MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The dust has settled on my first semester as the Clark Center’s interim Director, and what a whirlwind of a semester it’s been! Within days of relocating to Austin in late July, I boarded a plane bound for Australia. Meetings in Sydney, Melbourne, and Canberra laid important groundwork for collaborative research between Australian and US-based scholars. With the start of the fall semester, I began teaching a course on Australian politics. Subsequent meetings with dozens of faculty, staff, and students at UT-Austin revealed significant cross-campus interest in various dimensions of Australian and New Zealand studies. From these conversations several fruitful partnerships were forged. I’m pleased to report that I’ll be building on these efforts through the 2013-14 academic year.

The Center will continue to support faculty and graduate-student research, bring leading scholars of Australia and New Zealand to UT-Austin, foster collaboration among trans-Pacific networks of scholars, and disseminate research about Australia and New Zealand through its publications. The following pages elaborate new initiatives that seek to build on existing strengths of UT-Austin. The Center’s research agenda includes a project that analyzes the role of courts in policymaking processes in Australia and New Zealand and an interdisciplinary inquiry into issues concerning natural resource extraction and Indigenous peoples. The Center’s work on common energy challenges faced by Australia and Texas also continues. Through a new small grants program, the Center seeks to support scholars from across the University who share these and other research interests. This spring, we’ll launch a Fulbright Speakers Series to bring recently returned, US-based scholars to Austin to deliver lectures based on their fieldwork in Australia or New Zealand. We’ve also partnered with the Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, to bring Diane Otto, an international human rights expert at Melbourne Law School, to UT-Austin to participate in a major conference at the Law School.

Several personnel changes occurred at the Center. College-level budget cuts led to loss of the Center’s Administrative Associate, a position that was long held by Frances Cushing. In addition, Ronda Rowe, Head Librarian in the Perry-Casteñeda Library’s Acquisition Services, stepped down as the Center’s webmaster after graciously serving in this capacity on a pro bono basis for many years. She continues to manage the PCL’s acquisition of Australian and New Zealand materials and remains a much valued affiliate of the Center. And finally, two graduate students from the Department of Government, Sean Fern and Stephen Joyce, have been hired to work as Research Assistants on Center projects. In addition to these duties, Joyce will serve as the Center’s new webmaster.
This fall the Center welcomed a dozen visitors to UT-Austin. The US Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program and the group Global Austin brought to town a delegation that included James Brown, Marcus Lumb, and Dr. Prudence Flowers, all of whom participated in a panel on “Security in Asia: An Australian Perspective” at the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law. University of Adelaide President Warren Bebbington and Pro Vice-Chancellor Kent Anderson explored opportunities for institutional collaboration with UT-Austin scholars, and Sydney University’s Kathleen Davidson spent several weeks in Austin as a Research Fellow at the Harry Ransom Center. Three visitors gave guest-lectures to my Australian politics class. The dynamic and distinguished duo of Verity and Meredith Burgmann enthralled students with a discussion of green politics in Australia, and Andrew Blyth delivered an insightful lecture on rural electrification.

The Clark Center will celebrate its 25th anniversary in the coming year. In addition to marking this occasion, we are planning several major events that will bring a number of distinguished officials and scholars to UT-Austin. I encourage you to visit the Center’s website periodically to stay abreast of these developments. We are working hard to expand the website’s content and welcome suggestions for its improvement. We also welcome UT-Austin faculty who work on issues concerning Australia or New Zealand to join our list of faculty affiliates. I look forward to hearing from scholars around the world who wish to participate in the research ventures outlined herein or discuss other opportunities for collaboration.

Rhonda Evans Case

CENTER THANKS FRANCES CUSHING FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

In July 2012, the College of Liberal Arts cut the Center’s Administrative Associate, a part-time position that Frances Cushing held for 17 years. In this capacity, Fran organized innumerable visits by scholars, hosted conferences, managed the Center’s accounts, kept its office in the Harry Ransom Center open, responded to a thousand inquiries about Australia and New Zealand, and was in all ways the Center’s mainstay. She also consulted on several books on Australia for young readers. Many of you know Fran for her tireless efforts on behalf of ANZSANA. Fran served as the Association’s Treasurer and Secretary for many years. She collected registration fees (wrangling delinquent attendees), proofread countless documents, and ensured that each year’s conference program featured a beautiful print of Australian or New Zealand flora. Fran played a key role in organizing two ANZSANA meetings that were held in Austin, Texas in 1998 and 2008, and she helped organize ANZSANA meetings elsewhere. In the past months, Fran has remained a valuable asset to the Center, providing much needed assistance on a volunteer-basis, most especially with production and dissemination of this edition of *Yacker*. Not one to remain idle, Fran continues working at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, swims in Barton Springs, and spends what little time is leftover with her husband Bob and her many Austin friends. We wish her the very best.
CENTER RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Meeting Contemporary Energy Needs: Australia and Texas Compared

The Clark Center and Ian Duncan, Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology in UT-Austin’s Jackson School of Geosciences, will bring a delegation of researchers from the University of Queensland to Texas 10-16 February 2013. The visit continues an exchange that was conceived by Cameron O’Reilly, CEO of Energy Retailers Association of Australia, during his stint as a Fulbright Alliance Fellow at UT-Austin in 2009. It follows a 2011 workshop that was held in Sydney and attended by a team from UT-Austin led by John Higley. The upcoming delegation from Australia will include, among others, Christopher Roy Greig, Director of the UQ Energy Initiative, and Graham Barry Schaffer, Professor and Executive Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology at UQ. Its members will tour energy sites in the Dallas-Ft. Worth and Austin areas, meet with officials from both public and private energy sectors, and engage faculty from UT-Austin’s engineering Departments, Law School, and LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Seeking to build on these exchanges, the Clark Center is facilitating formation of an interdisciplinary Australia-Texas Energy Working Group that will complement and strengthen the existing network of energy-oriented programs across the University. It seeks to promote problem-driven, policy-relevant research that can be mobilized in the public arena in both the US and Australia. The Working Group’s key objectives include: (1) supporting collaborative study of effects of energy production upon economic growth, labor markets, local communities, and the environment as well as efficacy of different regulatory regimes in Australia and Texas; (2) mobilizing this research in policymaking arenas; (3) convening a major conference involving the Working Group’s participants in Austin during the 2013-14 academic year; and (4) fostering faculty and student exchanges between UT-Austin and Australian universities.

Indigenous Peoples and Energy Working Group

In addition to being a center for study of energy, UT-Austin houses several programs that focus on issues concerning Indigenous peoples. These programs include the Long Institute of Latin American Studies, the Law School’s Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Social Justice, and the Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) Initiative, which offers both an Undergraduate Certificate and a Graduate Portfolio program. Although they focus heavily on the Americas, the latter two in particular aspire to broaden their comparative focus to extend globally. The Clark Center is facilitating this effort by convening a Working Group that will focus specifically on political, economic, and cultural issues concerning Indigenous peoples and energy exploration and extraction, a topic of high salience across the Americas and Australia.
To this end, the Center is working closely with Directors of the NAIS and Rapoport Center as well as relevant faculty experts from various disciplines at UT-Austin. The Working Group’s key objectives include: (1) developing a collaborative network of US-, New Zealand-, and Australia-based scholars that produces ground-breaking research on critical issues concerning Indigenous peoples and energy production; (2) promoting this research in policymaking arenas; (3) fostering faculty and student exchanges between UT-Austin and universities in Australia and New Zealand; and (4) incorporating study of New Zealand and Australia’s Indigenous peoples into the curriculum of the NAIS.

**Comparative Policy Agendas Project**

The Department of Government at UT-Austin is home to the Policy Agendas Project, an enterprise that collects and organizes US data from various archived sources in order to trace changes in the national policy agenda and public policy outcomes. The Project spawned comparative efforts across more than a dozen countries. Today, a Comparative Agendas Policy Project loosely coordinates these efforts and regularly convenes gatherings at which scholars present their work. The Clark Center is collaborating with researchers at the ANU to study Australia. Directed by Rhonda Evans Case, Research Assistant Stephen Joyce is analyzing special leave applications considered by the High Court of Australia. The Center also breaks new ground by beginning work on New Zealand. Research Assistant Sean Fern analyzing special leave applications considered by the New Zealand Supreme Court. A series of papers will be presented at international conferences in the year ahead.

**Impunity, Justice and the Human Rights Agenda**

The Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice at the UT-Austin Law School will hold its annual conference, “Impunity, Justice and the Human Rights Agenda,” 7-8 February 2013, at which scholars, human rights advocates, and policy-makers will critically assess the human rights movement’s focus on anti-impunity. With Clark Center support, Diane Otto, Director of the Institute for International Law and the Humanities at Melbourne Law School, will participate in the event as well as meet with faculty and students during her stay in Austin. Details, including a conference program, will soon be available on the website of the Clark and Rapoport Centers.

**NEW SMALL GRANT PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH**

The Center will award a number of small grants in spring 2013 to support research by faculty and graduate students affiliated with UT-Austin. Projects must advance knowledge and understanding of Australian or New Zealand politics and society, culture and literature, economics and business. Grants are intended to facilitate research in Australia or New Zealand or facilitate research collaboration with academics based in either country. Research may focus exclusively on Australia or New Zealand, or it may treat either country in comparative context. Applications should be received by 31 January 2013. See the Clark Center’s website for details.
NEW FULBRIGHT SPEAKERS SERIES

The Fulbright-Flinders Distinguished Chair in American Political Science enables US-based academics to spend four to five months as research fellows in Australia. The first two scholars to hold the Chair have accepted invitations to deliver lectures at UT-Austin. The Center plans to invite future occupants of the Chair to UT-Austin as a means of promoting this valuable program and disseminating the research that it fosters. It’s also eager to partner with Schools, Departments, and Centers across UT-Austin to bring in scholars who have recently returned to the US from other Fulbright fellowships in Australia and New Zealand.

In fall of 2013, Howard Schweber, Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and inaugural occupant of the Distinguished Chair, will deliver a talk at UT-Austin. During his time in Australia, he examined ways in which foundational concepts of representative government shaped the development of Australian constitutional and political culture. Schweber’s travel to Austin has been delayed by the fact that he’s spending the current academic year as Visiting Professor at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan.

In April 2013, Malcolm M. Feeley, Claire Sanders Clements Dean’s Chair Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, will deliver a talk at UT-Austin. Feeley, who completed his term as Distinguished Chair in December 2012, spent his time examining privatization in the Australian criminal justice system as part of a comparative inquiry that includes the US and England. Expect parallels between Australia and Texas to feature prominently in Feeley’s remarks as he also researched prison policies in the State of Texas for his 2000 book, Judicial Policy Making and the Modern State: How the Courts Reformed America’s Prisons.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

ANZSANA and AAALS to Meet in Washington, D.C.

The Australian & New Zealand Studies Association of North America and American Association of Australian Literary Studies will hold their 2013 annual joint conferences at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., Feb. 14-16. Proceedings kick off Thursday evening with a welcome reception. Each association will hold a series of panels on Friday and Saturday that are open to attendees of either conference. Pulitzer Prize-Winning Historian David Hackett Fischer and Professor Michael J. Green of Georgetown University and the Center for Strategic and International Studies will deliver keynote addresses. See www.anzsana.net and http://www.australianliterature.org/ for more details. Conference registration fee is $200.00 (either US or CD), $140 for graduate students. A formal banquet dinner on Friday is an additional $90. The Georgetown Marriott Hotel (1-888-902-1606) offers attendees a special rate of $129/night (plus taxes) so long as they book before 15 Jan. 2013 and indicate their affiliation with the conference at time of booking.
New Zealand Studies Association to Meet in the Netherlands

The New Zealand Studies Association will hold its 19th annual conference in conjunction with the Centre for Pacific and Asian Studies, Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, 27-29 June 2013. Paper proposals for this interdisciplinary event may be submitted by 12 January to Ian Conrich [ian@ianconrich.co.uk] or Toon van Meijl [t.vanmeijl@ru.nl]. More details about the event, including a list of featured speakers, are available on the Clark Center’s website.

FACULTY AND STUDENT NEWS

Faculty

Karen Engle, Minerva House Drysdale Regents Chair in Law and Founder and Co-director of the Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice at the UT-Austin School of Law, spent three weeks in Australia and New Zealand in April and May 2012. At the University of Melbourne Law School, Engle presented a public lecture that served as keynote address for a symposium on “Peacekeeping in the Asia-Pacific: Gender Equality, Law and Security” organized by the Asia-Pacific Center for Military Law and the University of London. She also delivered a talk entitled “The Elusive Promise of Ethno-development” at a public event organized by the Institute for International Law and the Humanities. At the UNSW Faculty of Law, she presented a paper entitled “Anti-anti Impunity: Reflections on the History and Trajectory of the Human Rights Movement” at an event sponsored by the Australian Human Rights Centre. At the Indigenous Law Centre, Australian perspectives on her book on indigenous rights were considered.

Rhonda Evans Case, Clark Center’s interim Director, presented a paper entitled “Asylum Policy in Australia: What’s the High Court Got to Do with It?” at the World Congress of Political Science in Madrid, Spain in July 2012. In August, she spent a week as Visiting Scholar in the School of Politics and International Relations at the ANU. During her stay in Canberra, Evans Case conducted research on several human rights issues, including the plight of asylum seekers, and worked with ANU faculty on an Australian Research Council grant proposal that will be submitted in the coming months.

D’Arcy Randall, Senior Lecturer in the Cockrell School of Engineering’s Department of Chemical Engineering, undertook Center-sponsored research in Australia during June-July 2012. In visits to the University of Queensland, Sydney University, and ANU, she made significant progress toward researching a memoir of her career as fiction editor at UQ Press, where she balanced a male-dominated list with women writers Thea Astley, Kate Grenville, Elizabeth Jolley, and Olga Masters, among others. She plans a series of scholarly articles about the Canberra-based women’s group Seven Writers. An additional fellowship from UQ’s Fryer Library will enable her to complete the research into next summer. She shared preliminary findings in two conference presentations, (at Sydney University and ANU) and one panel discussion at UQ. In February 2012, she’ll deliver a paper on her Seven Writers research at the AAALS Conference in Washington, DC.
Frederick “Fritz” Steiner, Dean of the School of Architecture at UT-Austin delivered a keynote address in July 2012 at the 10th International Urban Planning and Environment Association Symposium at the Univ. of Sydney. The event focused on the topic of “Planning for a New Energy and Climate Future” and was co-sponsored by the U.S. Studies Center and Faculty of Architecture, Design, and Planning. Steiner also joined Tom Murphy, former Mayor of Pittsburgh, and Robert Hill, former Australian Senator and UN ambassador, on a panel that explored the future of cities in a post-carbon era.

Graduate Students

Sean Fern, a second-year student in the Department of Government, will travel to ANZSANA’s annual meeting in February 2013, where he and Rhonda Evans Case will present a paper entitled “The New Zealand Supreme Court: Promises Fulfilled?” Fern, who holds degrees from New York University’s School of Law and Georgetown University’s Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, began working as a Research Assistant on the Clark Center’s Comparative Policy Agenda’s Project in October 2012.

Robert Shaffer, a first-year graduate student in the Department of Government, will also participate in the 2013 ANZSANA meeting. He will present a paper on “Biodiversity and the Courts: Endangered Species Law in the US, Australia, and Canada” that derives from the honors thesis he completed as an undergraduate in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley. Shaffer intends to pursue a dissertation that expands upon this work.

AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ESTABLISHED IN AUSTIN

In May 2012, Christian Adams launched an Australian American Chamber of Commerce in Austin. Adams, who grew up in Perth, has lived in the US for many years and now works for the Pottinger Chirogianis Group, an Austin-based wealth management team at UBS. He organized two events this past fall. In September, Adams hosted a screening of Red Dog, a film based on the legendary, true story of an Australian Kelpie’s exploits in the ruggedly beautiful Pilbara region of Western Australia in the 1970s. An Australian Short Film Night followed in October. Courtesy of the Australian American Chamber of Commerce of Houston, it featured an eclectic assemblage of short films expertly curated by Susan Talbot. Two films left the theater silent: The Palace, a suspenseful and heartbreaking depiction of a Cypriot family’s effort to escape Turkish forces on Cyprus in 1974, and The Telegram Man, an understated yet powerful story about the delivery of bad news in a country town during WWII. The night ended, however, in uproarious laughter with How Many More Doctors does it take to Change a Light Bulb?, a delightful example of Aussie humor. Both events were held at the Austin Film Society Center. To learn more about this new organization or join its ranks, look for it at http://www.meetup.com.
FALL SEMESTER VISITORS

Kent Anderson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), University of Adelaide
Helen Arthurson, IDHA Partners, Armidale, Australia
Warren Bebbington, President, University of Adelaide
Andrew Blyth, 2012 Fulbright Professional Australia-U.S. Alliance Studies Scholar
James Brown, Military Fellow, Lowy Institute for International Policy
Meredith Burgmann, Former President of the New South Wales Legislative Council
Verity Burgmann, Department of Political Science, University of Melbourne
Iain Davidson, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, University of New England
Kathleen Davidson, Department of Art History and Film Studies, University of Sydney
Prudence Flowers, Lecturer, American Studies and History Departments, Flinders University
Marcus Lumb, Executive Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
James Schilling, US Department of State

GIVING TO THE CLARK CENTER

Individual donations can be made securely and easily online at www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cas/giving.php or by mail to Kathleen Aronson, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, College of Liberal Arts, The University of Texas at Austin, 1 University Station, G-6300, Austin, Texas, 78712. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss ways in which your contribution can assist the Center. To arrange a meeting, please contact Rhonda Evans Case directly at evanscaser@austin.utexas.edu.