

November 2007 News, SSS

Message from the Head of School

Dear colleagues,

This is our last School newsletter for 2007. But it's too early for me to shed tears of nostalgia and reminisce about my Headship as we will put out another newsletter in February before I hand the stewardship of the School over to Jill.

Although this is the last newsletter of the year, you can see December will be a big month. Apart from the School Christmas Party (December 11) and the Faculty Christmas Party (6 December), there are a number of important events, many of which we have listed in our newsletter below.

Most important for the teaching staff is the School Retreat, to be held on December 6 at Old Canberra House. Details of the event are posted at the very end of this newsletter. The Dean expects us to develop strategic planning documents that will inform the future directions of our disciplines within the School. Please also note that the drinking associated with the Faculty Christmas Party will happen *after* the retreat, not before or during the event.

PhD students are also organizing a roundtable on post-PhD employment on December 14, and the details of this event are also contained within this newsletter.

Hopefully somewhere among these events we can all enjoy some space for research.

Best wishes for the festive period,

Alastair

Reminder: Christmas Luncheon

School of Social Sciences Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday December 11, LJ Hume Centre 1171, 12:00 noon

Please bring a plate, see office list to indicate your contribution – flyer attached.

Annual Leave Arrangements

From 1 January 2008, academic and general staff members will have the same annual leave arrangements where:

- Annual leave is accrued at the rate of 20 days per year pro rata (5 hours 33 minutes each fortnight).
- Leave balances are reduced by leave taken
- Any accrued annual leave is paid out if the staff member separates from the ANU.

At present, academics on continuing appointments or on fixed term contracts of more than 3 years have annual leave deemed granted and debited each year. This approach no longer complies with employment legislation.

Procedures see Helen

Winner of International Book Prize

Rick Kuhn was awarded the Isaac and Tamara Deutscher Memorial Prize for 2007, for his book *Henryk Grossman and the recovery of Marxism*, on 9 November in London. This international prize has been awarded each year since 1969 'for a book which exemplifies the best and most innovative new writing in or about the Marxist tradition'. It is the radical equivalent of the Booker Prize. Rick is the first Australian to win the Deutscher Prize.

The book vividly traces Grossman's experiences from organising Jewish workers in Krakow before the First World War, to exile in New York and details his political commitments and economic theories.

Grossman was a member of the illegal Polish Communist Party after World War I and was frequently arrested and jailed before leaving Poland for the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt am Main. There he published his best known work including the account of economic crises in *The Law of Accumulation and Breakdown of the Capitalist System* which appeared only months before the stock market crash of 1929.

Grand Prize for Most Media Appearances in 07

The ANU Media Office awarded **John Warhurst** on Thursday 29 November with their grand prize for the most media appearances/publicity in 2007 of any ANU staff member.

Thank You.....

A gargantuan thank you to those mentioned below who assisted in the teaching coordination, administration & tutoring in the second semester:

Ms Heidi Hutchison assisted with the administration and also tutored for POLS1005 Introduction to International Relations.

Dr Helen James in running a History Honours Course - Civil Disobedience and Citizenship: A Transnational History of Dissent.

Ms Rebecca Olson assisted with the administration and also tutored for SOCY1004, Introduction to Social Psychology.

Dr Tim Rowse course coordinator for HIST2022 Indigenous Australian History.

Dr Andrew Shields course coordinator for HIST1204 Riots and Rebellions.

Mr Mark Thomson course coordinator for HIST2218 The City in the Roman Empire.

Dr Christine Wright course coordinator for HIST2119 City Life and Suburban Dream: A History of Urban Australia.

Tutors:

Norman Abjorensen	POLS1004	Money, Power, War &
	POLS1005	Introduction to International Relations
Sohini Bandyopadhyay	HIST2136	The World at War 1939-1945
Tom Chodor	POLS1005	Introduction to International Relations
Mark Chou	POLS1005	Introduction to International Relations
Andrew Cock	EURO2003	The European Union
Travis Cutler	HIST1015	Ends of Empire
Judy Hemming	POLS2097	Strategy 1
Michael Hutchison	POLS1005	Introduction to International Relations
Maria Hynes	SOCY2030	Sociology of Third World Development
Anthea Jones	SOCY2030	Sociology of Third World Development
Elaine Kanasewich	SOCY3016	Law Crime and Social Control
Angela Lehmann	SOCY2030	Sociology of Third World Development
Aaron Martin	POLS1005	Introduction to International Relations
Vanessa McDermott	SOCY3016	Law Crime and Social Control
Kirsty McLaren	POLS1005	Introduction to International Relations
Katie Meale	HIST2136	The World at War 1939-1945
Tina Parolin	HIST1204	Riots and Rebellions
Sam Pietsch	POLS1004	Money, Power, War
Donna Seto	POLS2085	Gendered Politics of War
Shanti Sumartojo	SOCY2030	Sociology of Third World Development
Julie Thorpe	EURO2003	The European Union
Ricky Umback	POLS2083	Contemporary Australian Political Issues
Ryan Walter	POLS2064	Global Social Movements

Congratulations

Dale Kreibig was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Dale was approved to graduate by the College Dean on behalf of the Council of the University on November 9, 2007.

Baby Girl for Janecke Wille

Maya was born on 14 November 2007 weighing three and a half kilos, 52 centimetres long and absolutely gorgeous!!(pictures are attached). Mother and baby are doing fine.

New President of ANZSHM

Dr Anthea Hyslop was recently elected President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine (ANZSHM). Founded in Australia in 1986, the Society established its trans-Tasman identity in 2005 and has around 350 members. Besides its quarterly Medical History Newsletter, it publishes twice yearly the journal, *Health and History*, edited by Dr Hans Pols, Director of the Unit for History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Sydney. The ANZSHM also convenes biennial conferences, the latest of which was held at the ANU in July of this year, with 150 registrants and 90 papers. The next biennial conference will take place at the University of Western Australia, from 28 September to 2 October 2009. The ANZSHM's website, at www.anzshm.org.au, gives details of subscriptions and membership benefits.

What's Been Happening.....

Andrew Hopkins visited the UK at the end of November, to talk at an oil and gas industry conference, as well as give a lecture to the UK government health and safety regulator. In addition, he made presentations to various petroleum companies, in particular BP. The presentation to BP was about a major accident the company suffered two years ago in the US.

Following from Larry and Joanna's example of outreach to local schools (see last newsletter) **Maria Maley** was invited to visit Rosary Primary School in Watson to talk to 4 classes of Year 5s and 6s about the different levels of government and the 2007 election. The children's interest in the election was surprisingly high. They were most amazed by the fact that virtually all 26 million ballot papers are counted by hand twice in one night; and that the fine for not voting is so low (they all thought it should be \$3000). Their gripes were that there is not an upper age limit for voting – they thought after a certain age people should not be allowed to vote – and that only people with grey hair seem to get elected to parliament.

New Staff Members for History

History has seen three departures this year (Jennifer Ridden, Ben Kelly, and Chris Forth) and will have three new members of staff next year. They are **Dr Zora Simic, Dr Alex Cook, and Dr Paul Burton.**

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. She arrives in January.

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. He arrives in January.

Paul Burton will join the School as a lecturer in Roman History on 1 July 2008. He is currently a lecturer at the University of Tasmania, and his research interests are Roman Republican Social and Political History; Imperialism (Ancient, Modern, Comparative); and Greek and Latin Literature.

In addition, **Lorenzo Veracini** completes his ARC Postdoctoral Fellowship at the end of 2007 and will be a lecturer in European history for one year in 2008. He will teach courses on "Europe outside Europe", and on Twentieth Century European History.

Phil Larkin has also been assigned to the School on a fractional appointment until next October and we are delighted to be able to use his skills in a variety of Politics courses.

School Visitor

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 RSSH. 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*.

New Books

An *Introduction to International Relations: Australian Perspectives*, R. Devetak, A. Burke, **J. George** (eds), 2007, Cambridge University Press, UK.

Leadership and the Liberal Revival: Bolte, Askin and the Liberal Revival, **N. Abjorensen**, 2007, Australian Scholarly Publishing Pty Ltd, Melbourne.

Henryk Grossman and the Recovery of Marxism, **R. Kuhn**, 2007, University of Illinois Press.

Students to look out for...

Congratulations to the **Cambridge University Press Prize winners in 'POLIS1005 – Introduction to International Relations'** this semester.

Top Student and Best Research Essay – Helen Baxendale (Runner Up - Andy Petridis)

Best Exam – Rowan Kellam (**Runners Up** - Ben Power and Ben Grono)

Encouragement Award – Joanne Blair

Lecturer's Prize – Harriet Bateman

Each winner receives a copy of *An Introduction to International Relations: Australian Perspectives* edited by Richard Devetak, Anthony Burke and Jim George.

- Heidi Hutchison

Teaching Forum

Teaching Forum/Celebration of VC's teaching and supervision prize winners

Nov 30th 12.30-4pm
Humanities Conference Room
Upstairs in AD Hope Building
(at Chifley Library end)

Please rsvp asap to Moyra.McNamara@anu.edu.au as places are limited due to the size of room and workshop format of the day.

OUTLINE OF THE AFTERNOON

12.30-1pm stand up sandwich lunch provided

1pm-2pm VC's prize winners celebration

Ian Chubb to briefly introduce his 2007 teaching and supervision prize winners and talk about his vision of research-led teaching at ANU

VC's Prize winners talks
Christine Helliwell
Cris Brack
Kathy Robinson

1.40pm Lawrence Cram, DVC to talk for 5-10 min from personal perspective about research-led education

1.50-3.45 workshop on research-led teaching and learning where ANU is at and where are we going. Aim of the workshop is to share ideas on what we are doing already, opportunities for us in this area in the future and barriers we need to address if we are to take these opportunities

3.30-3.45 Ian Chubb to respond to outcomes of the workshop

3.45-4pm afternoon tea/coffee

If you are not a member of the ANU Teaching Forum you can join by going to <https://alliance.anu.edu.au/> - enter your "U-number" and Horus password - then click on "Membership" then "Joinable Sites" and scroll down to ANU Teaching Forum. By doing this you will be sent reminders about upcoming events and can access the growing resources on this site from past Teaching Forums.

Life after the PhD Roundtable

*The Hume Centre, Copland Building
3pm - 14 December, 2007*

Please join us for a roundtable discussion, with afternoon tea along the way, about Life after the PhD.

Dr. Alastair Greig (School of Social Sciences), Dr. James Connor (ADFA), Prof Terry Hull (ADSRI and NCEPH), Linda Hort (CEDAM), Kate Gemmel (Careers Centre) and Catherine Strong (PhD Candidate and Sociology Course Convenor) will share their insight and ideas about career options for Life after the PhD.

The format will be quite casual, with each of our speakers sharing their thoughts and comments for about 5 minutes before general questions and discussion.

The issues we look forward to discussing fall into three broad areas:

Careers in academia: What is good and what is bad? Are there any strategies to minimise the negative aspects?

Applying for academic (and non-academic) jobs: How does the application process work? What do selection panels look for? What makes an application

stand out?

Life after the PhD: When should PhD candidates start thinking about the next step? What professional skills are most beneficial to learn? How does one interweave this process with actually completing the PhD? How do you start the "looking around" process?

Come and join us on 14 December at 3pm for afternoon tea and an enlightening discussion about Life after the PhD.

Please RSVP to Rebecca Olson (Rebecca.Olson@anu.edu.au or 6125 2787) by 7 December 2007 so that we can make catering arrangements (make sure to let us know if you have any special dietary requirements).

Retreat

School of Social Sciences Retreat Thursday 6 December Old Canberra House 9.30am - 4pm

The first and final sessions will bring together all School staff while the remaining sessions will involve breakout disciplinary discussions for Political Science/International Relations, Sociology and History

The main purpose of the retreat is to prepare disciplinary Reports to be presented to the CASS Education Committee outlining the strategic direction of the discipline. These documents will form the basis of any future claims for staffing

9am – Coffee available from 9am

9.30am – 9.45am – Welcome to new staff and the purpose of the retreat

9.45am -10.45am – The state of the disciplines

- What are the particular challenges facing each discipline or area and how are they to be met?
- How do the courses and program at ANU compare with those of other comparator universities?
- In five years time what new topics should be being taught?
- In five years time what old topics should be dropped or radically rethought?

10.45am – 11am – Morning Tea

11am – 12.30pm - Coherence of undergraduate programs

- How coherent is the undergraduate program?
- How can research-led teaching be further developed?
- How can the area enhance its teaching?
- How can the area prevent undergraduate attrition?
- What additional staffing resources are required to meet these aims?

12.30pm – 1.30pm - Lunch

1.30pm – 2.30pm – Honours and PhB programs - relations with other parts of the ANU

- How coherent is the Honours program
- How can an equitable Honours workload be attained?
- What opportunities are there to work with other parts of the ANU? (ie, Honours supervision, Honours marking, the swap scheme, postgraduate coursework)
- How adequate are our PhB arrangements?

2.30pm – 2.45pm – Afternoon Tea

2.45pm – 3.30pm – Postgraduate research and coursework programs – research culture

- Review postgraduate training: inductions, skills workshops, milestones
- How can an equitable postgraduate workload be attained?
- Discuss ways to further develop the areas' research culture in the light of the University's expectations about grant getting and publication

3.30pm – 4pm – School discussion and future preparation of discipline reports for the CASS Education Committee

4.30pm – 6.30pm – CASS Christmas Party, Library Foyer, School of Art

Background to School and Centre retreats and some of the issues to be considered

Higher education is continuing to undergo rapid change. Driving these changes is the lack of any prospect of substantial alteration to the funding of the university sector and changes in student expectations. Pay rises that are under funded by government, promotions and general increases in costs mean that universities have to do more with less, which when combined with a majority of students undertaking some kind of work while studying may require some changes in how and what we teach and that we keep our practice and strategic planning under regular review. This is the general background to the retreats to be organised by Schools and Centres, although disciplines may separate out for some period of the retreat (see below).

One specific issue relates to postgraduate course work and flexible learning. The University is placing considerable emphasis on this as is one of the few areas where the University can increase its income, because they are fee paying. In effect these courses will be largely professional development courses because the most economically successful are likely to be those that cater closely to the needs of the public service in particular. A consultant is currently investigating their needs, department by department. To be successful in this area it is essential that there is the possibility for flexible learning and delivery of courses. It is for this reason that the workshops on flexible learning have been organised prior to the retreats. Flexible learning and delivery can, of course, also relate to undergraduate teaching but this is not the main focus of the flexible learning and delivery workshop.

In the context of undergraduate teaching a principal aspect of flexibility is the recording of lectures and placing them on Webct. Face to face teaching in the form of lectures and tutorials is still valued highly by ANU students and is one of the key reasons why we are given top scores for student satisfaction in the graduate student exit surveys, which have in turn brought us considerable sums from the Carrick Institute. Lectures and tutorials will remain at the core of our undergraduate teaching, at least for the immediate future. This is not to reject innovative teaching and use of Webct, but the emphasis on flexible learning and delivery is causing confusion on this matter. In order to help us understand some of the issues at the heart of teaching at undergraduate level at present, Linda Hort will be preparing a short paper detailing the specifics of what aspects of our practices causes the ANU to be ranked high and what aspects we score poorly on. In thinking about our practice it is useful to keep in mind the extremely well articulated outcomes expected from undergraduate programs and majors in the Faculty of Arts which are that they:

- are essentially transformative in nature, asking students to question or explore fundamental values as much as to acquire skills and knowledge;
- seek to provide students with multiple perspectives on the world, as they and others see it, through a range of disciplinary lenses;

- require students to think globally and historically rather than in the here-and-now;
- develop students' ability to think critically and creatively, and express their ideas through writing and in other media.

The purpose of the School/Centre retreats before the end of the year, is to focus on ensuring that we continue to meet these expected outcomes in our undergraduate and programs in particular, without neglecting HDR student issues.

Issues to be addressed at the retreats

The retreats are about strategic planning. Some of the key strategic planning issues that each Centre, School or discipline within a School or Centre need to consider are set out below. A key challenge is the tension between providing a good liberal-arts undergraduate level education for those people who have no ambition to be academics while maintaining the highest academic levels that enable some students to go on to postgraduate research at the highest international academic standards.

Each School, Centre and discipline will have specific issues to address that relate to their particular area but all areas should address the following.

- In five years time what new topics should be being taught?
- In five years time what old topics should be dropped or radically rethought?
- How coherent is the undergraduate program?
- How can research led teaching be further developed?
- What are the particular challenges facing each discipline or area and how are they to be met?
- How do the courses and program at ANU compare with those of other comparator universities?
- How can the area enhance its teaching?
- How can the area prevent undergraduate attrition?
- Review postgraduate training: inductions, skills workshops, milestones
- Discuss ways to further develop the areas' research culture in the light of the University's expectations about grant getting and publication

The Head of Schools and Centres will provide a Report on deliberations to be considered by the CASS Education Committee, the Heads of School and Faculty and then to be forwarded to the University Education Committee.

Nic Peterson

STOP PRESS...

Kevin Rudd's new Ministry announced yesterday contains a number of former ANU students including **Kevin Rudd** himself, but two of his appointments come from the School of Social Sciences, or at least from Departments that are now part of the School. **Warren Snowdon**, the new Minister for Defence and Science Personnel, and **Alan Griffin**, the new Minister for Veterans Affairs both majored in Political Science and History in the Faculty of Arts during their student days.