2017 ANNUAL REVIEW

THE UNITED STATES STUDIES CENTRE
at the University of Sydney
# Table of contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017 at a glance</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointments</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global experiential learning</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About USSC</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At the Australian Awards for University Teaching, Associate Professor Brendon O’Connor was awarded a Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning.

Dr Gorana Grgic was jointly appointed by the USSC and the Department of Government and International Relations as a Lecturer in US Politics and Foreign Policy. Associate Professor in American Politics Brendon O’Connor was jointly appointed by the USSC and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

David Mack
Buzzfeed

David Mack is Deputy Director, Breaking News in Buzzfeed’s New York offices. He graduated from the University of Sydney in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts/Law and majors in American Studies and Media and Communications.

David began his career with the ABC at the international desk producing stories for the flagship radio current affairs programs AM, The World Today and PM. He moved to Washington DC to take up a role at the ABC’s North America bureau producing TV and radio reports covering US politics and events.

Georgina Harrowell
US Department of Commerce

Georgina Harrowell is an International Trade and Investment Specialist at the International Trade Administration, an agency within the US Department of Commerce. Based in Washington DC, Georgina has responsibility for boosting and attracting Australian investment into the United States.

Georgina graduated from the University of Sydney with a Master of US Studies in 2017. She completed her studies whilst a Program and Engagement Manager at the American Chamber of Commerce in Sydney.

2017 AT A GLANCE

Teaching

784 undergraduate students

144 postgraduate students

Graduate Profiles

David Mack
Buzzfeed

Georgina Harrowell
US Department of Commerce

1
In addition to real-world experience, undergraduate or postgraduate students who take on USSC internships may also receive credit towards their degree. In 2017, this included exclusive internships at the US Consulate where students interacted with government officials and diplomats working on issues concerning Australia-US relations. Other placements at the USSC included the Foreign Policy and Defence internship and the Media and Communications internship.

**2017 Alumni**

Foreign Policy and Defence interns Caitlin Gauci and Ryan Hawkins both joined the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as graduate policy officers. Media and Communications intern Zushan Hasmi was recruited to the Department of Defence graduate program.

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### UCLA Study Abroad Program

During winter break, students live and study at the University of California Los Angeles. They receive credit towards their degree at the University of Sydney.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UCLA Study Abroad Program</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Washington DC Placement Program

Students earn credit towards their degree as they complete a nine-week professional placement in Washington DC, at organisations such as congressional offices or think tanks.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Students</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Washington DC Placement Program</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Los Angeles Placement Program

Students live in Los Angeles for nine weeks combining study in American business and leadership skills with a professional placement in a leading organisation.

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<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Placement Program</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme

Students enrolled in the Master of United States Studies are eligible to apply for an eight-week placement in a congressional office in Washington, DC

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<tr>
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<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### HIGH SCHOOL DEBATING

The USSC’s Debate the Future of America competition has run annually since 2011 and sees teams from New South Wales high schools debating issues pertinent to the future of the United States.

The 2017 competition was won by Sydney Boys High School.
### RESEARCH GRANT

USSC researchers Professor Simon Jackman and Dr Shaun Ratcliff were awarded a Commercial Development and Industry Partnership grant by the University of Sydney to coordinate the development of a multi-module survey instrument to be used by political scientists and policy researchers. They will collaborate with opinion polling company YouGov, as well as researchers at the University of Melbourne, ANU, Macquarie and Griffith.

### FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

USSC Research Fellow Dougal Robinson was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study Australia’s bilateral relationship with both the United States and China. In 2018, he will undertake a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies, International Economics and Indonesian language at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington DC.

### VISITING SCHOLARS

**Max Paul Friedman**  
Professor of History and Affiliate Professor of International Studies at American University in Washington, DC

**Michael C. Williams**  
Professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa

**Julio Capó**  
Assistant Professor in US History at the University of Massachusetts Amherst
Events were held at other venues in Sydney as well as Los Angeles, Washington DC, Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth.

**Television**
Broadcasters and programs such as ABC’s 7.30 and Q&A, CNN, BBC, Sky News, Al Jazeera, CNBC, Bloomberg, SBS, Channel 7’s Sunrise, Channel 9’s Today, Ten’s The Project

**Print and online**

**Radio**
Radio stations and programs such as ABC Sydney’s Drive, Radio National’s Breakfast, AM and PM programs, 2GB, Triple J, 3AW, NewsRadio, 2UE, 2ser, ABC Melbourne

The Centre’s new website showcases our unique student programs, features a new look for research, and provides improved access to our stable of experts.

**The 45th**
The 45th is a weekly newsletter that has rapidly built an audience of highly engaged subscribers interested in the latest news in US politics. The 45th provides specialised analysis from our experts and looks at developments affecting the US-Australia alliance.

68 events
4,500 attendees
94 speakers

50 events at the University of Sydney
Appointments

Dr Charles Edel
Senior Fellow and Visiting Scholar

Charles Edel joined the United States Studies Centre’s (USSC) Foreign Policy and Defence program in 2017. The focus of Charles’ research is on American foreign policy, strategic issues and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

Previously, Charles was an associate professor of strategy and policy at the US Naval War College, and served on the US Secretary of State’s policy planning staff from 2015 to 2017. In that role, he advised Secretary of State John Kerry on political and security issues in the Asia Pacific region.


Charles holds a PhD in history from Yale University, and received a BA in classics from Yale College.

Stephen Loosley AM
Visiting Fellow

Former Australian senator Stephen Loosley AM joined the Centre as a visiting fellow. Stephen is Chair of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Canberra, and Strategic Counsel with Minter Ellison Lawyers, Sydney.

Claire McFarland
Director, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program

Claire McFarland joined the Centre to lead the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program, a new research initiative funded by the NSW Government focused on understanding the United States as an innovation leader, with a view to developing insight for the benefit of New South Wales and Australia.

Claire has spent her career working in the digital technology space, starting at OzEmail when they were the largest ISP in Australia. Through the dot com era, Claire worked at Fairfax on AFR.com and at Excite@Home, introducing cutting-edge internet technologies including subscription and content personalisation to media consumers. At Optus and Telstra, Claire led telco media convergence teams as mobile devices started to overtake desktops as our point of connection.

Most recently, Claire worked for the Australian government developing policy and managing programs in the digital economy arena.

Claire holds a BSc (Molecular Biology), a MA (Journalism) and an MBA.
Dr Vik Naidoo
Chief Operating and Academic Officer

Vik Naidoo joined the Centre to oversee the academic and research activities of the Centre, as well as manage the operations team which delivers communications, events, HR, finance and student recruitment.

Vik’s career has seen him exposed to a number of sectors, including tourism, consulting, financial services, government, and more recently higher education, where he has held both senior academic and managerial roles.

Recent roles in higher education include associate professor of international business and dean of international programs at Curtin University, director (international) at the University of Sydney and deputy director (international relations and policy) at the University of Auckland.

Vik earned his doctorate from Victoria University of Wellington and completed his postgraduate as well as undergraduate studies at the University of Auckland. He is an alumnus of the Management Development Program from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education.

Dr Shaun Ratcliff
Lecturer in Political Science

Shaun Ratcliff joined the Centre’s academic team in early 2017. His research is focused on the use of quantitative methods and survey data to understand public opinion, political behaviour and the role of parties in both the United States and Australia. In particular he is interested in how these have changed over time.

Shaun completed his PhD at Monash University in 2016, where he studied voter and candidate issue preferences, and public policy outcomes.

Shaun teaches politics, political psychology and quantitative research methods, and is a member of the executive committee of the Australia Society of Quantitative Political Science.
Research

Foreign Policy and Defence Program (Alliance 21)

Publications

Global Mattis: The new Secretary of Defense
In this research brief, research fellow Brendan Thomas-Noone wrote about what the nomination of Jim Mattis to the position of Secretary of Defense in the Trump administration meant for Australia and other US allies.

Work in progress: Donald Trump’s Asia team
As new US President Donald Trump assembled a team of officials to implement his more muscular US foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific, research fellow Ashley Townshend looked at the implications for Australia and the region.

No puppet: Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State
Research fellow Dougal Robinson gave a preview of what could be expected from the new Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

Australia’s post-Trump trade agenda: Making sense of limited options
In this research brief, Jeffrey Wilson explained US President Donald Trump’s trade agenda following the collapse of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.

America first: US Asia policy under President Trump
Research fellow Ashley Townshend wrote about the Trump administration’s more muscular and self-interested security policy in the Asia-Pacific.

Next steps for the US-Australia-Japan trilateral defence relationship
Erum Jilani explained why the strategic partnership between the United States, Australia and Japan is so important for stewarding peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific.

Make it personal: Trump, Congress and Australia’s avenues of influence
Research fellow Dougal Robinson offered a blueprint for how the Australian government should engage with the new US administration.

Profile in prominence? Ambassador Nikki Haley and the Trump administration’s UN policy
Senior fellow Elsina Wainwright looked at how the Trump administration’s UN policy was taking shape under the leadership of US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley.

Peaceful erosion? Trump, China, and the dual crisis in America’s Asia policy
Former assistant secretary of defense for Asian and pacific security affairs, David B. Shear, wrote about the dual foreign policy crises contributing to the erosion of American power in Asia.

Trump, Congress and the 2018 defence budget: A primer for Australia
Authors Dougal Robinson, Brendan Thomas-Noone and Ashley Townshend wrote about how a constrained US defence budget might impact America’s global strategic presence.
Next steps for Australia’s defence innovation: Lessons from DARPA
Michael Biercuk wrote about what Australia’s defence innovation community can learn from the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Beyond TPP: Maintaining US engagement in Asia’s emerging trade architecture
Jeffery Wilson wrote about how the collapse of the TPP has reignited the contest over the future shape of Asia’s trade architecture.

Mapping the Third Offset: Australia, the United States and future war in the Indo-Pacific
Research fellow Brendan Thomas-Noone wrote about America’s Third Offset — a strategy for matching its defence budget with its strategic ambitions — and the possible implications for Australia and the Indo-Pacific region.

Alliance 21 fellowships
Ben Flatgard joined the Centre for several months in late 2017 as an Alliance 21 fellow. He was previously the director for cybersecurity policy on the US National Security Council where he was responsible for leading policy development for the US government in areas related to cybersecurity. Whilst in Australia, Flatgard spoke at a public forum where he discussed why Russian hacking during the 2016 US presidential election proved so successful and how the United States, Australia, and other democracies might address the challenge of foreign interference in the future.

Anthony Wicht was based in Washington, DC during his Alliance 21 fellowship. In his role for the Australian government, Wicht co-authored Australia’s most recent space policy “Australia’s Satellite Utilisation Policy”. His research during his fellowship focused on the future of the space sector and implications for the Australia-US space relationship.

Events and workshops
An address by Senator John McCain
The USSC was honoured to host the chairman of the US Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator John McCain, for the Alliance 21 Lecture. The Republican Party’s nominee for the 2008 presidential election (and a strong supporter of the US-Australia relationship) addressed 600 guests at the State Library of NSW. He spoke about the future of US alliances and engagement in Asia during his speech.

G’Day USA
The Centre took part in G’Day USA celebrations in Los Angeles. CEO Simon Jackman, director of research James Brown and the 2016 inaugural Alliance 21 fellow Richard Fontaine were among those who participated, alongside Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and the Australian Ambassador to the United States Joe Hockey. The event included a US-Australian dialogue on cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

US-Asia Strategy Simulation
The Alliance 21 program hosted a three-day strategy simulation program. Designed to focus Australian and American strategic thinkers on analysing the future role of the United States in the Indo-Pacific, the program featured keynote speeches by Ambassador David Shear, Rear Admiral Stuart Mayer, Professor Rory Medcalf and Dr Zack Cooper, and participant experts from government, academia, think tanks, the military and private industry.
Australia and the United States: An alliance for the 21st century
The USSC partnered with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the US Department of State, and the Perth USAsia Centre for a two-day conference discussing the current state and future of the alliance between Australia and the United States. Conference speakers included former Australian prime ministers Paul Keating and John Howard. The Centre also hosted an interactive session between conference participants and students from the University of Sydney, focusing on the future of the alliance and the next generation’s perspective.

Appointments
Adjunct Associate Professor Elsina Wainwright, a non-resident senior fellow, was appointed by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop to Australia’s panel of representatives in the ASEAN Regional Forum’s Experts and Eminent Persons group.

Trade and Investment Program
In 2017, the USSC launched the Trade and Investment Program with the release of a key report. Authored by Professor Richard Holden and research fellow Jared Mondschein, Indispensable economic partners: The US-Australia investment relationship represents the most comprehensive analysis of the two-way US-Australia investment relationship ever undertaken. The study was funded by the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia.

The report was launched in Australia by Treasurer Scott Morrison at an event at Parliament House, and in New York by Australian Ambassador to the United States Joe Hockey. The authors then travelled to a number of Australian capital cities to discuss the findings with local audiences.

America’s role in the Indo-Pacific
As the first major, multi-country survey of public opinion to be conducted since the 2016 US election, The Asian Research Network: Survey on America’s role in the Indo-Pacific revealed regional attitudes on issues such as trade, the US-China relationship, the likelihood of conflict in the region and how Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, and South Korea view their neighbours. The report was the result of a collaborative effort between seven organisations in the region, including the Centre’s sister institution, the Perth USAsia Centre.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program
In 2017, the Centre launched a new multi-year research initiative, funded by the NSW Government. The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program is focused on understanding the United States as an innovation leader with a view to developing insight for the benefit of NSW and Australia.

Publications
Failure to launch: Australia, the United States and the threat of inefficient innovation
Authored by program director Claire McFarland, research fellow Jared Mondschein and research assistant Zoe Meers, this interactive report used the Global Innovation Index as a means of comparing the innovation performance of Australia and the United States across a number of indicators.
Visiting fellow

Spencer Maughan joined the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program as a visiting fellow. He is a partner with Finistere Ventures, an AgTech venture capital company based in Silicon Valley.

Events

To mark the launch of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program, a roundtable breakfast was held in partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries. Visiting fellow Spencer Maughan spoke about the role of AgTech in Australia.

Maughan was also the feature speaker at a public forum on how start-ups can make it in Silicon Valley.

USSC-YouGov Polling

In 2017, the USSC partnered with YouGov (a market research and opinion polling company) to provide the Centre with exclusive, monthly polling data from the United States and Australia, tracking not just perceptions of political leadership in both countries, but also unique, targeted insights on a diverse range of topics. The project launch featured YouGov CEO Stephan Shakespeare, ABC journalist Annabel Crabb and the Centre’s CEO Simon Jackman discussing Trump, Brexit and the future of polling.

The first of the YouGov polls compared public opinion on same-sex marriage in both Australia and the United States, and was released before the results of Australia’s same-sex marriage vote were announced. The results of the poll were discussed at a public forum in Sydney and attracted media coverage from all the major TV, radio and print networks.

The Debate Papers

New in 2017, the Debate Papers provides a platform for learned voices to argue issues affecting the United States, Australia, and the relationship between the two. These counterpoints traverse topics such as economics, foreign policy and politics.

Who is Australia’s most important economic partner?

The first instalment of the Debate Papers saw James Laurenceson and Jared Mondschein go head to head over who is Australia’s most important economic partner — the United States or China?

Is Russia a threat or a distraction to the United States?

In the second Debate Paper, Gorana Grgic and R. Craig Nation went head to head over whether Russia is a threat or a distraction to the United States.

Should Australia withdraw its military forces from the Middle East?

In the final Debate Paper for 2017, Rodger Shanahan and John Blaxland argued whether Australia should maintain military operations in the Arabian Peninsula or focus on threats closer to home.
Academic

Publications

- Lecturer in US politics and foreign policy Dr Gorana Grgic’s book *Ethnic conflict in asymmetric federations: Comparative experience of the former Soviet and Yugoslav regions* was published by Routledge. Grgic also co-authored a journal article published by *World Politics*: “Political competition and the initiation of international conflict: A new perspective on the institutional foundations of democratic peace.”

- CEO Simon Jackman wrote the report *Impeachment 101: The history, process and prospect of a Trump impeachment*, looking at the constitutional, legal and political factors at play when impeaching an American president. Jackman also co-authored research on “Economic and cultural drivers of immigrant support worldwide” published by the *British Journal of Political Science*.

- Research associate Dr Adam Lockyer authored the book *Australia’s Defence Strategy: Evaluating Alternatives for a Contested Asia*, which was published by Melbourne University Press.

- Dr Aaron Nyerges and Dr Rodney Taveira, both lecturers in American Studies, authored (with Dr Tricia Jenkins), the article “The State and Cultural Production”, published by the *Journal of Popular Culture*. In the same journal, Nyerges also authored the article “Wilder than Adorno: Billy Wilder State Capitalism and Hollywood after Buchenwal”, and Taveira wrote the article “True Detective and the States of American Wound Culture”.

- Dr Aaron Nyerges authored the journal article “Styling Sovereignty: Gertrude Stein’s Epideictic Constitution of the USA” published by *Textual Practice*.

- Academic director and senior lecturer in American politics and foreign policy, Dr David Smith, wrote the chapter “On the therapeutic uses of racism in other countries” for the book *Against international relations norms: Postcolonial perspectives* edited by Charlotte Epstein and published by Routledge.

- The book *Global Wallace: David Foster Wallace and World Literature*, written by USSC tutor Dr Lucas Thompson, was published by Bloomsbury Academic.

- Dr Julio Capó’s book *Welcome to Fairyland: Queer Miami before 1940* was published by the University of North Carolina Press. Capó finalised the book manuscript while a visiting scholar at the USSC in 2017.

Awards

- Associate Professor Brendon O’Connor was among four University of Sydney staff who received Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning, as part of the federal government’s Australian Awards for University Teaching.

- Sophie Cunningham was announced as the 2017 recipient of the Centre’s Visiting Fellowship in Creative Arts at Indiana University. She will travel to Bloomington, Indiana to works towards the final draft of her novel, *This Devastating Fever*. 
Visiting scholars

The Centre invited leading scholars to pursue projects that align with and further the research agendas of its faculty. Scholars who took up residence at the Centre in 2017 were:

Julio Capó
Assistant Professor in US History at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Max Paul Friedman
Professor of History and Affiliate Professor of International Studies at American University in Washington, DC

Michael C. Williams
Professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa

Events

The American Cultures Workshops continued in 2017. The fortnightly seminars unite scholars of disparate disciplinary and methodological backgrounds from across the Asia-Pacific region who share a common research focus on the United States.
Teaching

Postgraduate

In 2017, 144 students undertook postgraduate study offered by the Centre.

Programs on offer:
- Master of US Studies
- Graduate Diploma of US Studies
- Graduate Certificate of US Studies

Units on offer:
- USSC6901 Fundamentals of US Studies
- USSC6902 US Politics: Presidency and Congress
- USSC6903 US Foreign and National Security Policy
- USSC6905 US Economic Policy and Regulation
- USSC6906 US Constitution
- USSC6907 American Exceptionalism
- USSC6914 Key Issues in American Culture
- USSC6920 US Media: Politics, Culture, Technology
- GOVT6359 US-China Relations
- USSC6916 Research Essay in US Studies
- USSC6919 American Film and Hollywood

Undergraduate

Undergraduate students enrolled in USSC units of study numbered 784 in 2017.

Programs on offer:
- Major in American Studies
- Honours in American Studies

Units on offer:
- AMST2601 American Foundations
- USSC2601 US in the World
- USSC2602 US Politics: Elections, Presidents, Laws
- USSC3601 Public Opinion and Voting in the US
- AMST1001 Global America
- AMST2606 Stand Up USA: American Comedy and Humour
- AMST3601 American Perspectives
- USSC2603 Americanism and Anti-Americanism
- USSC2604 Sex, Race and Rock in the USA

**High school**

The Board of Studies-endorsed HSC course America: Prophecy, Power, Politics was offered again in 2017, giving eleven Year 11 and Year 12 students the opportunity to develop university-standard writing and critical thinking skills, and earn credit towards a tertiary degree.

The Centre’s high school debating competition, Debate the future of America, was won by Sydney Boys High School.

Katherine Cheng was the recipient of the USSC-sponsored History Teachers’ Association NSW Extension History Essay prize for best HSC History Extension essay on an American topic.

**Internships**

- Foreign policy and defence internship
- US Consulate internship
- Media and communications internship

The Centre ran its Summer Research College for the first time. Students Ariel Castro-Martinez, Nishtha Sharma and Stephen Witts were the recipients of a month-long training and research assistant program.

**Student events**

The year kicked off with Centre representatives available on campus to speak to prospective students at the University of Sydney’s Info Day.

The USSC had a large presence at the University’s O-Week hosting six events across three days, including a panel discussion with media experts examining the Trump administration, an international relations careers seminar and a book club.
Global experiential learning

UCLA Study Abroad Program

The UCLA Study Abroad Program provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to study at the University of California, Los Angeles, ranked 14th in the 2016-17 Times Higher Education world university rankings. Students choose from hundreds of courses offered by UCLA from a variety of disciplines.

In 2017, 30 students from the University of Sydney, 25 students from the University of Western Australia and six students from the University of New South Wales participated in the program. It was the first time the program was offered to UNSW students.

Los Angeles Placement Program

The Centre runs the Los Angeles Placement Program in partnership with the University of California Los Angeles Extension (UCLA Extension). Designed for aspiring business leaders, the program not only equips students with the leadership skills to give them a competitive advantage in the workforce, but also with an in-depth understanding of the complexities of American business.

The Centre organised placements for 23 students from the University of Sydney.

Washington DC Placement Program

The Washington DC Placement Program was launched by the Centre in partnership with the University of California Washington Center. In 2017, the program provided 23 students from the University of Sydney and two from the University of Western Australia with the unrivalled opportunity to live in the seat of American power and witness first-hand the interaction of government and business.

Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme

The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme offers Australian students the opportunity to intern in a range of US congressional offices for eight weeks from January to March each year. Students enrolled in the Master of United States Studies at the University of Sydney are eligible to apply. USSC Master’s student Holly Newell participated in the program in early 2017.
The Centre hosted 68 events in 2017 (60 in Sydney, two in the United States, two in Canberra, one each in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth)

More than 4,500 people attended USSC events

USSC events featured 94 speakers

**Event highlights**

**John Howard on Donald Trump**
In front of a sold-out audience at Sydney’s Museum of Contemporary Art, former prime minister the Hon. John Howard OM AC discussed President Donald Trump and the challenges and opportunities facing the US-Australia relationship with *The Australian*’s Paul Kelly.

**Race and incarceration: Comparing re-integration in Australia and the United States**
Following the establishment of a federal inquiry into the average representation of indigenous Australians in prisons, the Centre hosted a gathering of international experts to examine the racial disparity affecting the justice systems in the United States and Australia and to chart a way forward. Harvard professor Bruce Western delivered the keynote speech.

**Andrew Liveris: Rebuilding an American manufacturing sector**
Described by US President Donald Trump as “one of the foremost leaders in the world of business”, chairman and CEO of the Dow Chemical Company and lead of Trump’s Manufacturing Council, Andrew Liveris, spoke about rebuilding the American manufacturing sector and its lessons for Australian business at a USSC luncheon in Sydney.

**First 100 days of Trump**
The Centre joined forces with ABC News and Radio National for a series of panels looking at domestic policy, foreign policy and the media during President Trump’s first 100 days. The forum featured journalists from *The New York Times*, *The Australian* and the ABC, as well as US and Australian political analysts, and was broadcast on ABC TV and radio.

**CEO to CEO series**
The Centre’s inaugural event in its new CEO to CEO event series featured Boral CEO Mike Kane. In a conversation with USSC CEO Simon Jackman, Kane spoke about doing business in Trump’s America, sharing his insights on the prospects for the US and global economies under Trump, and what this means for business in Australia. In the second event in the series, Airbnb Country Manager (Aus/NZ) Sam McDonagh and Uber General Manager (Aus/NZ) David Rohrsheim were brought together to discuss the rise of the sharing economy in Australia and lessons learned from the United States.

**Hugh White: Without America — Australia in the new Asia**
In a conversation with USSC researchers Ashley Townshend and James Brown, author of the latest *Quarterly Essay*, Hugh White, examined developments in America’s Asia policy and US-China relations, and discussed the implications for Australia and other regional allies.
**Dana Milbank and Anna Greenberg**  
The *Washington Post*'s Dana Milbank and American pollster Anna Greenberg visited Sydney and Melbourne as guests of the Centre. They made a joint appearance at a special panel previewing the 2018 US Midterm Elections and Greenberg spoke at a women in politics event.

**Black Lives Matter and the future of US race relations**  
The founders of the Black Lives Matter Global Network, in Australia to accept the 2017 Sydney Peace Prize, joined the ABC’s Stan Grant for an intimate conversation about the birth of the protest movement, the future of black lives under President Trump, and what lessons Australians can learn from the American experience.

**How conservatives can lead on climate change**  
Former Republican congressman Bob Inglis delivered a keynote speech on how conservatives can lead on climate change under President Trump. The public event was chaired by The Hon. Robert Hill, former Minister for the Environment.

**Raising the bar**  
American studies lecturer Rodney Taveira was among the 20 University of Sydney academics to take part in October’s Raising the Bar events across Sydney. His sold-out talk focused on the relationship between American popular culture, memes and politics.

**Joseph Kahn: Running a newsroom in the 24-hour Trump cycle**  
Joseph Kahn, the managing editor of *The New York Times*, was special guest at a masterclass hosted by the Centre. Hundreds of journalism students and academics from the University of Sydney, UTS and the University of New South Wales attended the event.

**James Clapper: The future of the US-Australia alliance**  
Former director of National Intelligence James Clapper spoke at an exclusive roundtable hosted by the USSC in partnership with ANU’s National Security College.

**Nicholas Rasmussen: Facing the evolving threat of terrorism**  
At a public forum, director of the US National Center for Counterterrorism Nicholas Rasmussen provided insight into the evolving threat of terrorism.

**Jonathan Swan: An insider perspective on Trump's Washington**  
Washington-based political reporter for Axios, Jonathan Swan, provided a unique insight into the goings on at the White House at a public forum in Sydney as well as at an exclusive roundtable hosted by the Centre.

**Citizen Trump: Classical Hollywood in the age of the showbiz president**  
The Centre held a special screening of Orson Wells’ 1941 classic Citizen Kane, with non-resident fellow Stephen Loosley AM hosting an audience discussion addressing the film’s political themes and rise of Donald Trump.
Communications

Highlights

- The Centre launched its new website in February 2017, featuring a new look for research, better access to our stable of experts and an extensive ‘Study’ section showcasing our offerings for students.

- The first of the Centre’s weekly US politics digest, The 45th, landed in subscribers’ inboxes in late January. The 45th contains a round-up of the week’s biggest news, specialised analysis from our experts, a look at the developments affecting the US-Australia alliance, a diary of upcoming events, and the week’s best tweets and video.


- Experts from the USSC’s Alliance 21 program filled a regular Tuesday morning slot on Sky News’ AM Agenda program, talking about the latest developments in US foreign policy.

- Senior lecturer David Smith could be heard on ABC Sydney’s Drive program each week. The hugely popular “Trump Tuesday” segment covers the latest in US politics.

- Ashley Townshend’s report on Trump’s US-Asia strategy attracted significant international media interest, including CNN, The Atlantic, BBC, Financial Times and Bloomberg.

- Simon Jackman, Jared Mondschein and Richard Holden wrote an extensive feature in collaboration with the Australian Financial Review, based on research they conducted into the Australian-US investment relationship. The report released as a result of this research, was covered by all the major print, radio and TV networks.

- During their visit to Australia as guests of the USSC, The Washington Post’s Dana Milbank appeared on the ABC’s 7.30 program and American pollster Anna Greenberg appeared on the ABC’s Q&A program.

- The release of the Asian Research Network survey was accompanied by a video infographic explaining some of the data. The video was featured in stories by The Australian Financial Review and news.com.au. The survey was also mentioned in The Washington Post.

- In addition to her role as contributing editor for the U.S. News and World Report, research associate Dr Nicole Hemmer wrote a US-themed fortnightly column for The Age.

- The first USSC/YouGov poll, which gauged public attitudes to same-sex marriage in the United States and Australia, attracted interest across all the major media outlets in Australia.

- Other news and events that attracted significant media interest included the inauguration of President Trump, the Trump-Turnbull phone call controversy, Vice President Mike Pence’s visit to Australia, the Trump-Turnbull meeting in New York, the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 US presidential election, the USSC event featuring John Howard discussing Donald Trump’s presidency, and racial violence in Charlottesville.
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