

September 2007 News, SSS

Message from the Head of School

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the first monthly edition of our School newsletter. We have decided that in the interests of keeping everyone up-to-date with the news, it would be a good idea to send out to all members of the School a brief summary of our monthly activities.

Please feel free to contact Sonya if there is any activity you think your colleagues would be interested in. We do want to know of any activities you have been engaged in. The heading will give you some idea of the types of activities we anticipate drawing people's attention to, but your announcements need not be restricted to these headings.

But most importantly, I would like to thank everyone for their participation in the search for a new Head of School. My third year ends next February and the conveners have been busy consulting with everyone.

I am delighted to announce that Professor Jill Mathews has met with the Dean and has agreed to be our new Head for two years beginning next February. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Jill. Over the summer, the office staff and I will gradually introduce Jill into the ways of the office.

Book Launches

Graeme Clarke launched at Melbourne University the second of the planned five volumes of *Jebel Khalid Reports: The Terracotta Figurines* (by Dr Heather Jackson) and gave afterwards a lecture on "The Jebel Khalid Temple". Volume Three of the Reports (on the Jebel Khalid Pottery) is currently in press.

In October we are planning to hold a book launch for Dr James Connor's new book on the sociology of loyalty to be published by Springer Press shortly. Stay tuned.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Lorenzo & Clare on the birth of their baby daughter. 'Leila' who was born on Sunday, September 2. She weighed 2.75Kg.

Conferences

On the 1st and 2nd of September Dr Kevin White and Dr Elizabeth Coleman (Monash University) held the fourth conference in their series of five, "Negotiating the Sacred". This year's theme was Toleration, Education and the Curriculum. It was opened by Professor John Warhurst and the international keynote speakers were Professor Susan Mendus, Professor of Political Philosophy at the University of York and Professor James T Richardson, Professor of Sociology and Director of Judicial Studies, University of Nevada. Associate Professor Phil Cam, President of the Asia-Pacific Philosophy Education Network for Democracy was the Australian keynote speaker.

New Books/Articles Published

Ann Curthoys has recently completed her book, written jointly with Ann Genovese and Alex Reilly, entitled **Rights and Redemption: History, Law, and Indigenous People** and it is now with UNSW Press.

Ann's recent publications include:

"Raphael Lemkin on Tasmania", in Dirk Moses and Dan Stone, eds, **Colonialism and Genocide**, Berghahn books, 2007.

'An Historiographical Paradox: Brian Fitzpatrick, the British Empire, and Indigenous Histories', in Stuart Macintyre and Sheila Fitzpatrick, eds, **Against the Grain: Brian Fitzpatrick and Manning Clark** in Australian History and Politics, MUP, 2007.

"History in the Howard Era", in **Teaching History**, 41:1, March 2007.

Plus, appearing any moment now, "The volatility of Australian Racism", in Kath Gelber and Adrienne Stone, eds, **Hate Speech and Freedom of Speech in Australia**, Federation Press.

School Visitors

Welcome to the Revd Fr Peter C Grundy who has recently joined us. Peter will be assisting Dr Jeremy Shearmur to convene RELS1002, Introduction to Religion A and also with tutorials in 1st semester 2008. In addition he will continue his own research leading to publications from his PhD.

School Visitor Bill Standish has been in and out of Papua New Guinea six times this year. He closely monitored the mid-year parliamentary elections, which for the first time used preferential voting on a nationwide scale, and were slightly more peaceful than the 2002 poll. A second constitutional provision, designed to strengthen political parties, was also applied; this ensured the re-election of the Somare government - despite widespread public opposition.

Seminars

John Hart will be the presenter at the Brown-Bag Lunchtime Seminar 28th September, 1.00pm Copland Rm2145. The topic is **The “Smell and the Feel” of American Politics and the US-Australian Relationship.**

Mark Thompson will be giving a history seminar 28 September, 11 am in the Fairbairn Room HA1207 on **The Dynastic Literary Network of the Symmachi.**

Special Presentations

Ann Curthoys delivered the sixth annual lecture for the ANU Archives and Friends of the Noel Butlin Archives Centre at ANU on 18 September. The lecture was entitled “Harry Potter and the Holocaust: History and Fiction” and as a result Ann was interviewed on Canberra and Hobart ABC radio.

John Hart in conjunction with the American Embassy organized a panel discussion on the US Presidential Election of 2008 which was held at the Copland Lecture Theatre on 20 September. The seven American politicians who participated were:

Maria Berrios (Democrat, Illinois House of Representatives)

Laurie Funderburk (Democrat, South Carolina House of Representatives)

Wes Hilliard (Democrat, Oklahoma House of Representatives)

Cary Johnson (Republican, Clatsop Soil & Water Conservation District, Oregon)

Adam Koenig (Republican, Kentucky House of Representatives)

Paul Kohls (Republican, Minnesota House of Representatives)

Thomas Reynolds (Democrat, Connecticut House of Representatives)

Successful Applicant of the Australia China Council Program

Shen Jingjing a student from the Beijing Foreign Studies University will be working with Ann Curthoys and James Jupp on Multiculturalism in the Howard Era. She will be here from 1 July until 14 October 2008.

Successful Applicants of the Australia Research Council Grants

Congratulations to **Jill Mathews** who along with other colleagues received Discovery Funding for her project: 'Mapping the movies: the changing nature of Australia's cinema circuits and their audiences 1956-1984'.

Congratulations also to **Marian Sawer** and her colleague who also received funding for their project 'The evolution of social movements'.

Prizes

Verity Archer has won the 2006 Australasian Political Studies Association (APSA) prize for best PhD for her thesis In Search of the Australian Dole Bludger.

Don Rowland's New Position

by Larry Safia

After 23 years of service and a strong commitment to the sociology program and the Faculty of Arts, Don Rowland has decided to retire. People who have known Don during these years will automatically think of him as the Convenor of the Population Studies Program. Indeed, this was the task he took on when he joined the Department of Sociology in 1984. But Don has contributed much more. Not only has he singlehandedly maintained a viable major in Population Studies during this period, but he also often contributed to sociology courses as well.

Don was born in New Zealand and received his BA and MA (1st Class Honours in Geography) from the University of Auckland, where he also spent one year as Junior Lecturer in Geography. He then came to the ANU and completed his PhD in Demography at RISS in 1975. After a period as Research Fellow in Demography, part of which was in the Ageing and Family Project, in 1984 he accepted a Lectureship in Population Studies in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts. Since that time, Don built one of the few dedicated undergraduate teaching programs in Population Studies in Australia. He developed a full range of undergraduate courses, including Population and Society, Population and Australia, Population Analysis, Population Research and The Family. Many of his students who majored in Population Studies now hold positions in various government departments, in particular the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

During his 23 years in the Department, Don maintained a viable research agenda. He has published eight books/monographs, thirty-two articles in refereed journals, thirty-seven chapters in books, and many conference papers and other reports. Three of his books, one coedited with Lincoln Day (*How Many More Australians*, 1988), a single-authored book (*Ageing in Australia*, 1991), and a more recent single authored textbook (*Demographic Methods and Concepts*, 2003) were so successful that they have been reprinted.

Don has been identified as one of a number of New Zealand demographers who have made a significant contribution to population studies on what New Zealanders call “the Western Island”. His research has covered a wide range of topics in population studies in Australia, most notably in the area of fertility, internal migration, ageing and population policy.

Running a population studies major, with an honours component, meant that Don did not have a great deal of free time for committee work. But he did not shirk this side of academic life. Don made valuable contributions to committee work at various levels, most recently acting as co-convenor for the Diploma in Arts program, co-convenor for the Social Research Methods major, and as a member of the Board of Studies for the Graduate Studies in Demography. He also has served as Graduate convenor of the Sociology program on a number of occasions.

In his retirement, Don intends to maintain contact with his fellow sociology and demography colleagues and will continue to do research in the School of Social Sciences. His most pressing project is to complete his book *The Age of Ageing: The Transformation of Contemporary Societies*. But in addition, he intends to spend more time on his hobby of wood turning. The School will miss Don Rowland’s teaching contribution as a retired academic, but looks forward to his continuing presence as a colleague. We all wish him well.