



# yacker

NEWSLETTER 47    SPRING    2013

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I believe this edition of *Yacker* shows, we're wrapping up a busy 2012-13 academic year at the Clark Center. In addition to hosting an array of visitors, the Center sponsored travel by UT-Austin faculty and graduate students to conferences in the U.S. and the Adelaide Writer's Festival in Australia, with travel to Australia and New Zealand by several additional faculty and graduate students in the pipeline for this summer.

As part of an ongoing collaboration, a delegation of energy researchers from the University of Queensland (UQ) traveled to UT-Austin in February (more on this below.) In addition, Diane Otto, Professor at Melbourne Law School, participated in a conference at the Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice and delivered a lively lecture to my government class on human rights and world politics. Malcolm Feeley, Professor at Berkeley Law, launched the Fulbright Flinders Distinguished Chair Speakers Series in April with an engaging seminar on privatization of prisons in the U.S. and Australia. The event drew a large audience and was covered by *The Daily Texan*. And finally, the U.S. State Department brought Andrew Fraser to UT-Austin. Fraser represented the Labour Party in Queensland from 2004 to 2012, serving for a period as Deputy Premier. In addition to his other meetings in Austin, I (not unselfishly) organized and accompanied Fraser on a tour of the Texas Longhorns' football facilities.

In February two UT-Austin graduate students and I presented papers at the annual meeting of the ANZSANA-AAALS, held this year at Georgetown University. While in D.C. I met with the Australian and New Zealand Ambassadors to the U.S. In March, I returned to D.C. to participate in a symposium on the U.S.-Australian Alliance convened by the Australian Embassy and the University of Sydney's U.S. Studies Center as part of G'Day USA. Among several prominent participants, Kurt Campbell, former Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs and widely recognized as a key architect of the Obama Administration's pivot to Asia, spoke at the symposium.

An active summer is ahead. As part of its small grants program, the Center is sending a handful of UT-Austin faculty and graduate students to Australia and New Zealand (see below). For my part, I will pay visits to UQ, the University of Adelaide, Monash University, and the U.S. Studies Center in Sydney. In August, I'll participate in a symposium convened by the Australian-American Fulbright Commission entitled *Soft Power, Smart Power: the Multiplier Effect of Educational and Cultural Exchange that will help mark Canberra's centenary.*

We will hit the ground running in the fall. In early September the Center will host a reception at which UT-Austin students recently returned from Australia or New Zealand will meet new exchange students to UT-Austin from Australian and New Zealand universities. Students from my fall semester course on Australian politics will attend. In early October, Australian feminist and commentator Anne Summers will visit the Center for a week and deliver a public lecture. Visits are also being organized for two American scholars, Howard Schweber and Burdett A. Loomis, who have recently held the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Politics at Flinders University. Much of the fall will go to organizing the annual ANZSANA meeting, which the Center will host in February 2014.

A couple of personnel changes deserve mention. The Center has hired a new student assistant, Sarah Vaught, to provide administrative and research assistance. Sarah comes to us from the Department of Government, where she worked until deciding to return to studies full-time. Stephen Joyce will discontinue as a graduate research assistant for the Center to focus his energies on preparing a dissertation proposal.

We are continuing to upgrade the Center's online presence. For those of you attuned to social media, the Clark Center now has a Facebook page. In addition to providing information on political and cultural developments in Australia and New Zealand, the page offers a means of keeping up with Center events. The Clark Center celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary during 2013-14 and the year promises to be stimulating in all respects.

*Rhonda Evans Case*

## **CENTER RESEARCH INITIATIVES**

### ***Meeting Contemporary Energy Needs: Australia and Texas Compared***

A delegation of six faculty from UQ and two representatives of Australian industry trade associations, led by Professor Chris Greig, the Director of UQ's Energy Initiative, visited UT-Austin in February. The Clark Center sponsored the visit in conjunction with the University's Energy Institute and Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG). Dr. Rhonda Evans Case, together with Chris Greig, Dr. Ian Duncan (BEG), Dr. Ross Baldick (Cockrell School) and Cameron O'Reilly (Chief Executive of the Energy Retailers Association of Australia) organized and hosted the visit.

The Australian visitors went to a hydraulic fracking site north of Fort Worth, interacted with leading UT energy researchers from the Cockrell School of Engineering and BEG, and toured the ERCOT Control Center in Taylor, Texas. They were also given an overview of the Pecan Street project that seeks to create more energy efficient urban housing for Austin. A dinner hosted by the Clark Center provided an opportunity for the Australians to socialize with members of the Austin community—including Barry Smitherman, Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission, the name of which belies its oversight of all Texas oil and gas operations.

Fruits of collaborative projects are already visible. In June, and again in September, Ian Duncan will travel to Australia to deliver public lectures on the environmental impact of unconventional gas and meet with government officials and other decision-makers. In conjunction with faculty at UQ, Duncan is developing a research project examining coal seam gas extraction in Australia, in light of the U.S. experience extracting coal bed methane. Plans are in train to bring Tina Hunter, Senior Lecturer at the TC Beirne School of Law and a member of the UQ delegation, to UT-Austin for several weeks to study legislative responses to new energy technologies. This summer Rhonda Evans Case will meet with members of the delegation in Australia to discuss opportunities for promoting faculty and graduate student exchanges and plans for initiating an Australia-Texas Energy Forum.

### *Comparative Policy Agendas Project*

The Clark Center joined the Comparative Agendas Project (CAP), headquartered in UT-Austin's Dept. of Government, last fall. In October, Dr. Evans Case and the Center's two graduate research assistants, Sean Fern and Stephen Joyce, began collecting data on decisions of the High Court of Australia and the New Zealand Supreme Court. Nearly all decisions of the NZ Supreme Court, including decisions on leave applications, have been coded according to the CAP's protocol. Having exhausted all available online resources, the NZ project shifts gears this summer when Evans Case and Fern will spend several weeks as Program Visitors at the Victoria University of Wellington's Law Faculty to collect documents from the Supreme Court's registry, interview attorneys who regularly appear before the Court, and prepare a web-based survey of the NZ Supreme Court Bar. Professor H. W. Perry, in UT's Law School and Department of Government, and Emeritus Professor Roy Flemming, in the Department of Political Science at Texas A&M University, have been valuable consultants for this study.

Evans Case and Sean Fern presented a paper entitled "The New Zealand Supreme Court: Promises Fulfilled?" at the ANZSANA-AAALS conference in February, and Stephen Joyce gave a paper on the High Court of Australia's Agenda-Setting Role (co-authored with Evans Case) at the annual meeting of the Law and Society Association in May. In June, Evans Case will participate in the CAP Conference in Antwerp, Belgium, at which she will present a paper on the NZ Supreme Court's Agenda-Setting Role.

In the fall, two UT-Austin undergraduate students, Charlie Stephens and Kimberly Smith, will join the project. In addition, to conducting their own individual research projects they will assist in data collection and coding for the Clark Center project. Charlie is a veteran of Dr. Evans Case's 2012 course on Australian politics, and Kimberly is enrolled in its 2013 edition.

## ANZSANA-AAALS 2013 MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Australian and New Zealand Studies Association of North America and American Association of Australian Literary Studies held their annual meetings on the campus of Georgetown University, 14-16 February. This was ANZSANA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The proceedings benefited from generous support provided by the Australian and New Zealand Embassies. The meetings kicked off with a reception at the private residence of Australia's Ambassador to the U.S., the Honorable Kim Beazley. A Friday banquet dinner featured New Zealand wine and insightful remarks by David Hackett Fischer, University Professor and Earl Warren Professor of History at Brandeis University, drawn from his recent book, *Fairness and Freedom: A History of Two Open Societies: New Zealand and the United States*. New Zealand's Ambassador to the U.S., the Honorable Mike Moore, gave a rousing introduction of Professor Fischer.

In addition to papers by Evans Case and Sean Fern, Robert Shaffer, another graduate student in Government at UT-Austin, presented a paper examining litigation on conservation policies in Australia, Canada, and the U.S. A copy of ANZSANA program is on the Center's website.

Several important decisions were taken at the meetings in D.C. ANZSANA elected a new pair of leaders to succeed Patty O'Brien as president. Dave Snow, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science at University of Calgary and ANZSANA vice-president, was elected president for the next two years, while Matthew Hill, a graduate fellow in the Department of Government at Cornell University, will be vice-president. Genevieve Neilson joined the ANZSANA Board. ANZSANA and AAALS decided to hold separate meetings in 2014, possibly meeting jointly again in 2015. ANZSANA will meet 6-8 February 2014 at UT-Austin, hosted by the Clark Center, and AAALS will meet in Portland, Oregon. For details, including calls for papers, visit the websites of the Clark Center [<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cas/>], ANZSANA [[www.anzsana.net](http://www.anzsana.net)], or AAALS [<http://www.australianliterature.org/>].

### SMALL GRANT PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH

In the fall of 2012, the Center launched a new small grants program. Two faculty and two graduate students received awards of varying amounts. Kurt Heinzelman, Professor of English, traveled to Adelaide this past April as a featured writer at Adelaide Writers' Week, part of the renowned Adelaide Festival. Kurt gave a poetry reading and interviewed the internationally famed poet John Tranter. (Another featured writer at the Festival was the UT Michener Center alumnus Kevin Powers, author of *The Yellow Birds*.) Kurt also gave a talk at the John M. Coetzee Center for Creative Practice on translation and originality.

D'Arcy Randall, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Chemical Engineering, will return to Australia this summer to continue research for a memoir about her experience as an editor for UQ Press.

As part of a relationship being forged between UT-Austin and the University of Adelaide's writing programs, Anushka Jasraj, a UT-Austin graduate student, will travel to Adelaide this summer to be an intern at the Coetzee Centre. Jasraj will participate in a postgraduate conference, contribute to a creative writing workshop, and give a seminar. Finally, Robert Shaffer will visit Australia in June and July to conduct pre-dissertation fieldwork on conservation policy in Australia. He will be a Program Visitor at the ANU.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### *ANZSANA 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](http://www.anzsana.net) and <http://www.australianliterature.org/> for more details.) The conference registration fee is \$200.00 (either US or CD), and \$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 January 2013 and indicate their affiliation with the conference at time of booking.

## OTHER FACULTY NEWS

**Rhonda Evans Case** published an overview of papers presented by the Comparative Judicial Studies Research Committee at the 2012 World Congress of Political Science in the spring 2013 edition of *Law & Courts Newsletter*. A book manuscript (with Terri Givens and Pete Mohanty) entitled *Legislating Equality: The Politics of Antidiscrimination Policy in Europe* is under contract with Oxford University Press.

**Susan Sage Heinzelman**, Director of Women's and Gender Studies, traveled to Adelaide in April. She met with members of the University of Adelaide faculty as well as artists from the community and gave a talk, sponsored jointly by the Coetzee Centre and the Discipline of Gender, Work, and Social Analysis, on "The Lear Effect: Equivocation and Torture in Times of Crisis."

## SPRING SEMESTER VISITORS

*Andréa Baker*, Senior Lecturer in Journalism, Monash University

*Rob Borbidge*, Former Premier of Queensland

*Barry Burgan*, Director, Business Development, Faculty of Professions, University of Adelaide

*Malcolm Feeley*, Claire Sanders Clements Dean's Professor of Law, Berkeley Law,  
University of California  
*Roy Flemming*, Emeritus, Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University  
*Andrew Fraser*, Board Member of Australian Sports Commission  
*Andrew Garnett*, Director of the UQ Centre for Coal Seam Gas, University of  
Queensland  
*Chris Greig*, Professor, Director, UQ Energy Initiative, University of Queensland  
*Hal Gurgenci*, Director, Queensland Geothermal Energy Centre of Excellence  
*Tina Hunter*, Senior Lecturer, TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland  
*Jen Nielsen*, Associate Director (Education), University of Queensland, Washington, D.C.  
*Diane Otto*, Professor, Melbourne Law School  
*Damian Power*, Director of Govstrat  
*Cameron O'Reilly*, Chief Executive of the Energy Retailers Association of Australia  
*Greg Sullivan*, Deputy CEO, Australian Coal Association  
*Sarah Wolf*, Education Manager, North America, Australian Trade Commission  
*George Zhao*, Professor and ARC Future Fellow, School of Engineering, University of  
Queensland

## GIVING TO THE CLARK CENTER

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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](mailto:evanscaser@austin.utexas.edu).

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