Australian Institute of International Affairs

Visitor and Patron: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
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M E D I A   R E L E A S E

11 December 2013

The Australian Institute of International Affairs is proud to announce that the inaugural Euan Crone Asian Awareness Scholarships have been awarded to four talented young Australians.

The scholarships support young members of the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) who want to make tangible contributions that will deepen understanding of Asia among their peers. Each scholarship is worth up to $5,000.

In its inaugural year, the Euan Crone Asian Awareness Scholarships have been awarded to Andrew Gannon, David Lang, Kimberley Layton and Scott Lennard. All four are committed to exploring Asia in their professional and academic endeavours. They have demonstrated exceptional cross-cultural communication skills and a deep interest in international affairs.

The decision to award a scholarship to four applicants instead of two as originally planned is testament to the very high quality of applications received from all over Australia. It also reflects the selection committee's faith in the ability of all four recipients to contribute to Australian understanding of and interaction with Asia.

About the Recipients

Andrew Gannon (WA) is in his final year of study at the University of Western Australia, and will soon graduate with degrees in Law and Arts along with First Class Honours in English and a Postgraduate Certificate in Chinese Law. In his employment in the Australian legal sector, he has recognised the need for Australian legal practitioners to have cultural knowledge of Asia, especially China. Andrew will utilise his scholarship to undertake graduate Mandarin language study at the Beijing Language and Culture University to improve his professional legal interactions with the business sector in China. He is also keenly interested in language, literature and expression: to this end, he will employ his Mandarin language skills to research Chinese Nobel Laureate Mo Yan's poetry and contribute to the limited body of English analysis of Chinese literature.

David Lang (QLD) is a graduate of the Master of International Relations programme at Griffith University. David has previously interned at Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. He has proven written communication skills, with experience in writing, editing and reviewing articles. David will utilise his scholarship to spend six months in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. His primary goal during this period will be to gain proficiency in Bahasa Indonesia. He will utilise this proficiency to undertake independent research for articles in the Australian media that will chronicle aspects of Indonesian life and the Australia-Indonesia relationship.

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Kimberley Layton (ACT) is a PhD candidate in International Relations at the Canberra campus of the University of New South Wales, supported by an Australian Postgraduate Award. She has previously interned at the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies in New Delhi, India; she has also worked in India in the risk consultancy sector. She is a published young academic and tutor. Kimberley will use her scholarship to conduct fieldwork towards her PhD during the Indian general elections in May 2014. Her research will focus on the Bharatiya Janata Party and the inadequacy of traditional international relations theory in explaining its philosophy and operation.

Scott Lennard (VIC) is in his third year of undergraduate study towards degrees in Arts and Science (with majors in Politics and Astrophysics) at Monash University. He has three years of experience in various roles with UN Youth Australia. While on exchange in London earlier this year, he also completed an internship with Microfinance without Borders. Scott will utilise his scholarship to implement an original microfinance project in Vietnam in late 2014. The project will involve Australian tertiary students undertaking internships in Hanoi to assist a local microfinance institution to transition to and operate on the Lend with Care platform. Scott's project has received support from organisations such as CARE International.

Background Information

The Euan Crone Asian Awareness Scholarship was established through the generous support of Euan Crone, a member of AIIA in Victoria since 1997. In April and May 2013, Mr Crone visited Myanmar as part of an AIIA Victoria study tour. Upon his return, he set up the scholarship as a means to enable young Australians to visit countries in Asia so as to broaden their knowledge of them. Mr Crone was formerly Manager, North Asia, Radio Australia from 1990–1997 with responsibility for Chinese language programs to China and South-East Asia. He is a life member of the Australia-China Business Council and Chinese Language Teachers Federation of Australia. He has working knowledge of Indonesian, Korean and Japanese as well as being an accredited Chinese–English Translator. He has a longstanding interest in Australia's relations with Asia and the rest of the world.

The Australian Institute of International Affairs (www.aiia.asn.au) was established in 1933 as an independent non-political body to promote an interest in, and understanding of, international affairs. The AIIA operates nationwide with 1,300 members across seven state and territory offices. The AIIA provides a forum for discussion, and educates and disseminates ideas via its journal *Australian Journal of International Affairs* and book series including *Australia in World Affairs*. The Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC is the AIIA's Honorary Visitor and Patron.

Contact

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