

# FRIDAY FROLICS

Newsletter of UWS Law School

Edition 1, February 2012

## Introduction

This fortnight there are a number of events that have been occurring connected to the School of Law.

## Good News: Student Matters

### First Year Law

This week 'My Course Planning' sessions (formerly known as Academic Advising) were held, on Monday at Parramatta Campus (246 students in attendance) and Wednesday at Campbelltown Campus (84 students in attendance). The main sessions were run by Stephen Janes and the First Year Team (Simon Kozlina, Michelle Sanson and Jane Lindsay) assisted the sessions and provided a barbecue to starting students, to help them get to know one another. Holding the barbecues at this event (as opposed to Week 4 of semester) was a big success. We had approximately 100 students at the Parramatta barbecue and close to 50 at the Campbelltown barbecue. Several students expressed their appreciation.

### Note from Manuel Ventura – UWS Law Graduate

As I mentioned in my last email, I ended up moving to Johannesburg in June to work as a law clerk/associate to Judge Mogoeng at the Constitutional Court of South Africa. The court hires about 6-7 foreign law clerks per year who serve as research assistants and young lawyers with whom the judges bounce off ideas and draft judgments. I had always wanted to work in human rights a bit more and to learn more about the Constitutional Court of SA's jurisprudence - especially in the area of socio-economic rights. Remarkably, about a month into my clerkship, my judge was nominated to be the next Chief Justice and after nomination hearings he was duly appointed. So in the end I ended up working for the Chief Justice! It was quite an interesting turn of events.

The work here is really interesting and varied. We heard a number of important cases on the right to housing in particular which was an area that was quite new to me. I was suspicious at first of justiciable socio-economic rights, but after seeing it in action first hand - and seeing poor evictees in court seeking the court's assistance - I've been won over. But at the same time, it's brought home just how backwards we are in the area of human rights protections. To think that a person in South Africa can end up in the highest court in the land and argue that their right to housing has been infringed whereas they would get laughed out of court in a rich country like Australia, doesn't sound quite right to me.

Unfortunately, in October I got some bad news. President Cassese - for whom I had worked in The Hague over 2010/2011 - passed away. I had known that he was not in the best of health, but never got the impression that it was so life-threatening. You never got that impression from his work ethic either. We developed a really good rapport over the time I worked for him and we stayed in touch even after I left The Hague, thus his death hit me quite hard. I travelled back to The Netherlands in November to attend his memorial service.

Now it's my last week at the Constitutional Court. However, earlier in the month I got an offer to work as a judicial intern to Judge Anita Ušacka, President of the Appeals Division of the International Criminal Court. I promptly said yes! Thus, I'm moving back to the Hague in a few days. I am really looking forward to getting back into the trenches of international criminal law. I am scheduled to be there until about the end of September 2011 - maybe I'll get to bump into Steven. I've also applied to do an LLM next year (mostly at UK universities - UCL, LSE, Cambridge, Kings), so with some luck I should be moving again in October - probably to London.

Last week four UWS law students - Erick Culala, Bridget Kennedy, Bharath Balasubramanian and Avinesh Kumar - went to Canberra to compete in the Jessup Moot. This moot involves a problem of public international law, with teams around the world preparing 50 page written submissions for each side in January, followed by oral moot rounds in February. Winners of national rounds compete in Washington in April. The students performed well, but unfortunately did not proceed to the final rounds. The overall winner this year was University of Queensland and runner up was University of Melbourne. The coaches - Steven Freeland and Michelle Sanson - appreciate the support of volunteer judges in the practice rounds, including Mr B Sully, Tim McGrath, Simon Kozlina, Angus Macinnis, Paul Armstrong, Ryan Jameson, Jonathan Adamopoulos, Elfriede Sangkhul and Sue Field.

## Research & Scholarships

### Professor Steven Freeland

Steven was interviewed on Monday evening on ABC TV News 24 following the detention by a Japanese whaling support vessel of the 3 Australian anti-whaling activists. Obviously the situation has moved on over the past 48 hours, but if you were interested in seeing the interview (it goes for about 10 minutes) the link is at

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-01-10/law-expert-discusses-whaling-activists/3766526>

Panellist on 'Peace v Justice – what is at Stake' at 'Afghanistan: Challenging the International Exit Strategy', conference sponsored by the Afghanistan Analysts Network and the Association for Human Rights in Afghanistan, Barcelona 2/3 February 2012

Interviewed on ABC TV News 24 on whaling and international law, 9 January 2012

Radio Interview on US National Program 'The Docket' broadcast on Radio Station KUCI-FM on space law, 30 January 2012

Radio interview on ABC Radio in Australia on space Law, 7 February 2012

Presentation (invited) of 'The Legal Regulation of the Environment of Outer Space' guest lecture at Faculty of Law, the University of Vienna, Vienna, 17 January 2012

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Presentation (invited) of 'The Fragmentation of International Law Principles?' guest lecture at Faculty of Law, the University of Vienna, Vienna, 19 January 2010

Appointed as external expert assessor for promotions applications for Professor of International Law at International Islamic University Malaysia, January 2010

## Dr Sarah Wilks

Dr Sarah Wilks' paper entitled "The Coldest Dog and Pony Show on Earth: Animal Welfare on the First Expeditions to Reach the South Pole" will be published in the January 2012 edition of the journal *Anthrozoos*, to co-incide with, and commemorate, the centenary of the arrival of Scott's expedition at the South Pole on January 17, 1912.

Dr Sarah Wilks' report to the UWS Office of Sustainability on cigarette butt litter was well received and has been forwarded to the UWS Tobacco and Smoking Working Party.

This study produced some surprising- and sobering results. All those butts wash down the drains and into the Parramatta River. Besides looking dreadful, cigarette butts release a variety of poisons into the river. Unfortunately, of all the cigarette butt littered areas on campus, the area around Law was one of the heaviest affected. Not a good look.

## Professors Donna Craig / Michael Jeffery

Craig D, Jeffery M, 2011, "Social Licence Issues in Developing Economies" in *Defending the Social Licence of Farming*, Jacqueline Williams, Paul Martin, CSIRO Publications (2011), Collingwood, Victoria, C. 6, pp 57-68, [ORS ID: 222531]

## **Publications**

### Professor Michael Jeffery

Jeffery M, Gao Q, 2012, The Development of Payments for Ecosystem Services in China: Cutting Through the Cloud of Confusion over China's Eco-Compensation, *Environmental Law Reporter*, vol 42, no. 1, pp 10041-10056, [ORS ID: 222466];

### Professor Steven Freeland

Publication of 'A US Moon Colony? Does Newt Gingrich's Idea have a Legal Basis?' in the academic opinion site 'The Conversation', 30 January 2012

## **Community Engagement**

### Professor Michael Adams

Michael has been re-appointed for another three-year term (until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014) to the NSW Law Society Specialist Accreditation Board.

Michael attended the City of Parramatta Inter-Church Service to commence the 2012 Law Year on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January at St John's Anglican Cathedral, Parramatta. Michael was honoured to be part of the procession with judges, magistrates, barristers, solicitors, members of Parliament and the Deputy Commissioner of NSW Police.

## **Administration**

The administrative role at the PCJC is currently being advertised. Daniel Griffiths (former UWS Law student) is filling this role in the meantime.

Welcome back to Dorothy on 6<sup>th</sup> February from long service leave. Alyssa Ablitt has therefore finished up with us on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February and I would like to thank her for being a great asset to the school over the past few months. Alyssa will be taking up a new role within the School of Business and we wish her well.



**Professor Michael Adams**  
Dean of the School of Law, UWS