

THURSDAY 30 MARCH 2006

## AUSTRALIAN FIRST FOR INTERNATIONAL COURT

An ANU law graduate is the first person chosen directly from an Australian law school for a traineeship at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at the Hague in the Netherlands.

The ANU College of Law is the only Australian law school invited to participate in the ICJ Student Traineeship Program, which is based at the principal United Nations court for resolving disputes between states.

Ms Rebecca Jenkin, who graduated from the ANU College of Law in 2002, will take up the nine-month traineeship as an assistant to an ICJ judge in September. She said it will be a chance to pursue her ongoing interest in international affairs at the highest level.

"I'm excited. It will be an amazing opportunity to work with legal advocates at the top of their field in an international court," she said.

"One of the things that attracted me to study at ANU was its strong international law program. Since coming to work in law with graduates from other universities, I know that the opportunities to study with fantastic international law experts are not available everywhere."

The Dean of the ANU College of Law, Professor Michael Coper, extended his warm congratulations to Ms Jenkin.

"Rebecca has an outstanding record of commitment to international law, having been National President of the United Nations Youth Association (UNYA) in 1999, a member of the ANU Jessup International Law Moot Court team in 2001, Australian Youth Representative to the UN General Assembly in 2002, and winner of the UNHCR Prize for International Human Rights Law," Professor Coper said.

"The selection also reflects well on the University. ANU is the only Australian university to have been invited to participate in the ICJ Student Traineeship Program. This is a mark not only of our high reputation generally in international law, but of international recognition at the highest level."

Ms Jenkin, who grew up in Canberra, is currently working as an associate to Justice Mark Weinberg of the Federal Court in Melbourne. She has been a member of the Human Rights Law Group, and has done pro bono work for the Red Cross. Her role at the ICJ will entail supporting a judge by conducting research, preparing briefs, and assisting in court.