

Queen's Park



nsider

Official Magazine of the
Ontario Legislature Internship Programme

Director's Report

I am now in my fifth year as Director of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP) and once again I am delighted to work with a new group of interns. For the first time, the intern cohort consists of ten interns, an increase from the usual eight. We received additional funds for the two new intern spots from the Board of Internal Economy, the Legislature's appropriations committee.

Once again, we had an outstanding Intern Orientation in September. I would like to thank all Legislative Assembly officials and staff, sponsors, alumni and friends of the Programme for making themselves available for the interns during this period. Sponsors who took part in the orientation included Ad-

vocacy Solutions, the Certified General Accountants of Ontario, the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy, the Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company, First Canadian Title, Hill & Knowlton, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, Ipsos Canada, LawPRO, G.P.

Murray Research Limited, the Ontario Community Newspapers' Association, the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation. I thank them all, as well as those who are meeting with the interns in the coming months, for their continuing support of our Programme.

A highlight of the orientation for new interns is always their meetings with the independent officers of the Legislative Assembly. This year, they enjoyed meetings with the Integrity Commissioner Lynn Morrison, Information and Privacy Commissioner Dr. Ann Cavoukian, Ombudsman André Marin, Environmental Commissioner Gord Miller, and Auditor General Jim McCarter.

Of course, many members of the Assembly staff provided a wealth of information to the new interns in the orientation period and beyond. A partial list includes Clerk Deborah Deller, Deputy Clerk Todd Decker,

Clerk of Journals and Procedural Research Lisa Freedman, Human Resources Director Nancy Marling, Executive Director of the Legislative Library Vicki Whitmell, Director Susan Swift of Research and Information Services, Director of Hansard Reporting and Interpretation Services Deborah Caruso, Director of the Interparliamentary and Public Relations Branch Karyn Leonard, Sergeant-At-Arms Dennis Clark, Operations Manager of the Legislative Security Service Rick Boon, and Nick Viris, Director of Financial Services.

Two very important individuals who met with the interns were His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, David Onley and the Speaker, Steve Peters.



The interns were greatly impressed with a new addition to this year's orientation, Mr Lyn-ton "Red" Wilson, an individual who has had and continues to have many top leadership roles in both the corporate and public sector. Other friends of the Programme participated in the orientation such as Janet Ecker, Sean Conway and David Warner. Journalists such as Hon-

orary Intern Robert Fisher, April Lindgren and Robert Benzie gave the interns a special insight into the Legislature. Key alumni such as Laura Dougan, Catherine Frost, Kaila Mintz, Adam McDonald, David Michon, Meghan Warby, Rod Cummings, Ann Wales DeRabbie, Jon Feairs, Chris Morley, Chris Shantz and Angela Longo gave useful presentations.

Finally, I want to acknowledge that the success of our Programme is a result of a great team effort. First and foremost, Eithne Whaley, our Programme Assistant who solves so many of our problems. Legislative Researcher Lorraine Luski is one of our Queen's Park coordinators. As a former intern, Lorraine has our best institutional memory and acts informally as our review editor on all written communications. Finally, we are happy to have Anne Stokes, Deputy Clerk of Journals, in her second year as a coordinator. Anne continues to make a great contribution to our Programme.

About us....

Introducing the 2008-2009 Ontario Legislature Interns; Tejas Aivalli, Meghan Buckham, Igor Delov, David Donovan, Angela Hersey, Kimlan Hoka, Waqas Iqbal, Chelsea Peet, Emma Stanley-Cochrane and Rosanne Waters. This year sees an increase in the number of interns from eight to ten for the first time in OLIP history thanks to an increased grant from the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

What is your favourite book? *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry.

Tejas Aivalli

What is your favourite word? "Who?"

If you could change your name, what would it be and why?

I wouldn't because I would no longer be Tejas Aivalli, and I intend to be known and remembered as Tejas Aivalli!

If you could have dinner with one person, living or dead, who would it be and why? Mahatma Gandhi, because he profoundly influenced the world through his non-violent philosophy, first rattling the British Empire in South Africa and then in India.



Tejas's extensive knowledge of all things political never ceases to amaze the current class of interns. It truly shows how dedicated and passionate he is about politics. With a booming laugh that can be heard echoing throughout the Whitney Block, this fan of *Yes Minister*, can also boast of having the quickest legs around Queen's Park. He is the fastest walker that any of us have ever had to keep up with! Tejas's honesty and cool-but-calm confidence, is refreshing. His is a presence within OLIP that I would be sad to be without. With the keenness and enthusiasm Tejas has exhibited towards OLIP thus far, I am confident that we will all see a lot of Tejas in years to come! –Meghan Buckham



Meghan Buckham

An Intern cannot live without... A morning and afternoon Tim Horton's run!

What is your favourite quote? "Don't sweat the small stuff" -Unknown. It's the best advice ever, and it came from my parents!

What is your favourite word? I definitely overuse the word "outrageous," although it's not my favourite word. My favourite word would have to be "paprika!"

What is your favourite thing about Queen's Park? Never knowing how the day will unfold. This place definitely keeps you on your toes!

Meghan was born in the Chinese year of the Tiger and true to character, she has a magnetic personality - her irresistible thousand-watt smile will instantly brighten your day (and the room too!). She claims to be "abnormally happy" a quality which is rare these days, but it makes her all the more endearing. Meghan likes classic rock (Queen, Led Zeppelin, Guess Who, and The Rolling Stones) and dances tap, jazz and ballet. Her favourite TV show is *"The Office"*. While she is not fond of cats or raccoons, as a kid she wanted a goat as a pet. Meghan is an outdoors person. She likes to spend time on her grandparents' farm near Peterborough, and she enjoys camping at Killbear. Meghan wanted to be a meteorologist until she took grade 11 Physics and decided against it. Her fellow interns are certainly glad about that. –Tejas Aivalli

An Intern cannot live without... Impeccable grooming and a suit that screams: SUCCESS!

What is your favourite quote? "You are like Christopher Columbus! You have discovered something people have known about for hundreds of years!" -The Simpsons

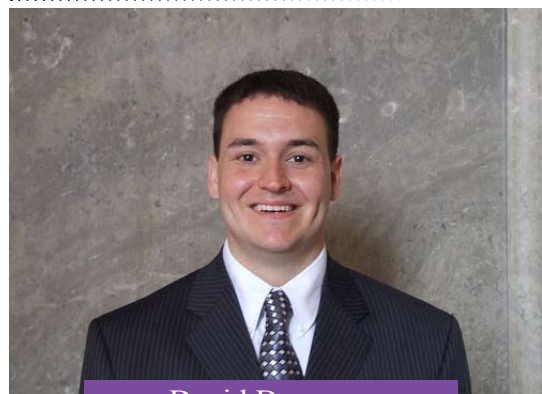
What is your favourite thing about Queen's Park? The carving of Queen Victoria's face in the House.

If you could change your name, what would it be and why? Who would want to change a name as cool as 'Igor'?



Igor Delov

Don't be fooled – there is much more to Igor than meets the eye! Beyond his energetic and sociable presence, Igor is a deep and reflective individual. Comfortable in his own skin, Igor maintains his independence and originality while always displaying his fondness and respect for those around him. As an immigrant from Macedonia, Igor truly adds a dynamic element to the team. Fellow interns have also benefited from Igor's light-hearted nature, quick sense of humour, and his jovial laugh. With interests ranging from oil painting to cartography, there is certainly no shortage of interesting conversations to be had with this remarkable individual! –Angela Hersey



David Donovan

An Intern cannot live without... The flock of fellow interns!

What is your favourite book? *The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Orczy.

What is your favourite word? "Muckish" the last mountain in Seven Sisters mountain range in County Donegal, Ireland.

What is your favorite thing about Queen's Park? The feeling of walking through the front doors each morning.

While David Stewart Donovan may be the third to carry the name in his family line, he has become the one and only "David" in this year's OLIP family of interns. David brings to the team an unparalleled

knowledge of legislatures (both foreign and domestic), as well as a keen passion for British history. Despite David's obvious gift for politics, it is important to know that David is more than just an academic junkie! He also enjoys mountain climbing and has traveled extensively throughout western Europe. A genuine person with a strong sense of fun, the OLIP family would be bereft without David's presence and storehouse of legislative knowledge. –Chelsea Peet

What is your favourite word? "Equilibrium."

What unusual skill/talent do you possess? I can recite the alphabet backwards. I can also tie my hair in a knot using only one hand.

What is your favourite thing about Queen's Park? The art and the architecture. There are so many amazing things to look at!

An Intern cannot live without... A full and operating water cooler.

Despite calling Dartmouth, Nova Scotia home, Angela Hersey has adapted quite comfortably to the bustling sights and sounds of Ontario's capital, bringing with her all sorts of fun facts from the east coast! Her calm, collected demeanor always puts the OLIP team at ease, while her genuine concern for social justice unmistakably gives us a new perspective on politics. Whether working away on an assignment, or professing her love for zucchini, this history major is always ready to greet you with a smile and have a hearty conversation on topic(s) of the day. Among friends, Angela is known for her passion for sustainable food production, as evidenced by her volunteering for a local community garden and her frequent trips to farmer's markets. –Igor Delov



Angela Hersey



Kimlan Hokan

What is your favourite word? “Poppycock” because the word embodies its meaning and saying it makes you feel a bit silly.

An Intern cannot live without... The Legislative Library because resources, expert staff and baked goods are plentiful!

If you could have dinner with one person, living or dead, who would it be and why? I would dine with Salman Rushdie because his intelligence and loquaciousness would ensure a delightful conversation.

Kim Hokan’s sublime persona is an homage to a simpler time, one where books not PDFs, live music not MP3s, and sports not video games directed our daily lives. Kim’s work teaching at a local elementary school, and her mentorship of at-risk teens through a

non-profit community program, belies the modern perception of the self-aggrandizing youth. At the same time, her Caribbean heritage brings a colourful and spicy vivaciousness to the OLIP team. When not working vigorously on her Member’s projects, Kim can be found in the Legislative Library. If, however, you really want to get Kim going, mention the name Eddie Vedder (of Pearl Jam fame), and get ready for an engaging conversation! –Waqas Iqbal

If you could change your name, what would it be and why? Max Power! Why not have your names be a motivational speech in itself?

What is your favourite book? 1984 by George Orwell

If there were a theme song for your life, what would it be? “Lose Yourself” by Eminem



Waqas Iqbal

Quickly establishing himself as the go-to guy for all things technological, Waqas brings the same passion and drive for success to this program that he has exhibited in all prior pursuits, both academic and otherwise. In addition to political science degrees from Carleton and McMaster, Waqas is a former high school and university chess champion. With an uncanny knack for asking insightful questions, as well as an eclectic collection of interests, nary a dull conversation is to be had with Waqas. He has an unmatched knowledge of typography, enjoys improvising recipes in the kitchen, and keeps life exciting by playing the stock market. With a sharp wit and easy laugh, Waqas has also brought excitement and fun to all involved in OLIP this year! –Rosanne Waters



Chelsea Peet

An Intern cannot live without... A camera for all of our photo-ops!

What is your favorite thing about Queen’s Park? The level of dedication that the building and its history inspire in people.

What unusual skill/talent do you possess? An ability to traverse through northern forests?

What is your favorite childhood memory? When my parents surprised us with our golden retriever puppy, Kailie, all decked out in a big red bow.

On any given day, a tide of uncontrollable laughter overcomes the OLIP office. What is the cause of such good humour? It is certain to be the one and only Chelsea Peet. This Sioux Lookout native has a seemingly endless repertoire of hilarious tales from her small town in Northern Ontario. Indeed, through her many anecdotes, Chelsea has opened our eyes to the unique character and circumstances of the Province’s Northwest. Chelsea’s infectious sense of humour coupled with her deep knowledge and passion for Ontario politics makes her a lively and much appreciated member of this year’s OLIP team. –Kim Hokan

What is your favourite thing about Queen's Park? The drama and excitement of Question Period!

What is your favourite book? *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* by Sue Townsend (and all the other books in that series).

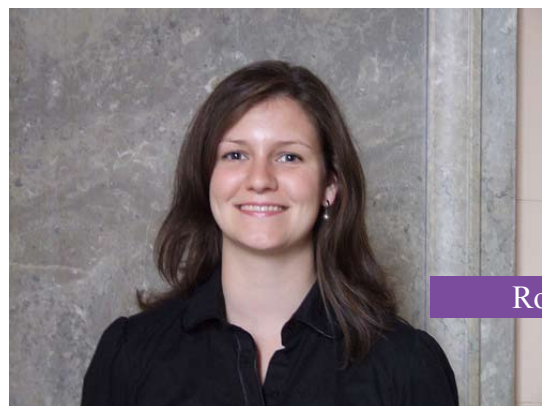
An Intern cannot live without... Receptions – they're fun, they give you an opportunity to meet people that you might otherwise have not met, and the free food is an added bonus.

What is your favourite childhood memory? Evening bike rides through High Park with my dad.

Emma Stanley-Cochrane



To the astute eye, Emma may stand out as a familiar face in Queen's Park as her internship follows in the wake of her time spent as a Legislative page in 1997. To the OLIP team, however, Emma is our gourmet cook, tennis playing, self-proclaimed Rock band champion with a keen fashion sense. Did I mention, her talent to discover a bargain on store shelves? This talent will be put to good use this year as she coordinates the interns' travel arrangements. Yet above all, Emma's infectious smile, positive attitude and engaging personality make this Torontonian a welcome addition to the group. –David Donovan



Rosanne Waters

What is your favourite word? "Hark!"

An Intern cannot live without.... The Library's daily collection of press clippings.

What is your favourite book? *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy.

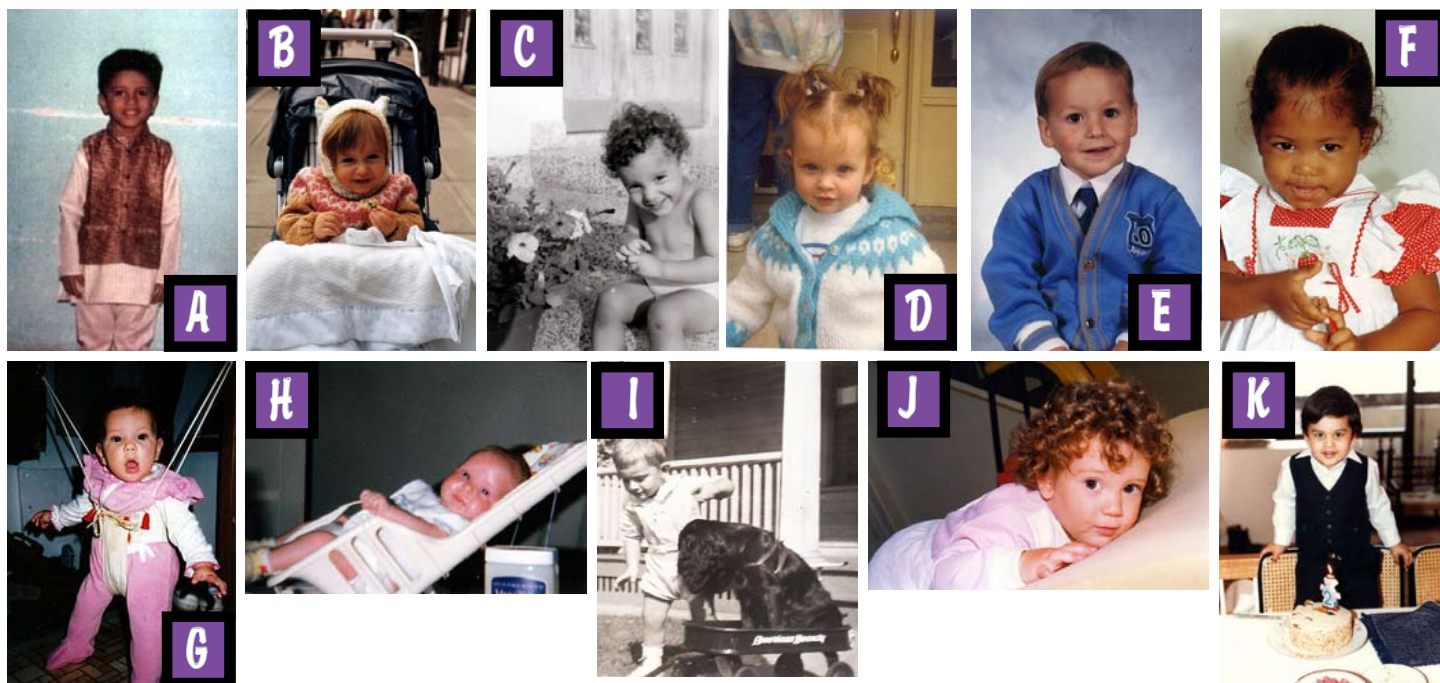
What is your favourite childhood memory? Getting goalie pads for my birthday and excitedly testing them out on my driveway while the first snow of winter collected on the ground.

With two degrees under her belt from Brock University and the University of Toronto, Rosanne's intelligence and knack for academia goes without saying. However, it's her intellect combined with her sharp sense of humour and easy-going disposition that truly makes Rosanne such an invaluable member of the OLIP team. With her endless supply of Simpsons quotes, her undying love of baseball and hockey, and a new-found passion for Fantasy Football, Rosanne really knows how to get us all laughing and is never at a loss for interesting topics of conversation. Rosanne really is a delight to be around and I think I speak for all of us when I say that this year's OLIP team wouldn't be the same without her! –Emma Stanley-Cochrane

Match the baby to the intern answers:

- A: Tejas Aivalli
- B: Emma Stanley-Cochrane
- C: Igor Delov
- D: Meghan Buckham
- E: David Donovan
- F: Kimlan Hokan
- G: Chelsea Peet
- H: Angela Hersey
- I: Dr Jacek
- J: Rosanne Waters
- K: Waqas Iqbal





Can you match us with our baby pictures? Just to confuse you, there is a photo of Dr Jacek as a baby as well. Answers on page 6.

Alumni Appointments

Melodie Barnett (95-96) Principal, Barnett Communications and CR Consulting, Toronto
Jennifer Bowman (86-87) Vice-President, North York General Hospital, Toronto
Roderick Cumming (93-94) Senior Director, CIBC Communications and Public Affairs, Toronto
Ana Curic (05-06) Senior Special Assistant for Parliamentary Affairs, Minister of Finance, Government of Canada, Ottawa
David Docherty (84-85) Dean of Arts, Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario
Robert Donelson (81-81) President, St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation, Hamilton, Ontario
Laura Dougan (06-07) Senior Communications Director, Minister of Children and Youth Services (CYS) and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues
Jon Feairs (05-06) Policy Advisor for Mining, Minister of Northern Development and Mines
Cathy Fooks (84-85) President, Change Foundation, Toronto
Charlie Haldorson (94-95) Senior Director in Communications, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC)
Ron Hoffman (84-85) Canadian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan
Jason Lagerquist (06-07) Legislative Assistant, Office of Amrit Mangat, MPP (Mississauga-Brampton South)
Angela Longo (76-77) Deputy Minister, Ministry of Small Business and Consumer Affairs
Adam McDonald (04-05) Senior Policy Advisor, Minister of Natural Resources
Tom McDowell ((06-07) Assistant Professor of Political Science, Algoma University College.
Kaila Mintz (04-05) Policy Advisor, Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Response Group, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
Naomi Overend (80-81) Vice-Chair, Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario
Katie Robb (07-08) Public Affairs Consultant, Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Rachel Sheer (00-01) Communications Officer, Peabody Trust, London, United Kingdom
Rachel Stack (06-07) Executive Assistant, Office of Phil McNeely, MPP (Ottawa-Orleans)
Lauren Starr (06-07) Information Services Assistant, Office of the Registrar, University of Western Ontario
Matthew Thornton (07-08) Manager, Government Relations, Ontario Real Estate Association

September 3rd, 2008. Ten recent university graduates walked into a committee room in the main legislature building at Queen's Park. It was the first day on the job as this year's group of legislative interns, and everyone was nervous. Those nerves, however, quickly turned to excitement, as fast friendships formed. While all virtual strangers, the ten newcomers had lots in common. All were fascinated with politics, thrilled to be a part of OLIP, and without exception, eager to learn what the coming year would bring. Before they knew it, a whirlwind of orientation activities had begun...

While everyone had studied politics at university, orientation offered an understanding of Ontario's legislature like no classroom ever could. The interns are grateful to, and would like to thank all the legislative staff and officers who met with them, made them feel welcome, and helped them prepare for the coming year!



Sean Conway

Orientation



Janet Ecker

Former political figures offered a hands-on understanding of life in and around Queen's Park. The interns had engaging and informative discussions with former Members, Sean Conway, Janet Ecker, and David Warner who also served as Speaker. The insights offered by each on various topics - sittings in the legislature, the nature of political parties, and the changes they have observed in politics and government over the years - were particularly intriguing and valuable.

An orientation highlight was the meeting with Lynton "Red" Wilson, a prominent leader in both the private and public sectors. As recent graduates who are seeking to develop future career trajectories, Mr. Wilson's observations and comparative analyses of the two sectors were timely and highly relevant to the internship itself, as well as to future employment considerations. The interns valued his advice, and were particularly influenced by his observation that



Lynton "Red" Wilson

whatever one is doing at a given moment, it is essential to perform in that task as best one can. Everyone was encouraged by this guidance, and eager to throw themselves into their intern positions to the fullest extent possible.



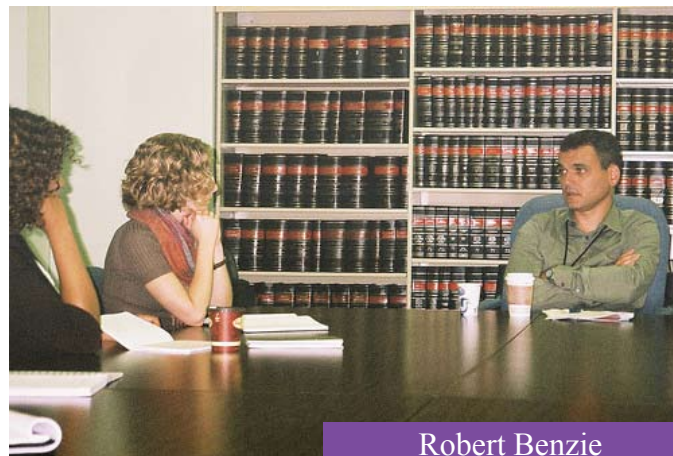
David Warner

A variety of meetings were held with Officers of the Legislature, starting with Lynn Morrison, the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario. There, the interns learned of the commissioner's role overseeing the legislation and in maintaining high standards of personal conduct for MPPs and Cabinet Ministers, thereby enhancing public confidence in the integrity of government. The interns were then pleased to meet Environmental Commissioner Gord Miller, who spoke of his role in monitoring and reporting on the government's compliance with the Environmental Bill of Rights. The next stop was with Jim McCarter, the Auditor General of Ontario who spoke of assessing the government's effectiveness at managing the public purse through "value-for-money" audits. A session with Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner, Dr. Ann Cavoukian, familiarized the interns with efforts to

promote open government and protect personal privacy. The office of Ontario's Ombudsman André Marin, was a recent visit. Coming just days before he tabled a new report, Mr. Marin spoke about the importance of oversight in the administration of government services. -David Donovan

The time spent with current and former Queen's Park journalists was particularly informative and memorable.

The interns met with Robert Benzie, Robert Fisher and April Lindgren, all of whom shed light on the ways in which journalism and the media fit into the

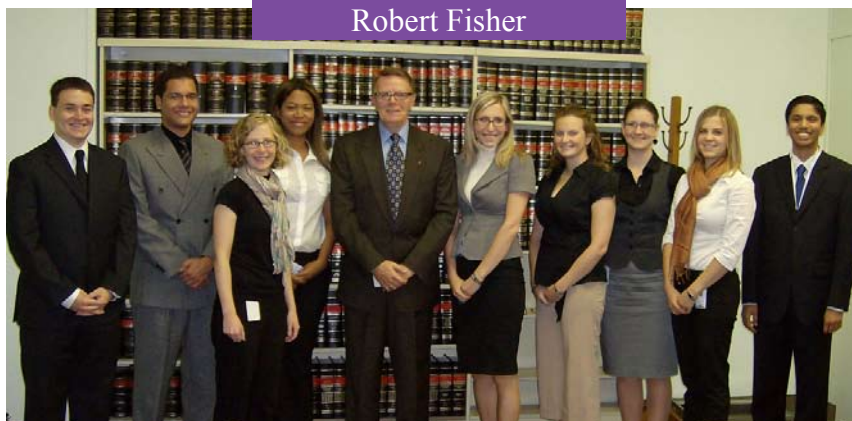


Robert Benzie

Queen's Park context. One theme covered by all three was the changing nature of news coverage at Queen's Park, dealing with such issues as the size of the Press Gallery, and the introduction of new media and communication technologies to

political coverage. They also enlightened us to the unique relationships that exist among journalists and politicians. Benzie, Fisher and Lindgren were extremely generous with their time, patiently listened to and answered all of our questions, regaled us with some truly unforgettable tales of their ex-

periences, and provided us with a unique look inside Queen's Park from the perspective of the media – a key piece of the puzzle that is Ontario politics. -Emma Stanley-Cochrane



Robert Fisher



April Lindgren

Meeting Sponsors

The interns had the privilege of meeting with the following sponsors. They would like to thank all those who took time for these informative meetings, and look forward to more in the coming months.



Robert O'Brien, Churchill Society



Victoria Hunt, Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association



Ted Wigdor, Certified General Accountants of Ontario



Kathleen Waters, LawPRO



Graham Murray, G.P. Murray Research Limited



Craig Brockwell, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation



Wendy Rinella, First Canadian Title



George Cooke, The Dominion



Ryan Clarke, Advocacy Solutions



Don Forgeron, Nikki Holland,
Insurance Bureau of Canada



Interns also met with Robyn Matravers, Ontario
Community Newspapers Association



Hill and Knowlton (In picture with interns: Back
Row - Mike Feenstra, Lindsay Mack, Laura Grier,
Jason Greer; Middle Row - Bob Lopinski, Troy
Ross, Atul Sharma, Jamie Carroll; Front Row
– Meghan Warby)



John Wright, Ipsos Public Affairs



Mark Smithyes and Sarah Shephard, Novartis



Chelsea with Mike Colle



David with Robert Bailey

Interns' MPP Placements



Kim with France Gélinas



Angela with Ernie Hardeman



Emma with Dave Levac



Meghan with David Ramsay



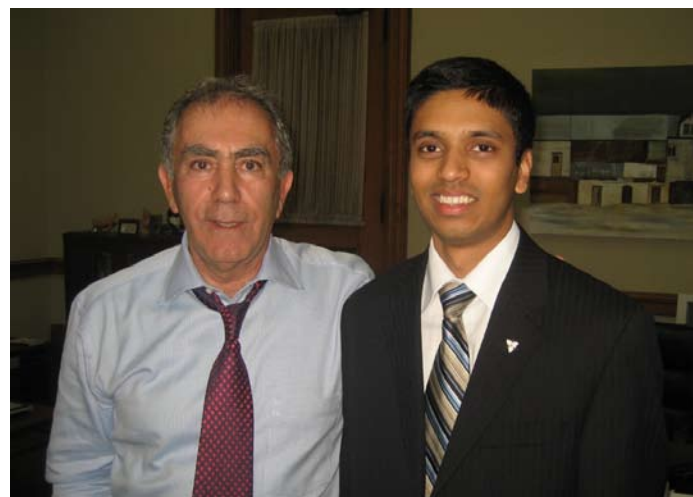
Rosanne with Helena Jaczek



Igor with Laurie Scott



Waqas with Michael Prue



Tejas with Greg Sobara

Alumni Spotlight

Ron Hoffmann (1984-1985) is the newly appointed Canadian Ambassador to Afghanistan

As I travel through the dusty streets of Kabul, navigating check points in the Canadian Embassy's armoured LandCruiser, together with a security detail on the lookout for suicide bombers, the solemn hallways of the Ontario Legislature seem far away. But the path from Ontario Legislature Internship Program (OLIP) to my current diplomatic assignment is more direct than one might first expect.

The last twenty plus years of my career have involved projecting Canadian values and pursuing Canadian interests around the world. In my postings which include The Netherlands, China, South Africa, the United Kingdom and, now, Afghanistan, Canada has shown notable leadership in promoting human rights, respect for women and children, the rule of law, and accountable and representative government institutions and leaders. The chance to have contributed at the heart of our own democratic process has made my contribution to these efforts more satisfying, and I hope to a certain extent effective.

The first hand awareness of a key province's international relationships and aspirations also provided valuable insights which I was able to apply across several diplomatic postings to better serve Canadians, and their provincial governments, abroad.

On a practical level, the Internship experience has opened doors and created career opportunities. Luckily for me, the end of my Intern placement I joined government at as a Special Assistant to a newly minted Envi-

ronment Minister. A couple years later I returned from graduate school to work as Economic Policy Analyst in the Office of the Premier.

Even after I joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), my OLIP and subsequent work experience presented compelling opportunities. Building on my time as an Intern and then policy advisor to a Minister and Premier, where I had learned what senior politicians need from their staff, I was asked to become Senior Departmental Assistant to Canada's

Foreign Affairs Minister, the Honourable John Manley and his successor, the Honourable Bill Graham.

Both Ministers had a strong commitment to supporting Parliament's role and interests in foreign policy, so I found myself again drawing upon my OLIP lessons, personally supporting ministerial outreach to Members of Parliament. More recently I was assigned to the Canadian High Commission in

London and now I am working in Afghanistan to support Canada's top foreign policy priority and biggest official development program.

Had I not ventured from Winnipeg in 1984 to be the sole 'import' to the Ontario Legislature Internship Program that year, I probably would have followed a very different career and life path. It's equally clear to me, however, that irrespective of what followed my year at the Ontario Legislature, the path taken would have been conditioned by the unique lessons learned as an Ontario Legislative Intern. It's a tribute to all involved with OLIP over the years, and to the Legislators themselves for their continued vision, that many others will be able to tell similar stories. - Ron Hoffmann



President Karzai with Ambassador Hoffmann



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Since its inception in 1995, Janssen-Ortho has been at the helm of Ontario's critically important pharmaceutical sector. Closely working together with doctors, nurses and other health-care providers, this firm offers a range of products and services which help professionals in the field tackle medical problems like Alzheimer's and cancer.

Furthermore, Janssen-Ortho is known for conducting world-class research on product development and disease prevention, making it an indispensable asset to the health care community. In addition to creating high-skilled jobs, Janssen-Ortho's work has helped our province grow and establish itself as a competitive, knowledge-intensive region of North America. We are grateful for Janssen-Ortho's kind sponsorship of our programme, and salute their ongoing efforts in vigorously confronting the medical challenges of this century.

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Involved in a number of community initiatives, The Dominion donates at least 1% of its pre-tax net income, averaged over three years, to charitable organizations, and is a proud sponsor of such groups as the Canadian Paraplegic Association. The company also gives staff opportunities to get involved in local events, making a difference to the communities in which they live and do business.

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Our Sponsors are an integral part of the Programme and without their help, the Programme could not function. We would like to thank our sponsors for all the help they have given us and for helping make the Programme as successful as it is today. OLIP has always been supported by a substantial annual grant from the Legislative Assembly of Ontario through the Board of Internal Economy. Corporate donations are an important element in OLIP and are used to fund exchange visits and related educational activities.

