



FRIDAY FROLICS

Newsletter of Western Sydney University Law School

From the Dean

July 2016

Welcome to the July Edition of Friday Frolics. This is a special edition celebrating the Law School's 21st Birthday - enjoy!

School of Law Award Ceremony and 21st Birthday Celebration

On 14th July 2016 we had our annual Awards Night. This year was extra special, as it combined a celebration of our first 21 years as a law school.

Cathy McFall did an amazing job with taking the overall responsibility for organising the whole event, which was bigger and more complex than in previous years.

John, fresh back from Switzerland and Canberra, managed to be a wonderful MC for the whole evening and kept things moving, but lots of personal and informative connections between the students, the sponsors and the faculty.

It was great to hear reflections on studying at Western Sydney from one of our early graduates, Veronica Siow (now a partner at Allens), Deng Adut and the recent graduate, Taylor MacDonald (now at King Wood Mallesons, but going to be Hon Justice Virginia Bell's associate in the High Court in 2017). Then after the prizes and dean's merit list, Adjunct Professor Mac Collins spoke on reflections of 40 years at Western Sydney – this was very funny and informative.

A genuine highlight for me was celebrating the contribution of the two Foundation Deans (Prof Robin Woellner and Prof Razeen Sappideen) and then the first combined (Campbelltown and Parramatta law schools) law dean, Professor Carolyn Sappideen, and my last decade, together (see photo).

It was great to see so many sponsors, academic and professional staff, as well as prize winners and families. The DVC(Academic) was very impressed with the whole evening and helped to inform Prof Denise Kirkpatrick of the history and background of the School of Law.

Once again, thank you for everyone that made the night happen.



The School of Law receives a gift celebrating India's most revered social justice lawyer

On Thursday 14 July, the School of Law turned 21, and part of the celebrations included unveiling the bust of the inspirational Indian social rights lawyer and politician, Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.

Donated by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (part of the Indian Government), the bust of Dr Ambedkar has been installed at the School of Law's Moot Court at the University's Parramatta campus.

An Indian jurist, politician and social reformer, Dr Ambedkar campaigned tirelessly to eradicate social discrimination against women and the untouchables (Dalits). He was elected as independent India's first Law Minister, and was instrumental in drafting the country's new constitution, which provided constitutional guarantees and protections for a wide range of civil liberties.

The bust, by sculptor Gautam Pal, was unveiled at a special ceremony attended by the High Commissioner of India to Australia Mr Navdeep Suri, the Indian Consul-General B Vanlalvawna, along with numerous dignitaries from the Indian community in Australia, Western Sydney University senior staff (including DVC & VP (Academic) Professor Denise Kirkpatrick, Pro-VC (International) A/Professor Linda Taylor,

Professor Simon Barrie Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Transformations), and Professor Michael Adams Dean School of Law – who was MC for the event), School of Law academic and professional staff, and students. The event was organised by Associate Professor Dr Alpana Roy, with the tremendous assistance and support of Kerrie Manning and Julie Evans, and also various other members of the School of Law and university professional staff including Cathy McFall and Rita Mifsud, and numerous others too many to mention individually.

The unveiling ceremony was covered in the media by SBS radio, local media, and various Indian media outlets.

Thank you to everyone who made this such a memorable and happy occasion!



Good News - Students

Western Sydney Law Students Place Second at International Negotiation Competition

Emma Nichelsen and Andrew Ciantar, Western Sydney law students representing Australia, placed second at the International Negotiation Competition held in early July in Lucerne, Switzerland. Having won the 2015 national Australian Law Students' Association Negotiation Competition, Andrew and Emma earned the right to represent Australia at the international competition.

As their coach (and past competitor), I am very proud of their accomplished performances who have exciting careers in front of them. I am particularly proud of the coaching and practice round judging support of Alex Djurdjevic and Malcolm Gittoes-Caesar (<http://www.colemangreig.com.au/Staff-64-Malcolm-Gittoes-Caesar.aspx>), two law alumni who were instrumental in Emma and Andrew's success at the national competition. My heartfelt thanks also extends to Adjunct Professor the Honourable David Collier AM who acted as both judge and expert advisor. Lastly, I am very grateful to the Dean of Law, Professor Michael Adams, and Cathy McFall for their ongoing support of our participation in this competition.

The students were taught the seven element theory of negotiation (as developed by the Harvard Negotiation Project) where the students deconstruct each negotiation around the elements of relationship, communication, interests, options, standards, alternatives and commitments. The International Negotiation Competition is a law

student competition in which a team of two law students representing a party/client negotiates either an international transaction or the resolution of an international dispute with an opposing team of two students from a different country. To be eligible to compete, each team must have won their domestic national competition. The competition was founded in 1998 by two American law schools, Creighton University and Pepperdine University. The competition featured national champion teams from 24 countries including Canada, Denmark, England and Wales, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Ireland, Italy, Russia, Scotland, Singapore, Slovakia, South Korea, Switzerland, and the USA.

Finally, I am happy to announce that I have been invited to become a National Delegate for Australia at the International Negotiation Competition which will be next held in Oslo, Norway.

The Law School also have 5 law students attending the Nuremberg International Criminal Law Moot Court competition in Germany.



Good News - Staff

Professor Donna Craig

Professor Donna Craig has been selected as one of four international trainers to engage in capacity building training through an Asian Development Bank funded program working with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Academy of Environmental Law training Asian legal academics to teach environmental law. Regional Capacity Development Technical Assistance, Strengthening Capacity For Environmental Law In The Asia-Pacific: Developing Environmental Law Champions, Train-The-Teachers Program, Banilad, Cebu City, Philippines.

Research

Dr Luke Beck

Two of Luke's papers were cited in a decision of the NSW Court of Appeal in a constitutional case handed down today: *Hoxton Park Residents Action Group Inc Liverpool City Council* [2016] NSWCA 157, [221] per Beazley P.

Luke's work has also previously been cited by the High Court: *Assistant Commissioner Condon v Pompano Pty Ltd* [2013] HCA 7, [42] per French CJ.

Professor Steven Freeland

Professor Freeland's 2015 book dealing with the issue of crimes against the environment - in particular the scope of my proposal regarding the crime - cited in the recently released (June 2016) 'Third report on the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts' prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the International Law Commission for distribution to, and consideration by all member States of the United Nations General Assembly

Publication of 'Applying the *Jus in Bello* to Military Uses of Outer Space: A Square Peg in a Round Hole?' in Patricia Margaret Sterns and Leslie I Tennen (eds), *Private Law, Public Law, Metalaw and Public Policy in Space: A Liber Amicorum in Honor of Ernst Fasan*, 109-122, 2016 Springer International, Switzerland (ISBN 978-3-319-27085-2)

Professor Michael Adams

Published "Contemporary case studies in corporate governance failures" (2016) volume 68 (no 6 – July) *Governance Directions* pages 335 - 338.

Engagement

Dr Thilla Rajaretnam

Thilla attended and participated in ‘*The Great Expectations, Privacy Laws & Business 29th Annual International Conference*’ held between 4th – 6th July at St John’s College Cambridge, UK. Speakers from 16 countries participated in the conference. The conference themes included: the EU Data Protection Regulation; Bridging Gaps Between Lawyers, Policymakers and Engineers; Advanced Data Security Threats; Cloud and the Internet of Things, Privacy Litigation; Data Protection Authority enforcement cooperation.

Professor Steven Freeland

Congratulations to Professor Steven Freeland who has been re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Paris-based International Institute of Space Law (IISL) for a further period of 3 years.

Steven did a public lecture (by invitation) ‘International Criminal Justice and World Order: Is the International Criminal Court a Good Idea?’, sponsored by Barker College, St Leo’s College and Normanhurst High School, Sydney, 15 June 2016.

He also presented at an all-day training course to Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department on Space Law, Canberra, 20 June 2016 and gave a speech on ‘Technology, Politics and Future Challenges for Space Law’, at Aerospace Futures Conference, Sydney 7 July 2016 with various media outlets.

Reminder:

The Law School has an upcoming Law Alumni function with Chris Bowen MP details:

Date: 5 August 2016

Time: 6.30pm - 10.30pm

Venue: Strangers Dining Room, Parliament of NSW, 6 Macquarie St, Sydney

Cost: \$130 per person to [purchase tickets](#)

