



yacker

NEWSLETTER 48 FALL ■ 2013

THE EDWARD A. CLARK CENTER FOR AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The summer and fall were busy at the Clark Center. The Center's small grants program helped send two faculty and three graduate students from UT-Austin to Australia and New Zealand. In Wellington myself during August, I and graduate student Sean Fern experienced the 6.6 earthquake that struck the city on August 16. A truly scary experience! We learned first hand just how much well-engineered buildings are *supposed* to move in the course of a seismic event of that magnitude. During a month down under, I visited the University of Queensland, the University of Adelaide, and Monash University, and I participated in a symposium in Canberra convened by the Australian-American Fulbright Commission about *Soft Power, Smart Power: the Multiplier Effect of Educational and Cultural Exchange*. In the fall, the Center continued its Fulbright Distinguished Speakers Series, hosting Burdett A. "Bird" Loomis, Professor of Political Science at the University of Kansas and former Fulbright Flinders University Distinguished Chair in American Political Science. In September the Center hosted a reception at which UT-Austin students who recently returned from Australia or New Zealand mixed and mingled with new exchange students from Australian and New Zealand universities and with students enrolled in my course on Australian Politics. The spring semester will get off to a fast start when the Center hosts the annual ANZSANA meeting in February. Happy Holidays from the Clark Center!

Rhonda Evans Case

ANZSANA RETURNS TO UT-AUSTIN

The Australian and New Zealand Studies Association of North America will hold its 2014 annual conference at the University of Texas at Austin, February 6-8. More than two dozen papers will be presented, and the conference will kick off Thursday evening with a welcoming reception, with panels being held on Friday and Saturday in the Julius Glickman Conference Center in the new College of Liberal Arts building. The registration fee is \$175.00 and the conference dinner on Friday evening in the Carillon restaurant, located in the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, will cost an additional \$50. The elegant and on-campus AT&T Center (512-404-1900) offers attendees a special rate of \$174/night (plus taxes), providing they book before **14 January 2014** and indicate their affiliation with the conference at time of booking. See www.anzsana.net for more details.

DON GRAHAM PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

This year Don Graham, J. Frank Dobie Regents Professor of American and English Literature at the University of Texas at Austin and a long-time faculty affiliate of the Clark Center, published his latest book, *Michael Wilding and the Fiction of Instant Experience: Stories, Novels, and Memoirs, 1963-2012* (Teneo Press). Wilding's many contributions to Australian literature have been overlooked in recent years. With this book, Don brings Wilding back to the fore in Australia literature and contributes to Australian literary studies. Don's interest in Wilding grew out of his 1991 participation in a 10-faculty exchange program that the Clark Center's founding director, John Higley, organized between the UT-Austin and Sydney University. Don is also to be congratulated for receiving a UT Regents Outstanding Teaching Award in 2013.

SMALL GRANT PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH ENTERS ITS SECOND YEAR

In fall 2012, the Center launched a small grants program for UT-Austin faculty and graduate students wishing to conduct research in Australia or New Zealand. Two faculty and three graduate students received awards of varying amounts last year to support their travel and research. Applications for the next round of funding are due by 31 January 2014. For more about the program and last year's recipients, please see the Center's website.

CENTER RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Meeting Contemporary Energy Needs: Australia and Texas Compared

The Clark Center has been facilitating relations between energy researchers at UT-Austin and their counterparts at the University of Queensland (UQ). In June and September, Ian Duncan (Bureau of Economic Geology) traveled to Australia to deliver public lectures on the environmental impact of unconventional gas production and meet with government officials and other policy-makers. In conjunction with faculty members at UQ, Duncan is developing a research project examining coal seam gas extraction in Australia, drawing from US and Texas experience extracting coal bed methane. Chris Grieg (Director of UQ's Energy Initiative) and Andrew Garnett (Director of UQ's Center for Coal Seam Gas) visited Austin during October. As a result, a Memorandum of Understanding for Academic Collaboration between UT-Austin and UQ is being renewed. Efforts are also underway to organize a trip in July 2014 by UT-Austin researchers to UQ and Queensland energy sites. During this spring semester, Tina Hunter, Senior Lecturer at UQ's TC Beirne School of Law, will spend several weeks in Austin researching Texas' regulatory approach to shale gas extraction.

Comparative Policy Agendas Project: Australia and New Zealand

The Clark Center joined the Comparative Agendas Project, which is headquartered in UT-Austin's Department of Government, in fall 2012. Data collection on decisions of the New Zealand Supreme Court is now complete. Dr. Rhonda Evans Case and graduate research assistant Sean Fern spent several weeks as Program Visitors at Victoria University Wellington's Law Faculty to collect documents from the NZ Supreme Court's registry, interview attorneys who regularly appear before the Court, and present their research about the Court's agenda-setting role to Law faculties at the University of Auckland and Victoria University Wellington. They were privileged to count former Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Palmer and retired Supreme Court Justices Peter Blanchard and Sir Kenneth Keith among those attending their presentations. Evans Case and Fern are contributing to an edited volume on the New Zealand Supreme Court to be published by Thomson Reuters in mid-2014.

Two UT-Austin undergraduate students, Charlie Stephens and Kimberly Smith are assisting with coding decisions of the High Court of Australia. Both are veterans of Dr. Evans Case's course on Australian Politics. The two students are also conducting individual research projects, Charlie examining the ways in which High Court decisions advanced or thwarted the political interests of federal and state governments between 1975 and 2013, and Kimberly examining the Howard government's legislative agenda between July 2005 and December 2007, during which time the Coalition controlled both houses of Parliament, a rare event in Australia.

PUBLICATIONS

Don Graham, *Michael Fielding and the Fiction of Instant Experience* (Youngstown, NY: Teneo Press, 2013).

Robert Shaffer, "Judicial Oversight in the Comparative Context: Biodiversity Protection in the US, Australia, and Canada," 43(2) *Environmental Law Reporter* (2013).

FALL SEMESTER VISITORS

Andrew Garnett, Director of the UQ Centre for Coal Seam Gas, University of Queensland.

Chris Greig, Professor, Director, UQ Energy Initiative, University of Queensland.

Darren Halpin, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University.

Tangerine Holt, Executive Director, Australian-American Fulbright Commission

Burdett Loomis, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Kansas.

Mae Ngai, Department of History, Columbia University.

Daniel Pryor, School of Business, University of New South Wales.

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 would be delighted meet with persons interested in helping the Center. To arrange a meeting, please contact Rhonda Evans Case directly at: evanscaser@austin.utexas.edu.

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