

**SPEAKING NOTES
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SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF
THE SPEAKER'S VISIT TO LUISS UNIVERSITY, ROME**

MAY 15, 2009

On the 25th day of October, 2007, LUISS University, Rome, and the Senate of Canada signed an agreement that would thereafter offer students enrolled in the “Parliaments and Public Policies” or in one of the programmes of the Faculty of Political Sciences offered by LUISS University, an internship programme at the Senate of Canada. I am very pleased today to recognize the four students that have so far participated in this programme; however, before I do I would like to say a few words about the programme.

The main objective of the internship is to offer students a practical experience directly related to their university course. The internship allows the students to gain an insight into the world of work and, in particular, its professional, social and human aspects, and also, to put into practice the theoretical skills acquired in their course. Furthermore, the internship provides an opportunity to conduct specific research for the student`s thesis. The Senate of Canada provides a stimulating and engaging environment where students have access to the Library

of Parliament and other valuable resources to help conduct their research. It is an ideal setting for international students who are participating in a unique professional, academic and social program. It is through international education programs like these that students acquire knowledge, contacts and tools which will serve them well in their future careers.

In the fall of 2007, I had the privilege of hosting the Senate of Canada's first intern from LUISS University in the Speaker's Office, Ms. Gabriella Angiulli. Gabriella worked diligently in my office, conducted thorough research and attended Standing Senate Committees regularly. She integrated into the Speaker's office flawlessly and was a very driven and responsible intern.

Giovanni Piccirilli worked as an intern in the Honourable Senator, Consiglio Di Nino's office the following spring, from February to March 2008. Though six weeks seems like a short period - the length of the program - it was sufficient time for Giovanni to gain extensive knowledge on the Canadian parliamentary system. A quick learner, Giovanni was eager to discover as much as he could while participating in a number of discussions, meetings and seminars. His internship was a very valuable and enriching experience on both a personal and professional level.

This year, from February through March, 2009, Guido Giordano was an intern in the Speaker's of the Senate's office. Being a student in economics and finance, Guido conducted research towards his degree and participated in a number of activities in the Speaker's office. Guido met with various administrative and key officials in the Senate and in Ottawa. Guido was another excellent intern who was motivate and interested.

Also during February and March 2009, the Senate of Canada hosted its fourth intern, Cristina Fasone, in the office of the Honourable Senator, Donald Oliver. During her internship, Cristina attended regular Standing Senate Committee meetings and Senate sittings; conducted research for a large number of projects Senator Oliver was working on and drafted numerous reports. Cristina was an exceptional intern who was motivated and engaged in all that she did.

The international exchange programme between LUISS University and the Senate of Canada has proven to be very successful. These interns are a very unique, dynamic and talented group of students. Each intern took advantage of attending social events, academic and political conferences and seminars that regularly take place on Parliament Hill. During these times, they had the opportunity to meet interesting individuals from not only the political world in

Ottawa, but the city at large. They often had the chance to meet and discuss their views with Senators, Members of Parliament, economists, Clerks and Ambassadors. Guido was very fortunate to arrive in Ottawa the same week the President of the United States, Barack Obama made his first official visit to Canada, and therefore met the President.

In brief, I am very pleased that these four particular students took advantage of the agreement between LUISS and the Senate of Canada and carried out an internship in Ottawa. I am confident that they have all gained a greater understanding of the Senate of Canada and of the Canadian Parliamentary system that will benefit them in their future careers, regardless the field or course of study they pursue. I look forward to welcoming future interns from LUISS University.