immersion with Inauguration, visits to Gettysburg and Philadelphia, and meetings with Australian embassy staff and academics and American journalists. A multitude of monuments and museums (space, history, art, archives, animal, botanical and wax), transforming into fine ladies and handsome gentlemen for an Inaugural ball, joining the crowds for the Inaugural concert, a no-show Chinese New Year firecracker parade and Lincoln’s Bicentennial celebrations, fine dining at the Oval Room during D.C Restaurant Week, shopping in Georgetown, sampling the “must-do” Ben’s Chilli Bowl, Dupont Circle and Adams Morgan ethnic restaurants, markets and bars, and weekend trips to Boston and New York, characterized the splendid two months I spent in D.C

At his inauguration, President Barack Obama announced that “we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord.” The spirit of such sentiment underlies the UCWIP program, the work we have undertaken and contributed to, the lasting global friendships and networks we have nurtured and solidified, and the new way in which we perceive ourselves and the world.



Nicholas Tam

University of Melbourne

Interned in 2009

Internship: Senator Mike Crapo

It is difficult to attribute accurate adjectives to the novelty value of being able to stride around Capitol Hill and navigate the maze of tunnels and private subways beneath it with impunity, but perhaps the best description is the reaction of others when they discover that you had the opportunity to work at the epicentre of government in the United States.

UCWIP allows you to directly touch the legislative process, whether it be through office work undertaking policy research or constituent outreach, attending the floor of Congress or one of the many committee hearings that occur whilst Congress is in session. This was all the more exhilarating for 2009 alumni, as we were present during the transition in Administration. These opportunities were thus elevated further as committee hearings unfolded before overcrowded rooms with long queues hoping to catch a glimpse of a confirmation hearing for a Secretary-designate or a farewell speech on the Senate floor from nominated Senators such as Biden, Clinton and Salazar. Icing the cake was the ability to participate in the full array of Inauguration festivities, including a memorable night at the famous Texas Black Tie & Boots Ball and tickets to gain access to the viewing areas to witness Chief Justice Roberts administer the oath of office to the incoming President and Vice President.

Outside of the actual internship work itself, the outings organised by UCWIP fulfil the Aristotelian notion that history is the key to an understanding of the present. Visits to Gettysburg and Philadelphia ensure that interns emerge from UCWIP enriched by their observations of the locations where the first Congress of an independent American Republic met, and the battlefields that were pivotal in the eventual outcome of the Civil War. The presence of countless museums in DC further allows for interns to add to their depth of knowledge about American history.

Overall, UCWIP endows interns with a rich appreciation of the foundations of the American Republic and the political system that governs it today. The camaraderie shared with other UCWIP interns, along with American colleagues in the congressional offices themselves is an invaluable source of friendship and support. In particular, Eric and his wife Daphne provide tremendous support to the interns, who ensure that the two months in the United States, is a positive experience with enduring benefits.



Michael Ng

University of Melbourne

Interned in 2007

Internship: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

To say that the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program (UCWIP) is an amazing growing experience is to sell the internship program short. It's an experience that cannot simply be described by words. I do not intend to try to describe the experience itself, rather I want to give you a bit of insight into how the lessons learnt on the UCWIP can still apply 5-years on.

I participated in the UCWIP (2007) with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (Democratic) under the leadership of Congressman Jim Oberstar. Unlike many interns who participated in the UCWIP, I wasn't interested in politics (in fact, I didn't find out the real difference between a Republican and a Democrat till I arrived at the Committee). What attracted me to the Capitol was my passion for aviation and wanting to learn about aviation policy in a country which is a leader in aircraft manufacturing and has one of the busiest airspaces in the world. I found that the committee were very happy to help me achieve this goal – the staff in the Committee not only helped me understand the process of policy making but they were always very candid on the position of the US on some of their more politically sensitive international aviation policies. They even gave me a day off so I could spend time at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport! This was not only interesting to learn but five-years on, and still in pursuit of my passion for aviation, I find myself referring back to this knowledge in my professional life. Whether you end up in the private or public sector, it's something that employers look highly upon because it can be helpful for them to know how and what the US is thinking on policy matters which often affect other countries across the world, including Australia.

But the experience of the UCWIP hasn't just helped me in my professional life; it has also helped me grow personally. In every group, there are twelve interns, Eric and Daphne – these people became my family and like any family living under the roof (and sharing a room... accommodation is expensive in the Capital!) we had our tremendous highs and clashes (especially on political issues) but with that comes a lesson in respect and tolerance. Also, the experience has given me a new appreciation for the American culture and traditions. Though some people disagree, many parts of the culture involve respect – for example, something that I learnt (almost the hard way) is that the American flag must never touch the ground when it is being handled. Most importantly, I think this experience has taught me to step back and look at the big picture. When there is so much to experience and to appreciate (both the people I met and Washington DC itself were amazing), you realise that some things that you crave or that annoy you are insignificant and that you can just let them go to enjoy what is all around you.

Five-years on, though the experience is over, the memories and lessons learnt will continue to live on.



Peita Richards

Macquarie University

Interned in 2005

Internship: Committee on House Administration

When Eric drove me into DC from Dulles that first night - sometime around midnight - we turned the corner and before me the Capitol stood, lit up, in all its glory. I'll never forget his words: "it's okay to pinch yourself." This is a special year for me as it's ten years since I was lucky enough to be selected to intern for the Committee on House Administration (D) in the role of Press Assistant. And there are many times I still pinch myself!

Like everything in life, your internship is what you make of it, but in terms of having the opportunity, Eric Federing and his wife Daphne Clones Federing will not only make you feel at home, but provide the best foundation you could ever imagine! The organised briefings, events and trips are the icing on the cake; but even the day to day opens your eyes to life beyond anything on "The West Wing" or "House of Cards"!

Last year I was recruited to the Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism Centre and commenced my PhD. It wasn't until November, when I was preparing to brief DFAT officials on the situation in Syria (and thinking "how did this happen?!") that my Director made the comment - "people don't understand what you truly gain from an internship. And that's why you're here."

The prestige and well deserved reputation of UCWIP carries itself far beyond the participating universities; provides you experiences that you will never forget; and yes, even ten years later, will leave you with photographs, memories and mementos gracing your home!



Thomas Alomes

Monash University

Interned in 2015

Internship: Rep. Jerrold Nadler

For the first two months of this year, I had the distinct pleasure of serving in the office of Congressman Jerrold Nadler as a participant of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme. Rep. Nadler is a Democrat representing New York’s 10th district, which encompasses parts of Manhattan and Brooklyn.

There is no place like Washington, D.C and the experience of interning in the beating heart of the US government is like no other. So if I had to condense what makes UCWIP such a fantastic programme into one word, it would be “access”: access to walk the halls of power in one of the most, if not the most, important legislature in the world; access to the inner workings of a political office where you are actually a contributing member of their team; access to interesting talks, briefings and events both on and off the Hill; and access to a group of like-minded talented young professionals.

One of the best experiences I had during the internship was the unexpected but very much appreciated tribute in the Congressional Record I received from the Congressman and his office. The tribute recognised the hard work and dedication I had shown over the two months, highlighting my work on Civil Asset Forfeiture, the Authorisation for Use of Military Force and national security law.

On the flipside, the worst experience was being offered a State of the Union ticket only to have it given to another Congressman at the last minute (Congressman are generally a little higher on the food chain than interns so I wasn’t really that surprised). Even to be in the position to be offered a State of the Union ticket in the first place demonstrates the incredible nature of the internship.

There’s no end the benefits I received as a UCWIP participant but a vital part of the experience was what I felt I could contribute in return. This is highlighted by the comments of the Foreign Minister, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, at a reception held at the Australian Embassy, one of many I was able to attend as a part of UCWP. The Foreign Minister had just attended the State of the Union address and was overwhelmed by the positivity that the work of Australian interns had endeared to members of the House and Senate.

This is a once in a lifetime experience and it was an honour and privilege to have the opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way furthering the close relationship between the US and Australia. I would wholeheartedly recommend UCWIP to anyone thinking of applying.



Felicia Quatela

University of Melbourne

Interned in 2015

Internship: Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Picking up your congressional ID and walking into one of the House or Senate buildings, is like winning a ticket on the express train through the craziest and most powerful jungles in the world. UCWIP offers Australian students the rarest opportunity – to escape from the winter snowstorms outside and join that jungle for 2 whole months. I cannot properly put into words what the internship gave me – it was a formative experience both personally and professionally where no two days were the same.

Eric has organized a mature and professional agenda including roundtables with some of DC’s most influential people. From the first weekend, a group dinner at his house made me feel like I was part of a family of interns past and present who had dared to do something different. Taking on the jungle of Capitol Hill was made all the more exhilarating by doing it with likeminded individuals who I now call my lifelong friends. They are the people who will listen to your office stories late at night, join you for an after-work reception or explore the many sights and sounds of Washington DC with you.

At the same time, the experience is one which lets you fly the Aussie flag as an individual in your office. I joined 4 other American interns at the Helsinki Commission – which acts as a watchdog on human rights in the OSCE region. I was able to use my writing and research skills to amend draft resolutions directed to the house floor and put my knowledge of Australian processes to assist on human trafficking bills. I gained much exposure to a range of issues by attending meetings with both high ranking officials and those fighting for justice. I was asked to write memos on briefings and hearings both on and off the Hill and was made lead intern in preparing for one of the Commission’s hearings. Being able to enter and contribute to a new workplace outside of your home country takes courage but gives a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment that made the falling Australian exchange rate worth every cent.

From listening to testimonies of 3 former Secretaries of State Madeline Albright, George Shultz and Henry Kissinger to getting a ‘selfie’ with John McCain or stumbling past Nancy Pelosi’s press conference, UCWIP gave me an extraordinary access pass to American Politics and I loved every moment.