

January - February 2008 News, SSS

Message from the Head of School

Dear colleagues,

This will be the last School newsletter that will appear under my direction, so I'd like to thank everyone associated with the School for putting up with me over the past three years. It has been a great privilege and I will save any particular thanks for the afternoon tea on Thursday 21 February in the Hume Centre. I hope you can all join us.

Our student numbers remain strong this semester, again indicating the popularity of our offerings. We also have a few new faces at the podium this semester and I'd like to wish Zora, Alex, James and Norm all the best for their first semester of teaching in the School. I know that they will have a team of eager helpers to assist with the technological and bureaucratic intricacies of teaching at the ANU. In this newsletter, we've also included a range of courses that will assist new and experienced teachers alike.

There are also quite a few new postgraduates joining us this semester and as they take up residence, we will introduce them to you.

At the time of writing, we have a very fluid administrative structure above us. The College has finally appointed a new Dean of College, Toni Makkai, and we are in the process of searching for a new Director of Faculty. It was announced on Monday that this is likely to be a five-year term. If anyone is interested in applying, I'm afraid that by the time you read this, applications will have closed. Whoever it is that rules the Faculty, I wish Jill Matthews all the best in dealings with them. Over to you, Jill. Cheers.....Alastair Greig.

SSS Teaching & Learning Forum

On Monday 11 February we held the second School of Social Sciences Teaching and Learning Forum. It was well attended with 20 participants from across History, Sociology and Political Science/International Relations.

It began with a presentation from Joanna Sikora on her experiences using the Academic Honesty software 'MyDropBox'. Joanna concluded that the software has to be integrated into WebCT before it can be effectively used by both students and staff. In facilitating a discussion on tutorials Mark Dawson expressed how pedagogically useful it would be to have Ethernet and/or Wi-Fi connectivity in tutorial rooms. This drew broad agreement and a proposal will be made to the Faculty to look into

networking the building. Katrina Lee Koo reaffirmed how a more flexible approach can save time, improve our teaching and enhance collegiality (an apt summary of the rationale for the Forum). Wayne Errington explored the dark arts of video editing for lectures and Kim Huynh sought advice on the pros and cons of taping.

The Forum will return in future semesters. Feel free to contact Kim.Huynh@anu.edu.au or X50590 if you have any queries or suggestions.

Teacher Training Programs for Semester 1

1. Teaching at ANU in 2008

2-3pm, O Week Friday, 22 Feb, Manning Clark 2

For all teaching academic and sessional staff -- everything you need to know about services and support for teaching at ANU in 60 minutes. Info session includes: replacing WebCT4; Alliance; Flexible Learning; plagiarism detection software and more... Full program: <http://information.anu.edu.au/teaching>

2. Tutoring/Demonstrating at ANU in 2008

3.15-4.45pm, O Week Friday, 22 Feb, Manning Clark 2

For tutors/demonstrators and teaching academic staff. Includes: the new PVC Education; ANU student demographics; teaching the new generation of online learners; teaching excellence; support & training at ANU for tutors/demonstrators and more... Welcome drinks in the Manning Clark Foyer at 4.45pm Full program: <http://information.anu.edu.au/teaching>

3. Hands-on, 60 min workshops

Various times from Friday 15 February to 13 March or organise your own group session. Workshop times and to register: <http://information.anu.edu.au/teaching>.

Sessions include:

- WebCT : WebCT for those who haven't used it before; WebCT for those new to ANU; expanding your WebCT course site
- Alliance for group assignments and research
- Academic Honesty website and the plagiarism detection software

Need more info? Call (612)58886 or email webcthelp@anu.edu.au

Requests Regarding SSS Office Business

It is important to direct requests for work via Helen (the Office Manager) so Helen can assess and prioritize then distribute to the appropriate staff. As we have part-time staff, and staff on leave, work may not be attended to, whereas Helen's emails are checked daily. This is particularly important over the following month as we try to coordinate our activities with classes resuming.

Welcome to New Teaching Staff

Norman Abjorensen is lecturing in politics in 2008 Australian Democracy: Comparative & Theoretical Approaches having taught at the ANU part-time for the past two years and a Visiting School Fellow in 2007. He has taught previously at the University of Canberra and RMIT. A graduate of UNSW, he completed a PhD at the ANU in 2004, the thesis forming the basis for a book, *Leadership and the Liberal Revival: Bolte, Askin and the Post-War Ascendancy*, which was published at the end of 2007.

He has previously published a biography of former Liberal Party leader, John Hewson, and studies of former NSW Premiers, George Reid and Tom Lewis. He is a former political journalist, having written on politics in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, the Middle East and London. In addition to part-time teaching over the past two years he has been a member of the Democratic Audit of Australia, contributing papers on censorship, ministerial advisers, South Australian politics and the media.

He is a frequent commentator in the press, and on radio and television. In past stages of a hopelessly chaotic and thoroughly disorganised life, Norman has been, at various times, an actor and director, soldier, publisher, grape grower, winemaker, wine and food writer, restaurateur, speechwriter, performance poet and playwright, and political consultant.

When not working he watches South Park (his only television habit), barracks for Geelong as a lifetime tragic, immerses himself in music (from Bach to Captain Beefheart), collects art, tries to play guitar and deludes himself he can teach his very old cat new tricks. He steadfastly refuses to let go of the 1960s. (And he is a recovering former Volvo driver, but still in rehab).

Alex Cook has been appointed to teach British History, and also has expertise in French history. He is a former graduate from ANU, then Cambridge, and is now returning to ANU. He is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Centre for the History of European Discourses at the University of Queensland.

James Rice will be teaching within the School's sociology discipline this semester. James was one of the recipients of the Vice Chancellor's 'swap scheme', with Joanna Sikora seconded to ADSRI for the first half of the year. In Semester 1, 2008, James Rice will be teaching SOCY2055 (Social Inequality in Comparative Perspective).

James' research interests lie in the areas of comparative political economy and social stratification, in particular, the allocation of income and time in capitalist societies. Most recently, these interests have found concrete expression in the form of a book - *Discretionary Time: A New Measure of Freedom* - co-authored with Robert Goodin, Antti Parpo, and Lina Eriksson and published by Cambridge University Press. James' other work has appeared in journals such as the *British Journal of Sociology*, the *Journal of Public Policy*, and *Social Indicators Research*. His current research projects include a study of income inequality in seven capitalist societies and a collaborative study of the scheduling of work and leisure in Australia and France

(with Laurent Lesnard from the French National Center for Scientific Research). James is also currently one of the convenors of the Australian Sociological Association's Social Stratification Thematic Group.

James can be found in Joanna's room.

Zora Simic has been appointed to teach Australian History, funded by Ann Curthoys' ARC Fellowship grant. She is currently at the University of Melbourne. Her special fields of interest are women's history and post World War II migration history.

School Visitors

Dr Richard Hartwig will be a Visiting Fellow in the School in First Semester this year. He is Professor of Political Science at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. While here Richard will be doing talks on Mexican higher education and on the "dirty war" in Argentina for the Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies (ANCLAS). He will also be continuing his research on reform of the United Nations Security Council. Richard studied with Charles W. Anderson at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has conducted research as a Rotary Fellow in Argentina and as a Fulbright Fellow in Colombia. Much of Richard's work is based upon a framework of multiple types of rationality developed by the philosopher Paul Diesing. He employed Diesing's framework in his book *Roads to Reason: Transportation, Administration and Rationality in Colombia*. He has taught in various universities in Mexico, Germany and the United States.

Professor Patricia Sykes from the American University in Washington D.C. is to be the holder of the Fulbright-ANU Distinguished Chair in American Political Science, tenable in the School of Social Sciences, for the academic year 2007-2008 and will be here from the beginning of January until the end of May 2008. Professor Sykes previously visited ANU in February and March 2003 as a Visiting Fellow in RSSS. Her major field of interest is executive leadership in western democracies. She is author of *Losing from the Inside: The Cost of Conflict in the British Social Democratic Party and Presidents and Prime Ministers: Conviction Politics in the Anglo-American Tradition*. She is currently completing a book entitled *Women Leaders and Executive Politics: Engendering Change in Anglo-American Nations*.

Dr Rosemary Webb as a Visiting Fellow. Rosemary teaches at Southern Cross University at Lismore and is currently working on a history of the Australian union movement and occupational health and safety issues. She used the opportunity here at the ANU to dive into the Noel Butlin Archives. Rosemary formerly taught at the University of Canberra and coordinated the 2001 Australian Labour History Conference here at the ANU along with our

former doctoral candidate Phil Griffiths. Rosemary also spent time working with Maria Hynes and Alastair Greig, with whom she is collaborating on a forthcoming issue of *Social Alternatives*.

Farewells

In early January, the School held a farewell morning tea for **Dr Lorenzo Veracini**. Lorenzo had been a Postdoctoral Fellow in the History discipline for the past three years and was offered a further year in History teaching European history. However, as his partner was undertaking her doctorate in Melbourne, and they have recently been blessed with a daughter, Lorenzo decided to accept a position at Monash University. We wish Lorenzo all the best for the future and we thank him for his collegiality while here in the School.

What's Been or Will be Happening.....??

David Adams will be teaching an *Australian Prime Ministers Political Science Honours* course in first semester.

Graeme Clarke will be directing a further excavation season at the Hellenistic site of Jebel Khalid in North Syria in April/May. He will be giving a public lecture on the Jebel Khalid Temple on February 28 at the Hellenic Club at 8pm. All welcome to attend.

On December 8-9 **Larry Saha** was an invited speaker at the Alumni Symposium of the Institute of International Education, the University of Stockholm. The Institute was commemorating the 40th anniversary of its founding. Other invited speakers were Martin Carnoy of Stanford University and Vina Chinepah of UNESCO, Paris.

On the way to Stockholm, from 30 November to 2 December, in Auckland, New Zealand, **Larry Saha** and **Joanna Sikora** presented their paper "Vocational education, self-employment and burnout among Australian workers" to the conference of the Australian and New Zealand Comparative and International Education Society conference. The paper is based on the 2001 Australian data set, collected as part of the International Social Science Programme, in which over 40 countries participate, and it uses a three-level hierarchical linear model procedure.

During January and February, 2008, Larry has been Visiting Professor at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. He taught a seven-week summer school course titled "Public Participation in Politics" for the Department of Politics. He also presented a workshop on focus group methodology to the Otago University library

staff. He conducted a focus group with students, as a demonstration of the methodology, which will help the library develop its own research agenda for better serving students at Otago.

Several School members participated in the Federal Election Workshop held at University House on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th January. This regular workshop has been held after each federal election since the 1996 election and has produced four election books co-edited by school members, especially John Warhurst and Marian Simms. This year the book will be edited solely by Professor Marian Simms, now of Otago University. The suggested title will be *Kevin07: The 2007 Australian Federal Election* and the publisher will be the Australian Public Intellectual Network, Curtin University.

This most successful workshop, with administrative support provided by Sonya Welykyj, was financially supported by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, which enabled contributors from around Australia to attend. It was based around draft chapters written by the book's authors. There was also a session, delivered by Nick Martin from the Labor Party's national secretariat, (an honours political science graduate from this School), on the successful Labor campaign. The paper givers from the School included **David Adams** on the Leadership Battle, **John Warhurst** on Religion: Kevin Rudd's Personal Project, **Marian Sawer** on Women and the Campaign. **Peter Brent** opened discussion on Malcolm Mackerras' paper on the Election Results. Other ANU speakers included John Wanna on Business and Labor and James Jupp on the Ethnic Dimension.

New Books

B*ehind Closed Doors: Politics, Scandals and the Lobbying Industry*, **John Warhurst**, 2007, UNSW Press, Sydney Australia.

The second, fully revised edition of **Kevin White's** *An Introduction to the Sociology of Health and Illness* has been accepted by Sage Publishers, London and will be out in August 2008.

Larry Saha's co-edited book, *Youth and Political Participation*, has been published by Sense Publishers. The book is structured around the revised articles presented at the Youth Electoral Study (YES) workshop, held in Old Parliament House, which brought together experts on youth culture and politics from around Australia. Murray Print and Kathy Edwards, from the University of Sydney, are the other co-editors.

Ben Wellings - Our Man in Europe

At the beginning of 2007 I took up the fractional position of Deputy Director of the National Europe Centre, recently (and perhaps erroneously) located in the Research School of Humanities. This position seemed like a natural extension of my role as Convenor of European Studies in the School of Social Sciences, as indeed it is.

But being in a fractional position – spending roughly 60% of my time in the School of Social Sciences and the other 60% of my time at the National Europe Centre - poses its own challenges. For instance with two roles, how was I to manage the alarming number of meetings that I was expected to attend. It soon became apparent that I could not merely attend half of all meetings so I resolved to attend all of them but pay attention in none.

Also, I soon found myself on the frontline of European diplomacy in Canberra, learning much about the relationship between government, diplomacy and academia along the way. Rest assured that I have consumed canapés and exchanged pleasantries with diplomats in order to advance the cause of European studies and research in Australia. But on the downside I have become unwittingly embroiled in the on-going dispute over the borders of Cyprus, the correct nomenclature of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, not to mention the Byzantine politics of the ANU.

In fact, I spent much of the year as Acting Director in order to cover the Director's research leave. The Centre was hit hard by the sudden death of John Gage in July; John had been instrumental in getting the Centre established in 2001 and was greatly missed. At the beginning of 2008, however, the Centre seems to have new life. We notched up a 300% increase in PhD enrolments in 2008 – up from one to three – and I am enjoying the enthusiasm that these students bring to the Centre.

Of course, my heart lies with the School of Social Sciences and I am looking forward to the start of teaching (of course, by Week 4, my attitude will have changed). But like a member-state of the European Union I must now recognise multiple, but equal, locations of sovereignty. I am now working hard to integrate the National Europe centre into the teaching lives of Arts students as well as those of my Social Science colleagues. I look forward to a canapé or two with you in the near future.

Reminder: DEST Publications

Please report your **2007** publications data to Tracy Deasey or Cath Phillips ASAP or by 12 March 2008.

Please remember to report all publications as those not suitable for DEST may still be counted towards the FRAM collection and/or the Annual Report. Thank you.