

# FRIDAY FROLICS

Newsletter of UWS Law School



## From the Dean

Welcome to the 2nd Edition of our School Newsletter. The last month has been busy with many events happening.

The Law School continues to develop its blended learning strategy, its research strengths and commitment to engaging with the community – professionally and geographically. The Autumn semester has started with a flourish of activity as outlined in Friday Frolics. We hope you enjoy the new format and please keep in touch as events of law students, UWS staff and alumni continue to develop the reputation of the UWS School of Law.

**Photo:** Laura Horn and Paul Rogers from the Law School participating in the O Week celebrations - Lucy Duck Competition

## Students Participate in PIAC

From 17-21 February 2014, eight UWS students participated in the 'Practising in the Public Interest' course run by the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC). The course entailed three days of training with PIAC and two days of placement observing pro bono work in corporate firms and community legal centres.

The training involved a variety of speakers from public interest organisations and covered topics such as public interest litigation, advocacy, lobbying strategies, media planning and campaign management. Students devised a campaign plan for a current public interest issue utilising the skills and knowledge that had been acquired over the course of the week.

Student Rushil had a placement with Henry Davis York's pro bono department where she learned about the policies and procedures used by a corporate law firm in conducting pro bono litigation and the benefit it provides to the firm and the community. She also observed the Children's Legal Services division of Legal Aid at the Children's Court in Parramatta, where she gained an insight into the value of legal aid and the services it provides to minors, in addition to the unique nature of the Court and the issues involved in dealing with juvenile offenders.

Student Esterina attended the National Pro Bono Resource Centre at the University of New South Wales where she learned about the structure of corporate pro bono programs and the process by which these are established in law firms. She was also placed at Allens Linklaters where she had the opportunity to discuss the nature of pro bono work with junior lawyers and gain first-hand experience of this work at the Homeless Person's Legal Service in Surry Hills.

The course was an invaluable opportunity to learn about the breadth of the legal profession and recognise the duty that lawyers have to use their skills and services in advocating for justice on behalf of society's most vulnerable. We highly recommend this unit to future students.

Rushil Sharma and Esterina Lentini

## Research

### **Professor Stephen Freeland**

Expert Advisor for 'Island of Impunity' a (234 page) report prepared by PIAC (Public Interest Advocacy Centre) detailing alleged international crimes in Sri Lanka over the closing stages of that country's civil war. This report has been circulated to the Governments of all Member States of the United Nations and to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and will be formally discussed in the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva at a special session regarding Sri Lanka scheduled for March 2014

Quoted in 'Judgement restores Status Quo at Hague Tribunal', *Information* newspaper, 28 January 2014, pages 10-11 (in Danish and English)

Presentation 'Specific Direction or Not - What is going on at the ICTY?' iCourts Centre of Excellence for International Courts, University of Copenhagen, 31 January 2014

Awarded Honorary Title of *Lectio Cum Laude* by University of Tartu, Estonia, 7 December 2013

Appointed to the Editorial Board of the *German Journal of Air and Space Law / Zeitschrift fur Luft- und Weltraumrecht* as from 1 January 2014

Reappointed (by invitation) as a Fellow of the Tim Fischer Centre of Global Trade and Finance (Bond University) for a further two years as from 1 January 2013

Reappointed as a member of the Editorial Board of the *Annals of Air and Space Law* (published by McGill University) for 2014

Judge of National Finals of Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, Minsk, Belarus, 5/6 February 2014

Presentation (invited) 'Child Soldiers – an (inadequate) International Legal Response', Legal Studies State Conference 2014, Sydney, 15 March 2014

### **Ms Jennifer Ireland**

Jennifer was an invited speaker on the use of Blended and e-Learning at Melbourne Law School's 'Celebration of Teaching at Melbourne Law School' on 12 December 2013. Jennifer's presentation ('e-Learning in Law') introduced the 'front-loading' (preparation) model she has developed for Law Units and its use in addressing key pedagogical objectives, such as building student engagement, supporting self-regulated learning, and developing sustainable practices in the production of resources.

External reviewer (invited) on the concept of publication in internet defamation for University of New South Wales Law Journal.

### **Professor Michael Adams**

Michael Adams quoted in Sydney Morning Herald Article by Adele Ferguson "ASIC must suffer Slings and Arrows" 19 February 2014.

### **Professor Michael Adams and Professor Steven Freeland**

Professors Michael Adams and Steven Freeland both attended and spoke at the Legal Studies Association HSC Conference at Rydges at Rosehill on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Prof Adams spoke on the topic "Bribery and corruption around the world" and Professor Steven Freeland spoke on the topic "Warfare, Technology and the Legal Regulation of Outer Space"

### **Ms Sue Field**

Seniors Week is proving a busy time for Sue Field, so far Sue has been interviewed by Barry Mac Radio 2ST, Dominic Knight ABC 702, Georgina 2UE, Clive Robertson 2UE, Linda Mottram ABC 702, Michael from ABC Central Coast and Tim Webster from 2UE's Weekend Show - great publicity.

## Publications

### **Professor Steven Freeland**

Publication of 'A Natural System of Law? Andrew Hayley and the International Regulation of Outer Space' (2013) 39:1 *Journal of Space Law* 77-98 (ISSN 0095-7577).

## Engagement

### **UWS Law Students' Association**

On Friday 28 February, the Law Students' Association and the School of Law celebrated the launch of the UWSLSA Journal at the Boilerhouse with champagne and sushi. Marija Yelavich (Chief Editor) and Mel Pudig (on behalf of Maria Badawi, President of the LSA) said a few words regarding the efforts that went into the publication and the pride held by the students in getting the publication compiled and distributed to students during O-Week. Professor Michael Adams, Margaret Hyland, Dr Lucy Robinson and Dr Laura Horn attended the launch party on behalf of the School of Law. Thank you to Michael Adams and Lucy Robinson for also saying a few words regarding the publication, and thanks to the members of staff who attended to support the LSA.



### **Professors Michael Adams and Stephen Janes**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March saw the opening of the new UWS Parramatta CBD campus at 100 George Street, Parramatta. Dr Stephen Janes, deputy dean and Prof Michael Adams, dean of law, attended the official opening by the NSW Premier, the Chancellor and a number of members of parliament (NSW and Federal) including our former UWS colleague, Dr Geoff Lee.

Dr Janes also attended the opening of the new teaching building at UWSC Nirimba on the 14<sup>th</sup> March. The building was opened by Rear Admiral Timothy Barrett AM CSC RAN in the presence of the Chancellor and VC.

### **Mr Michael Brogan**

On 18 February 2014 the School of Law hosted the *Pathways To Dreaming* program in the Campbelltown Moot Court. Francine Feld and Michael Brogan from the School facilitated mock trial workshops for year 9 and 10 students from:

- Cambridge Park High
- Chifley College Dunheved
- Cranebrook High
- Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High
- Plumpton High
- St Clair High



The *Pathways To Dreaming* program builds and supports the educational and career goals of year 8-12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Students take part in academic, self-development and Aboriginal cultural enrichment activities that increase their skills and confidence and broaden their horizons. Participants are mentored by UWS staff, students and alumni who may be Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal.

The Manager of School of Engagement for UWS, Anne McLean Stated:

***"Aboriginal elders and educators, UWS academic and professional staff, and other experts all contribute to the development and delivery of program components. Pathways To Dreaming began in 2009 with just 15 year 10 students and is now operating in 22 schools with over 400 students. A large part of the developing success of this program has been the support from UWS schools, including the School of Law, and individual academics like Francine Feld".***

The moot court experience comprised an overview of the legal system and the role of legal practitioners and judges, followed by students engaging in a mock criminal trial. The School of Law's Francine Feld has been involved with the program since its inception. Francine's enthusiasm is evident in her explanation for why she continues to volunteer her time:

***"The Pathways to Dreaming program has provided me, and in the past five years Judge Joe Moore, with an opportunity to demystify the law for Aboriginal students. I have been particularly interested in encouraging these young people to consider law as a career path, while trying to earn more about their views on the legal system and society".***

Feedback from teachers and participants suggest that the program run by the School of Law is enjoyable and informative.

## **Professor Michael Head**

### **Zest awards**

Michael Head last month represented the law school at this year's annual Zest awards, which honour community service organisations, workers and volunteers across western Sydney. A record 108 individuals and projects were nominated for their contributions.

The awards have become a premier event for the region, involving many current and former UWS students in diverse projects and roles. Nearly 500 people packed into the Millennium Room of ANZ Stadium and were treated to stunning performances by Manea Pacifica and Hybrid Formz Academy.

It was pleasing to see some of our law students and staff receiving an award, including for Student Connect, a program involved in family violence issues in the Macarthur region. Student Connect won for Exceptional Community Partnership across a Region.

UWS Chancellor Peter Shergold spoke at the event as a Zest ambassador, although UWS is not yet an official sponsor.

The award citation for Student Connect stated:

Student Connect is an innovative partnership between South West Sydney Legal Centre (SWSLC), University of Western Sydney (UWS), Women's Legal Service NSW (WLS) and Macarthur Community Legal Centre (MCLC).

Student Connect is a SWSLC initiative to improve the legal profession's awareness and understanding of the problem, dynamics and impact of domestic and family violence (DFV) and the significance of these to legal intervention and the delivery of legal services. The project targets law undergraduates, the ultimate aim being to improve the sensitivity and capacity of the legal profession to identify DFV scenarios and to

deliver effective and appropriate legal services.

The key partners worked collaboratively and effectively with each other and other stakeholders, including Liverpool, Fairfield, Bankstown and Blacktown local courts, to ensure the project achieved its goals. Student Connect involves 2 elements – seminars delivered by solicitors and court visits.

UWS provides access to law students, and has incorporated Student Connect as an assessable component of their criminal law syllabus. WLS and SWSLC's Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS) facilitate the cooperation of the local courts.

## General News



Two weeks ago Richard Roxburgh, aka Rake, was filming a commercial for the US Rake tv series in the Chambers where student Mel Pudig works, Maurice Byers Chamber.

Mel managed to recompose herself (just) to have a photo take with Richard. He was as charming and charismatic as you would expect and it made Mel's day.