The mission of the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney is to increase awareness and understanding about the United States in Australia and around the world.

Our vision is to become one of the world’s leading centres for the study of America.
FROM THE CEO

Education. Research. Communication. These form the foundation of our work and through these activities we continue to meet our mandate of improving awareness and understanding of the United States and becoming one of the world’s leading centres for American studies.

As you will see in the following pages, the United States Studies Centre made great strides in 2014 — appointing world-class experts and scholars to join our team, hosting leaders from the United States, Australia, and around the world, expanding our course offerings and study abroad opportunities, launching new public policy programs, and publishing innovative research.

Looking ahead, the Centre will be devoting greater resources to expanding its presence and profile in the Asia–Pacific region and particularly in the United States. Plans are already underway for the celebration of the Centre’s tenth anniversary in 2016.

You can keep up with us through our popular weekly e-newsletter, becoming one of our Facebook fans, watching us on YouTube, checking out our photos on Flickr, or following us on Twitter (either @ussc or my own @batesgillussc).

In all of this work, we thank our many friends and stakeholders — and particularly our founding members the American Australian Association and the University of Sydney — who recognise the value the Centre brings to understanding the United States and its role in the world. We look forward to continuing our close collaboration with our supporters across our growing portfolio of education, research, and public outreach activities.

Bates Gill
Chief Executive Officer

2014 HIGHLIGHTS


- Bringing Ambassador Jeffrey Bleich, defence expert James Brown, and world-renowned China scholar Linda Jakobson on board as new members of the team.

- Establishing a new fellowship program to send a leading Australian figure in the creative arts to Indiana University for a four-month residency.

- Initiating a new study abroad program in Shanghai with the Center for American Studies at Fudan University.

- Wrapping up the first phase of the Alliance 21 program and gaining public and private support to launch a second three-year phase of this acclaimed think tank program.

- Establishing the 21st Century Global Women’s Initiative on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Brisbane.

- Organising the world-first Behavioural Exchange conference with more than 400 American, Australian, and other international participants gathering over two days to share the latest in how behavioural insights can be applied for better public policy.

- Tripling our output of op-eds in international media to more than 70 appearances.

- Supporting the publication of major research works on topics ranging from the history of labour in New Orleans, to Australian defence acquisitions, to American art in Australia, to US–China relations.

- Helping sponsor the opening game of the 2014 Major League Baseball season, played in Sydney between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Arizona Diamondbacks.
Our people, their expertise, and commitment are our lifeblood. A number of outstanding appointments in 2014 will ensure our continued success and contribute to our growing global profile.

JEFFREY BLEICH
Visiting Professor

Former US ambassador to Australia Jeffrey Bleich joined the Centre as a visiting professor and a member of the Council of Advisors in July 2014. During his four-year term as ambassador he was a great supporter of the Centre and, in his new role, he will draw on his considerable expertise in American politics and law, US–Australia relations, and technology and innovation to help guide the Centre and contribute to our student and outreach activities.

Bleich was appointed US ambassador to Australia by President Barack Obama in 2009 following a period at the White House as special counsel to the president. Bleich continues to advise the Obama administration on political and security matters and in 2014 the President appointed him to the Fulbright Board.

Bleich is a partner in Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP, where he heads the global practice, specialising in trade, international dispute resolution, and data security.

JAMES BROWN
Director of Alliance 21

Distinguished security analyst, author, and former serving Australian Army officer James Brown joined the Centre in the new year as the director of the Alliance 21 program.

Brown was previously the military fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy. There he coordinated the MacArthur Foundation Asia Security Program, led research on private security companies, and established a body of research work focused on critical analysis of Australian defence and strategic policy.


As director of the Alliance 21 program he will oversee its range of research and public outreach activities, working with experts in the United States and Australia to examine the breadth and depth of the bilateral relationship and put forward recommendations for how the Australia–US relationship should develop in the years ahead.
SARAH E. GRAHAM  
Lecturer in US Foreign Policy

Lecturer in US foreign policy Sarah Graham joined the Centre’s academic team and will be teaching two undergraduate units in 2015. She will continue her research examining the US government’s use of propaganda and public diplomacy in contemporary and historical contexts, the role of emotions in foreign policy, and US foreign policy in South Asia.

She has previously taught at the University of Western Sydney and the University of Southern California, where she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for International Studies and the Center on Public Diplomacy at the Annenberg School of Communications.

Graham, who previously taught a postgraduate unit at the Centre, will teach US in the World and Americanism and Anti-Americanism.

LINDA JAKOBSON  
Visiting Professor

In early 2014, eminent China scholar Linda Jakobson joined the Centre to provide added expertise and deeper understanding of US–China relations. In 2015, she will co-teach a postgraduate course on US–China relations with Associate Professor J.D. Yuan of the University of Sydney’s Department of Government and International Relations.

Jakobson, who came to the Centre from the Lowy Institute for International Policy, will conduct research on the US–China–Australia relationship, focusing on commonalities and differences in relations within the triangle, especially in the spheres of geo-economics and geopolitics.

A fluent Mandarin speaker, Jakobson lived and worked in China for more than 20 years and has an extensive array of international publications on China’s foreign policy and the Taiwan Straits, as well as its energy security and science and technology policies.

Jakobson’s most recent position in Beijing before moving to Sydney in 2011 was director of the China and Global Security Programme and senior researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.
In 2014, the Centre hosted government leaders, prominent intellectuals, and a diverse range of experts and academics from Australia, the United States, and the world to discuss key issues facing the United States.

**JULIE BISHOP**
Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop provided the keynote address at the Alliance 21 conference Australia–United States: The Alliance in an Emerging Asia. The June event brought together leading thinkers on the contemporary Australia–US relationship to consider the alliance in the context of a rapidly changing region.

In her speech, Bishop praised the breadth and depth of the alliance, pointing to space, intelligence, and cyber as areas of further growth for the already deeply connected relationship, and expressed her strong support for the work of the Centre and its Alliance 21 project.

**PETER COSGROVE**
Governor General of Australia

Governor General of Australia Peter Cosgrove praised the work of the Centre at a gala dinner for the Alliance 21 conference held in June. In an address at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, Cosgrove acknowledged the value of studying one of Australia’s most enduring and important alliances.

Cosgrove came to national attention in 1999 when, as commander of the International Force in East Timor he helped oversee that country’s transition to independence. He was appointed chief of Army in 2000 and then served as chief of the Defence Force from 2002 until his retirement from the Australian Defence Force in 2005.
CAROL GIACOMO
New York Times Editorial Board member

As part of the Centre’s W21 initiative, New York Times editorial board member Carol Giacomo joined a special breakfast to celebrate International Women’s Day at the Centre. The event, Crossing Borders and Pushing Boundaries: Telling Women’s Stories, focused on the challenges women face in the media. The event was moderated by SKY News presenter Helen Dalley and was presented in collaboration with the Walkley Foundation.

The event covered issues of gender equality in the media but also featured a broad discussion of the foreign policy crises besetting US President Barack Obama in Ukraine and Syria.

Giacomo, a former correspondent for Reuters in Washington DC, covered foreign policy for the international wire service for more than two decades before joining the Times editorial board in 2007.

RICHARD N. HAASS
President of the Council of Foreign Relations

During a visit to the Centre in February president of the Council of Foreign Relations Richard N. Haass said the United States needs to match its rhetoric on the Asia–Pacific region with action if it wants to ensure the stability of the increasingly important but also potentially fractious region.

While in Sydney, Haass took part in a Centre roundtable on US–China relations, led by visiting professor Linda Jakobson, and later delivered remarks at the US Embassy at an event hosted by US Ambassador to Australia John Berry.

Speaking on ABC TV’s Lateline, Haass said that Washington’s focus on the Middle East meant the United States is gradually losing credibility and the will to engage in the region, a theme he also discussed in his article for the February issue of Centre journal American Review.
CHUCK HAGEL  
US Secretary of Defense

US Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel joined his Australian counterpart, Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston, at a roundtable discussion, co-hosted by the Centre and the Lowy Institute for International Policy as a prelude to the 2014 Australia–United States Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN).

Experts from a range of Australian institutions took part in a frank discussion with Hagel and Johnston on key strategic issues, including assessments on Indo-Pacific security and Alliance matters.

While in Sydney, Hagel reaffirmed America’s commitment to the Asia–Pacific region and discussed on-going tensions in Ukraine and the Middle East, saying that the pivot to Asia continued to be a central pillar of America’s foreign policy.

STEPHEN WALT  
Robert and Renee Belfer Professor of International Affairs at Harvard University

Professor Stephen Walt visited the Centre in April to discuss why America’s foreign policy record since the Cold War is littered with high profile disappointments and costly failures.

At a public lecture, Walt said the United States has squandered its position of primacy at the end of the 20th century and analysed some of the recurring weaknesses in America’s foreign policy establishment and its overall approach to foreign affairs.

While in Australia, Walt also participated in student and business roundtables in Sydney and headed west to take part in the In The Zone conference at the University of Western Australia.
OTHER NOTABLE VISITORS

- John Berry, US Ambassador to Australia
- Kathleen Burk, Professor Emerita of Modern and Contemporary History at University College London
- Colin Cathcart, Associate Professor of Architecture at Fordham University
- John Daley, Chief Executive Officer of the Grattan Institute
- Michael Dieden, Company Principal of Creative Housing Associates
- Karl Eikenberry, William J. Perry Fellow in International Security at Stanford University
- Victoria A. Farrar-Myers, Professor of Political Science at the University of Texas at Arlington
- John A. Ferejohn, Samuel Tilden Professor of Law at New York University
- Matthew Goodman, William E. Simon Chair in Political Economy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies
- Christopher Hill, former US Ambassador to Iraq
- James F. Jeffrey, former US Ambassador to Iraq and Turkey
- Peter Leahy, former Chief of the Australian Army
- David Johnston, Australian Minister for Defence
- Sieglinde Lemke, Professor of American and Cultural Studies at the University of Freiburg, Germany
- Jason Miller, Deputy Director of the National Economic Council at The White House
- Peter Park, Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Colorado at Denver
- Andrew Robb, Australian Minister for Trade and Investment
- Daniel Russel, US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs
- Richard Samuels, Director of the Center for International Studies and Ford International Professor of Political Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Amy Searight, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia
- Maya Shankar, Senior Advisor at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
- Richard L. Simcock II, Deputy Commander, US Marine Corps Forces Pacific
- Bradford K. Smith, President of the Foundation Center
- Cass Sunstein, Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard Law School
- Richard Thaler, Ralph and Dorothy Keller Distinguished Service Professor of Behavioral Science and Economics at the University of Chicago
- Wu Xinbo, Director of the Center for American Studies at Fudan University
- Heather Zichal, former White House advisor on climate change and energy
The Centre’s educational programs continue to attract more than a thousand students every year, fostering their passion for studying America.

Motivated by our mission to enrich the understanding of the United States in Australia, we continued updating our offerings in 2014, creating innovative new learning experiences that challenge students and broaden their perspective on the United States and its role in the world.

In 2014, the Centre produced a new student prospectus, helping guide students through our expanded educational offerings and presenting testimonials from some of our best and brightest alumni.

In the postgraduate space, the Master of United States Studies will change its structure from 2015, incorporating a capstone experience such as an internship, research thesis, or international experience. The new structure allows students to gain a deeper knowledge of US politics, culture, and society through a flexible mix of research, study, and hands-on practice.

From high school through to undergraduate and postgraduate study, Centre educational programs in 2014 gave our students unprecedented access to political, cultural, business, and academic leaders from Australia and United States, offering the opportunity to explore and debate the major issues facing America, Australia and the world with the insiders who shape the alliance.
HIGH SCHOOL

Debate the future of America

Should the United States government legalise gay marriage? This topical question was the focus of the Centre’s 2014 Debate the Future of America high school competition final. The debate was won by the affirmative team, St Ursula’s College, who defeated Baulkham Hills High School.

The final was the culmination of three hard-fought elimination rounds, in which ten teams from across Sydney debated the end of the American dream and the decline of American global dominance.

The competition, now in its fourth year, is open to Year 11 students interested in deepening their understanding of the United States, with winners awarded three iPads for their school.

The unit, taught by lecturer Rodney Taveira, featured weekly lectures and tutorials on the major issues in American society, politics, and culture. It also featured curated playlists of the popular BackStory podcasts, produced by the American History Guys at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center, on each of the topics covered.

US History Day

More than 85 students and teachers took part in the Centre’s inaugural US History Day at the University of Sydney in April.

Presented in partnership with the History Teachers’ Association of New South Wales, the day was a unique opportunity for teachers and extension history students to hear from the Centre’s academics about a range of topics relating to American history.

The contested history of John F. Kennedy’s presidency and the development of American democracy were the two main topics discussed and debated on the day, with visiting fellow Christopher Parker, professor at the University of Washington, presenting the keynote address contrasting conservative political movements in the United States and Australia.
UNDERGRADUATE

“The United States Studies Centre has earned itself a reputation for engaging courses and excellent tutors.” That was the verdict delivered by the University of Sydney Student Representative Council’s 2015 Counter Course Handbook, reviewing another year of outstanding undergraduate teaching by the Centre.

Rebecca Sheehan’s Sex, Race, and Rock in the USA unit continued to enthral students, exploring the intersection of music, society, and culture in America. The course was described by many students as the best they had ever taken thanks to the interactive and fun lectures as well as the passionate teaching staff.

Other Centre units such as US in the World, Americanism and Anti-Americanism, and US Politics: Elections, Presidents, Laws also continued to attract and engage those interested in understanding how American politics really work and how Washington projects influence overseas.

Also new in 2015 will be Public Opinion and Voting in the US, taught by David Smith. By examining how ordinary Americans experience politics, it will move beyond the “horserace” journalism of daily news to reveal what political numbers really mean. The unit will not only provide students with a thorough understanding of how to use and read polls, surveys, and voting data but also provide a theoretical framework to understand why Americans vote, what they think about politics, and how their attitudes are formed.

The Centre will be offering two new units in 2015 to broaden students’ understanding of the United States. Stand Up USA: American Comedy and Humour will explore how discussions of race, class, gender, sexuality, and politics have been filtered through laughter. Taught by Rodney Taveira, the unit will traverse the period from Mark Twain to Dave Chappelle to look at how comedy has challenged social norms and political structures in America and created space for agitation, exploitation, community, and freedom.

Knowledge of America put to the test

Staff, students, and members of the public were offered the chance to put their knowledge of all things American to the test at a US-themed trivia night at the University of Sydney’s Manning Bar in October.

Lecturer David Smith took the stage as quizmaster for the evening, which featured questions on everything from politics and pop culture to history and Hollywood.

The winning team received a $100 bar tab from the Manning Bar and there were plenty of other great prizes available for early registrants and winners of games throughout the evening.
US Consulate Internship

The Centre once again partnered with the US Consulate General in Sydney to offer one talented student an internship during the summer break. Centre student Samuel Johnson spent nine weeks at the Consulate, gaining real-world experience in Australia–US relations.

The professional placement program offers unprecedented access to work on issues concerning the two countries and allowed Johnson to receive credit towards his degree and complement his study of the United States.

AmCham Internship

University of Sydney Arts/Law student Tiernan Christensen was selected in 2014 to intern at the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia as part of the Centre’s inaugural AmCham internship program.

While working at the Sydney offices, Christensen was selected to attend the World Trade Organization (WTO) Public Forum in Geneva, Switzerland. Held annually at the WTO headquarters, the Public Forum is the organisation’s largest annual event, attracting more than 1,500 participants from academia, business, the media, and government.

Christensen said the event and the internship allowed him to extend his engagement with and experience in international trade policy.

New in 2015: Alliance 21 Internship

A new internship opportunity will open in 2015 to work with Alliance 21, one of the Centre’s principal policy research projects. Alliance 21 interns will work on the program’s busy schedule of research, events, and public outreach activities while earning academic credit from the Centre.

The six-month program is open to both postgraduate and undergraduate students and will give those chosen firsthand experience in exploring public policy debates around the Alliance 21 program’s major themes of Australia–US defence ties, economic interactions, resource sustainability cooperation, and relations with major players in the Asia–Pacific such as China and Indonesia.
POSTGRADUATE

The Centre continued to offer a range of world-class postgraduate educational and experiential learning programs in 2014, while restructuring the master’s program to incorporate greater flexibility and a stronger focus on firsthand experience.

The new structure, beginning in 2015, includes a compulsory capstone unit, which offers students the opportunity to travel overseas, undertake an internship, or put together a research thesis. The range of options includes the new G’Day USA American Insights Tour, run for the first time in 2015 (see page 17).

Two new postgraduate offerings next year will continue to expand the broad range of options offered to master’s students to gain an in-depth knowledge of the United States.

A new course starting in 2015 will be on US–China relations, jointly taught by Centre visiting professor Linda Jakobson and associate professor Jingdong Yuan from the Department of Government and International Relations, and will explore what is regarded by many as the most significant bilateral relationship in the world.

The unit will introduce students to the contemporary history of US–China relations; delve into the complex security, economic, and cultural ties between the two countries; and deepen understanding of the strategic thinking and policymaking unfolding in Washington and Beijing that defines this critical relationship.

Also new in 2015 will be Contemporary American Media, taught by Jane Park. Covering the diversity of forms, texts, and practices that define contemporary American media, this unit examines journalism, advertising, television, music, gaming, internet culture, and more to engage with the pressing cultural and political issues facing the United States and the world.

Postgraduate information evenings

The Centre hosted two postgraduate information evenings to give students a taste of the in-depth discussion and debate they can expect from a Master of US Studies.

As Obama settled into his second term as US president, the Centre convened a panel to look at his legacy and whether he would be viewed as a transformative leader or a lame duck. Associate Professor Brendon O’Connor moderated the panel discussion, joined by Centre lecturer Thomas Adams and research associate John Barron, to examine whether Obama’s landmark healthcare reforms and commitment to addressing inequality would be enough to counter criticisms of a dysfunctional Congress and failure of many of his key objectives.

Current students, alumni, and Centre academics were also available to answer questions, and the night featured a short presentation on the international career opportunities opened up by the program.

Later in the year, the Centre hosted TV Nation: What The Wire, House of Cards, and Girls Can Teach Us About America. With a new wave
of smart American television offering a unique perspective on social and political life in the United States, three Centre academics cast a critical eye across the modern television landscape.

Visiting scholar Huw McKay assessed the economic theory underlying political drama *House of Cards*, lecturer Rodney Taveira analysed the American dream as depicted in the classic Baltimore-set series *The Wire*, and lecturer Jane Park focused on the relationship between gender and ethnicity in HBO’s recent mega-hit *Girls*.

The event was moderated by postgraduate coordinator Aaron Nyerges, who was on hand after the event to answer questions about the postgraduate program.

[ussc.edu.au/postgraduate](http://ussc.edu.au/postgraduate)
The Centre gave more students than ever the chance to live, study, and work in some of the most exciting cities in the world while gaining a deeper understanding of the United States.

The Centre expanded its successful range of global experiential learning programs in 2014 by sending students for the first time to Shanghai, where they gained a better understanding of the United States from the perspective of one of the world’s rising powers. Alongside the Centre’s established study abroad and internship opportunities in Los Angeles and Washington DC, the Centre gave more students than ever the chance to live, study, and work in some of the most exciting cities in the world while gaining a deeper understanding of the United States. Offered during the summer or winter holiday breaks, the programs allow students to accelerate their degree while forming friendships with students from across the country and the world.

**UCLA STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM**

For six intensive weeks, 92 students from the University of Sydney and the University of Western Australia earned credit for their degrees while experiencing US culture firsthand travelling through destinations in California and beyond.

In between classes at the University of California, Los Angeles, students visited Disneyland, experienced a Major League Baseball game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres, and sampled the local cuisine, including at the iconic fast food chain In-N-Out Burger. They also met with Los Angeles–based writer James Ellroy, author of *The Black Dahlia* and *L.A. Confidential*, and were fêted with a reception at the Consul General of Australia Karen Lanyon’s residence, attended by a number of partner companies and supporters of the Centre.
SHANGHAI STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

The participants in the Centre’s inaugural Shanghai Study Abroad Program called their six weeks in China “an incredibly rich and rewarding experience” and “much more than an academic exchange program.” In between visits to companies including Apple, eBay, and the Anschutz Entertainment Group, students explored US relations with China in classes offered by the Fudan University Center for American Studies.

Highlights included a guest lecture from Centre CEO Bates Gill on whether the United States and China are destined for confrontation and conflict and from chief operating officer Sean Gallagher contrasting higher education in the United States and China, as well as a roundtable at the US Consulate and visits to Shanghai sights including Tianzifang, Yuyuan Gardens, the French Concession, and the Bund. “This was a practical, immersive learning experience,” said Samuel Johnson, a University of Sydney Faculty of Arts undergraduate, “We’ve come away with strong relationships, new perspectives, and transformed outlooks.”

New in 2015: Shanghai scholarships

The Australian Government will offer 15 scholarships to students participating in the Centre’s 2015 Shanghai Study Abroad Program.

The funding announcement was part of the Government’s New Colombo Plan, which aims to give students firsthand knowledge, experience, and connections in the Indo-Pacific region. Announcing the mobility grants, Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop said she hoped the plan would become a rite of passage for students interested in the area.

“The continued strong interest of students in the region will ensure they are well placed to make a valuable contribution to the regional engagement of our business community and to driving economic growth in Australia and our region in the years ahead,” she said.
WASHINGTON DC PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Centre launched the Washington DC Placement Program in 2011 in partnership with the University of California Washington Center (UCDC). The nine-week program provided 25 University of Sydney and University of Western Australia students the unrivalled opportunity to live in the seat of American power and witness firsthand the interaction of government and business.

Students choose from a range of courses at UCDC such as International Policy, the Supreme Court, and Policy Making. To complement their studies, students complete professional placements in leading organisations, including Congressional offices on Capitol Hill, think tanks, and local government.

“Studying and interning in Washington DC gave me access to an invaluable network of students, academics, and organisations with connections across Australia and the United States,” said University of Sydney student Sam Tidswell. “The experience was truly once-in-a-lifetime.”

LOS ANGELES PLACEMENT PROGRAM

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

In Los Angeles, 32 students from the University of Sydney and UWA completed the compulsory UCLA Extension courses Doing Business in the United States and Leadership Communication and Strategies, while on professional placement in top finance, entertainment, law, marketing, and media firms, such as ROAR Asia Pacific, Cappello Capital, and M&C Saatchi.

NEW IN 2015: G’DAY USA TOUR

At the end of 2014, the Centre opened up the incredible opportunity for up to 20 postgraduate students at the University of Sydney of travelling to the United States as part of the Centre’s G’Day USA American Insights Tour.

The two-week tour in January 2015 will give students completing a postgraduate business or arts degree at the University of Sydney the opportunity to gain invaluable international experience and develop a network of key players in the Australia–US relationship. Offering special access to G’Day USA events in Washington DC, San Francisco, Silicon Valley, and Los Angeles on a range of topics including policy, business, and culture, and taking in social and cultural activities in the United States, the trip will also feature a number of roundtable events with high profile guests, and an inside look at key organisations in a variety of industries across the country.

ussc.edu.au/internships
The Centre’s think tank projects have continued to bring together the best and brightest minds from around the world to tackle the key issues that matter to Australia and the United States in the 21st century.

Partnering with federal, state, and local government and a range of private and public organisations, the Centre’s think tank activities are driving debate and shaping smart solutions.

**ALLIANCE 21**

The Alliance 21 program completed its first three-year phase in 2014, producing a comprehensive report on its findings and hosting major conferences in January and June in Washington DC and Canberra respectively, while continuing to host events across its six major themes. The project was facilitated by the generous support of the Australian Government as well as eight corporate donors: Dow, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, GE, News Corp, Visy, Morgan Stanley, and Raytheon.

Under the direction of adjunct professor Robert Hill, the final report brought together the findings from three years of collaborative research and analysis by more than 50 of the best strategic thinkers on both sides of the Pacific. The report drew together research from the six themes of the project: Defence and Security, Education and Innovation, Emerging Asia, Energy Security, Natural Resources and the Environment, and Trade and Investment. It was presented to the Australian Government at a reception at Parliament House, Canberra, in October. The Australian
Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston accepted the report on behalf of the government before an audience of more than 50 parliamentarians, senior public officials, and Alliance 21 contributors, while also announcing a further three years of funding for the project.

The report, *The Australia–United States Partnership*, offered a set of recommendations to ensure the continued strength of the relationship. These included an expanded commitment to defence cooperation; a greater focus on strengthening economic ties, including through the conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement; and increased consultation between the US president and the Australian prime minister on the depth and breadth of issues facing both nations.

Following the launch of the report, Centre CEO Bates Gill travelled to Washington DC to present the findings to US officials, Congressional staff, and leading policy experts. Gill addressed a luncheon hosted by Australia’s Ambassador to the United States Kim Beazley and presented the report at a public event hosted by the East–West Center, emphasising the collaboration already taking place in energy policy, trade and investment, and in the Asia-Pacific.

James Brown was appointed as the Alliance 21 program director for the project’s second phase.

**The Future of the Australia–US Alliance Conference**

Following on from the Alliance 21 conference at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC earlier in 2014 (see 2013 Annual Report), the Centre held a conference in Canberra to examine the future of the Australia–US alliance in the context of a rapidly changing Asia-Pacific region.

High level representatives from government, business, defence, and academia met for the landmark conference in June to debate the alliance’s future in an emerging Asia across key themes of energy, advanced manufacturing, trade, and defence.

Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel opened the conference via video, presenting a keynote address that looked at the outcomes of Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott’s first bilateral meeting with US President Barack Obama, held just days before.

The speech was followed later in the day by an address by Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop, who praised the breadth and depth of the alliance and pointed to space, intelligence, and cyber as areas of further growth in the already deep connection between the United States and Australia.

“The alliance is the very cornerstone of our strategic architecture, built on our shared values and priorities — our commitment to freedom and democracy, peace and prosperity, and a rules-based international order,” she said.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership was also discussed, with Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb commending the agreement, while pointing to the complexities of the
negotiations that he said may extend beyond the 2016 US presidential election.

Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Tanya Plibersek encouraged Australia to make the most of its unique relationship with both the United States and China, saying it should play an active role in ensuring a stable and prosperous relationship between the two powers.

The entire conference, which also included speeches from former US ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry and deputy commander of the US Marine Corps Forces in the Pacific Richard L. Simcock II, was streamed live on the Alliance 21 website.

After a full day of discussions, the event concluded with a gala dinner in the ANZAC Hall at the Australian War Memorial. The guest of honour, Governor-General of Australia Peter Cosgrove, praised the work of the Centre in studying one of Australia’s most enduring and important alliances and Minister for Defence David Johnston spoke on the military dimension of the alliance.

“Australia cannot be secure in an insecure region,” Johnston said. “What happens in our region is of vital consequence to Australia and we must be a strong and committed partner to the United States as it continues the rebalance to the Asia–Pacific and Indian Ocean regions.”

The event generated a broad range of international and local media coverage. Major interviews on ABC 7:30, ABC News Breakfast, and Phoenix TV (China), were complemented by coverage from Associated Press, The Wall Street Journal Asia, Kyodo News Agency, Xinhua, Bloomberg, The Australian, and across the Fairfax network, among others.

The conference also sparked a vibrant Twitter conversation, catalysing more than 1,500 comments, including from the Australian Foreign Minister and US Embassy.

What happens in our region is of vital consequence to Australia and we must be a strong and committed partner to the United States as it continues the rebalance to the Asia–Pacific and Indian Ocean regions.

Senator the Honourable David Johnston
Alliance 21 Conference, Canberra
Three sharp university students also won a chance to attend the conference as part of our Alliance 21 Essay Competition. The winning essays were chosen from a highly competitive field of entrants looking at whether the US alliance should remain a cornerstone of Australian foreign policy. The top entrant, James Wilson, also received $1,000 and was published in the Centre’s journal *American Review*.

**Energy security**

The Alliance 21 program supported two major events in 2014 to share knowledge about ensuring Australia and America’s energy security.

In February, the Transport Fuels From Australia’s Gas Resources: Advancing Australia’s Energy Security event brought together the world’s leading experts on sustainable fuels. Alliance 21 co-director Robert Hill opened the conference, which featured a roundtable discussion chaired by Centre adjunct professor Susan Pond and closing remarks by Australia’s chief scientist Ian Chubb.

The findings from the conference were compiled into a book and a set of policy submissions featuring both Hill and Pond that have been presented to the Australian federal government.

In June, Alliance 21 also sponsored the 2XEP Forum, which saw a number of high profile American guests provide their expertise to help achieve the goal of doubling Australia’s energy productivity.

**Defence and security**

Incorporating business perspectives into the creation of effective and sustainable groundwater policy, the forum developed a number of key policy recommendations that were forwarded to policy makers, water managers, and business leaders in both countries.

Defence and security continued to be a major part of the Alliance 21 project, with co-director Robert Hill taking part in the US–Australian Dialogue on Defence Industries in January as part of the ongoing G’Day USA program.

The dialogue looked at the current state of the US and Australian defence industries, including future projects, investment, advanced manufacturing in the field, and Australian opportunities. More than 150 Australian and US security analysts, defence industry leaders, and policymakers attended the San Diego event.

The Australia–United States Ministerial Consultation (AUSMIN) in August also put the defence relationship into sharp focus, with US Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel joining his Australian counterpart, Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston, at a roundtable discussion, co-hosted by the Centre and the Lowy Institute for International Policy.

Experts from a range of Australian institutions took part in a frank discussion with Hagel and Johnston on key strategic issues, including assessments on Indo-Pacific security and alliance matters.

**Natural resources and the environment**

With the United States and Australia both facing unprecedented environmental challenges, the Alliance 21 Business Water Forum brought together US and Australian experts to share their perspectives on the risks of water scarcity and groundwater depletion.
**Alliance 21 Fellowship**

In 2014, the Alliance 21 Fellowship program was launched to fund the exchange of four to six senior scholars and policy analysts between Australia and the United States from 2015 to 2017. In cooperation with the US Embassy in Canberra and the Perth USAsia Centre at the University of Western Australia, the program aims to deepen understanding about the Australia–US relationship by fostering an exchange of people and ideas across the Pacific.

Each fellowship will last three to ten months and will see scholars conducting policy-oriented research on the strategic opportunities and challenges facing the Australia–US relationship in the Asia–Pacific in the coming decade.

Establishing this fellowship marks another great step forward for the Alliance 21 program and its work in highlighting the remarkable depth and breadth of the Australia–US relationship.

*Bates Gill*  
*CEO, United States Studies Centre*

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**SUSTAINABLE FUELS**

The Centre’s Alternative Transport Fuels Initiative made further steps forward in 2014 to support the development of cost-competitive advanced biofuels as part of the transport energy mix in Australia, particularly for sectors with critical needs, such as aviation, resources, defence, and shipping.

Initiative leader and adjunct professor in sustainability Susan Pond worked with partners in Australia and internationally. In January, Pond attended the Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative general meeting, as well as related events in Washington DC, and joined delegates on a panel that reviewed the progress being made in developing renewable aviation fuel production facilities around the world.

In April, Pond participated as a speaker in the Advanced Biofuels Leadership Conference in Washington DC, highlighting the partnerships being forged between the United States and Australia in both the civil and military sectors.

*alliance21.org.au*
Pond joined other thought leaders at the Aviation Initiative for Renewable Energy International Biofuel Conference in Berlin in May to discuss the intersections among politics, industry, and science as they pertain to alternative aviation fuels. Pond also gave two presentations at the ILA Berlin Air Show, focusing on the unique global connectivity of the biofuels sector and on regional innovations in alternative aviation fuels.

In Australia, Pond chaired the Australian Initiative for Sustainable Aviation Fuels and made policy submissions to several Australian Government reviews, including the Energy White Paper Taskforce, the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, and the Review of the Renewable Energy Target.

Pond also co-authored a chapter in the new book *Transport Fuels From Australia’s Gas Resources*, featuring a foreword from Centre adjunct professor Robert Hill.

**FUTURE CITIES**

The Future Cities Collaborative, the Centre’s urban planning initiative, brings together policy, practice, and research to help create sustainable precincts in cities around New South Wales.

The 2014 Future Cities Program, run by the Collaborative with the support of the NSW Government, saw mayors, senior staff, and community leaders from six councils join together to share ideas and develop strategies to improve their local areas. Following an intensive three-day Mayors’ Forum in Sydney, city leaders from Canada Bay, Hornsby, Gosford, Marrickville, Pittwater, and Wollongong councils undertook a week-long tour through innovative sites in California, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey.

The participants met with more than 200 leaders of government agencies and city governments during the program, and each US host was paired with an Australian council in order to deepen the bilateral relationship between the two countries. The US tour was supported by New South Wales trade commissioner to North America Laki Kondylas, Australian consul general in San Francisco Nigel Warren, and New York City commissioner for parks and recreation Mitchell Silver.

Lord Mayor of Wollongong City Council Gordon Bradbery said of the experience “The Future Cities program was second to none in opportunities for learning, professional development, and firsthand experience.”

With the support of the New South Wales Government, the Future Cities Collaborative was also able to showcase the precinct innovation and strategic urban development during the World Cities Summit in Singapore. Issues discussed included how to build environmentally resilient cities in the face of changing weather conditions.
patterns and addressing the shared urban challenges in the Asia–Pacific region.

The Collaborative also invited a range of US experts to Australia in 2014 to extend the dialogue on a range of urban planning issues.

In April, Californian urban development expert Michael Dieden provided advice on creating integrated and livable communities around train stations and transit hubs. Dieden travelled across Sydney council areas from Blacktown and Liverpool to Waverley and Woollahra for a host of site visits and events focused on building efficient, transport-oriented developments.

Peter J. Park from the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado Denver also met with Collaborative members in June. At his events, Park emphasised that planning should put the experiences and perceptions of citizens before legislation, citing greater usage of public transport, lower congestion, and a stronger community feel as positive consequences of this approach.

During 2015, the Collaborative members will work with their US partners to examine new policy approaches to address current issues in urban development in Australia, including housing affordability, implementing green infrastructure, and innovative finance mechanisms for local infrastructure.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

International Dialogue on Women in Leadership

World leaders from government, business, and academia met in Brisbane for the Centre’s inaugural International Dialogue on Women in Leadership in November 2014.

Co-hosted by Griffith University at the State Library of Queensland, the event began at the close of the G20 Leaders’ Summit where world leaders had announced a target of a 25 per cent reduction in the gender gap by 2025.

The conference began with a special panel event on the Sunday evening, providing a unique opportunity for top international thinkers and policymakers to consider ways to encourage and promote women’s leadership globally. The event brought together Australian Senator Michaelia Cash, secretary general of the OECD José Ángel Gurría, chief executive of Oxfam International Winifred Byanyima, and deputy director-general for policy of the International Labour Organization Sandra Polaski for a robust debate on quotas and the need for action in the developing world.

This was followed by a full day of discussion on Monday exploring how full economic participation by women can improve efficiency and productivity and generate sustainable long-term global growth. Prominent writer and president and CEO of the New America Foundation Anne-Marie Slaughter joined the conference by video link with CEO and co-founder of 1-Page Joanna Weidenmiller also providing a keynote address. As the head of the first Silicon Valley company to list on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX), Weidenmiller...
discussed the barriers that still exist for women in executive positions and how she had worked to overcome them.

The conference also saw the launch of Centre-led research that reveals how bias against selecting women for elected or executive positions can be overcome by providing fairer selection pools.

Director of Harvard University’s Women and Public Policy Program Iris Bohnet joined the conference by video link to discuss the business case for gender equality.

The conference was well-attended by students, including Freya Zemek from the University of Sydney, who was flown to Brisbane as the winner of the Centre’s G20 competition. The competition asked students to submit either a two-minute video or a 300-word speech they would deliver to international leaders on increasing women’s participation in the global economy. Zemek beat an impressive field from around Australia with a message that focused on the challenges that still faced women in both the developed and the developing world, suggesting concrete solutions such as paid parental leave and microfinance initiatives.

The event was featured in the media across radio, television, and online, including on ABC radio and television, SKY News, and in the Australian Financial Review, and the full conference is now available to view online. The @empowerwomen_au Twitter account also generated a significant amount of social media buzz, with more than 300 retweets in total and the most popular message reaching more than 100,000 online.

At the conclusion of the highly successful event, the Centre announced the establishment of W21, the 21st Century Global
Women’s Initiative. Led by the Centre’s Melissa Grah-McIntosh, who had also convened the inaugural Dialogue, the initiative aims to spark further collaboration with American and other international partners on issues of gender equality, women’s empowerment, and leadership.

W21 will focus its efforts across a range of areas, including research, executive education opportunities, and outreach. Iris Bohnet will become a visiting professor at the Centre in 2015 to continue working on collaborative research projects.

Tackling the gender gap

Following the launch of W21, the Centre hosted an academic roundtable to explore the best ways to tackle issues facing women in leadership. In partnership with the University of Sydney Business School, the discussion was facilitated by Angela Knox of the Business School and Melissa Grah-McIntosh and brought together leaders from a diverse range of fields to share the latest research and ideas on tackling the gender gap in Australia and around the world, including the Centre’s research presented by postdoctoral research fellow Danielle Merrett.

MACARTHUR PROJECT ON EMERGING US SECURITY PARTNERSHIPS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

In 2014, the Centre received a major grant from the prestigious Chicago-based MacArthur Foundation to pursue a new research project looking at US foreign policy and security partnerships in South-East Asia. This marked the first time the Centre has received a major grant from a US foundation.

The two-year, US$400,000 project will focus on Vietnam, Myanmar, and Indonesia and how these countries are balancing relations between the United States and China. It will examine how these countries will respond to the challenges and uncertainties that are dominating the strategic landscape in the region, providing important information about countries that have traditionally received less attention than their neighbours in North-East Asia.

As part of the project, a number of international and local experts have been engaged, with a host of in-country workshops and interviews to be conducted. Individual country studies will be released in late 2015, with a final comprehensive set of findings and recommendation to be published in 2016.

Led by Centre CEO Bates Gill, and coordinated by research assistant William Hobart, the project research team also includes Evelyn Goh from the Australian National University, Jürgen Haacke from the London School of Economics and Political Science, Natasha Hamilton-Hart from the University of Auckland Business School, author and researcher Bill Hayton, David McRae from the University of Melbourne, and Chin-Hao Huang from the University of Southern California and Yale–National University of Singapore College.
SOIL CARBON INITIATIVE

The Soil Carbon Initiative made further inroads into bridging soil science and public policy during 2014.

In March, program director Andrea Koch chaired an important international soil policy workshop on changing global soil policy perspectives at the Soil Change Matters conference in Bendigo, Victoria.

The conference was also the launch platform for Australia’s National Soil Research, Development, and Extension Strategy, the first policy document in the world to reference soil security, a critical new concept that has been made possible due to the Soil Carbon Initiative.

A scoping study for rangeland soil regeneration in Western Australia, led by Koch and funded by the federal Department of Environment, also marked a new foray into securing rangeland soil.

A highlight for the Soil Carbon Initiative during 2014 was the plenary session on soil security at the World Congress of Soil Science in Jeju, South Korea. Centre adjunct professor and leader of the Dow Sustainability Program Robert Hill delivered a keynote speech during the plenary, linking soil security to international climate policy. Professor Alex McBratney from the University of Sydney’s Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, and one of the leading scientists involved in the Soil Carbon Initiative was awarded the prestigious Dokuchaev Award for his work on advancing understanding of soil, its properties, and its processes.

In November, Andrea Koch undertook a study tour of the United States to investigate the potential for a new dialogue linking the trends in the digitisation of agriculture with soil management. As a result of her research and presentations, the Centre will convene an important conference in 2015 titled Soil, Big Data, and the Future of Agriculture.
RESEARCH

The Centre’s 2014 research program probed American politics, culture, policymaking, and business, providing an invaluable resource for other international academics, policymakers, and passionate observers of the United States through publications and symposiums.

PUBLICATIONS

Centre-supported researchers produced a plethora of books, chapters, journal articles, conference papers, and reports in 2014, breaking new ground and expanding knowledge in American studies. Some of this work is featured below.

Working in the Big Easy

Centre lecturer Thomas Adams and University of New Orleans professor Steve Striffler co-edited Working in the Big Easy, a collection of essays published by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press looking at the history of work and workers in New Orleans.

From slavery to service work, union organisers to undocumented immigrants, labour has been integral to the growth of New Orleans since its founding. Working in the Big Easy looks at this history of work and workers in a city better known for music and partying, extending its analysis from dockworkers and streetcar men to voodoo practitioners and the Preservation Hall jazz scene.

Rising Star launches in Tokyo

In July, Centre CEO Bates Gill travelled to Tokyo to launch the Japanese translation of his book Rising Star: China’s New Security Diplomacy. Published in Japan by Kashiwashobo, Rising Star was originally published in 2007, with a revised edition in 2010, both by Brookings Institution Press. The book closely examines China’s shifting security policy over the first decade of the 21st century, the country’s efforts to be a successful rising power through international engagement, and the implications for US–China relations and for stability in the Asia–Pacific region.

While in Japan, Gill spoke to the Japan Forum on International Relations Foreign Policy Roundtable and lectured at conferences at the University of Tokyo and Aoyama Gakuin University.
Prestigious award for Lockyer publication

Visiting scholar Adam Lockyer was recognised for outstanding work in the foreign policy field in 2014 with a prestigious award for his article “The Logic of interoperability: Australia’s acquisition of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.” Lockyer was awarded the inaugural SAGE award for international scholarship for the article, which was published in the International Journal.

The article takes a critical look at the US–Australia alliance, arguing that Australia should stop pursuing high-end defence capabilities and instead focus on preparing for low- and mid-range conflicts to ease America’s burden in the Asia–Pacific. However, Lockyer also says that the United States must take dramatic steps towards allaying Australia’s historically ingrained fears of abandonment.

Australian outlook on American art

Following two major symposiums supported by the Centre in the past two years, Centre research associate Roger Benjamin edited a special edition of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Art looking at American art from an Australian perspective.

Published in September, American Art, Australian Focus, 1945–1975 is a collection of essays and reviews on a range of artists from the post-war era, including Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning. “Each paper published here makes a substantial contribution to the scholarship on American art,” Benjamin said in the preface to the edition, which sketched a history of art exchanges between Australia and the United States.

SYMPOSIUMS

What US-China relations mean for Australia

In March, the Centre launched the first phase of a new research, outreach, and publication project with a one-day workshop on US–China relations.

US–China Relations — And What’s in Store for Australia was hosted by visiting professor Linda Jakobson, the project’s principal investigator. Workshop participants included former Australian minister for foreign affairs and former Centre board member Bob Carr, Professor Chu Shulong of Tsinghua University in Beijing, Professor Hugh White and Professor William Tow of the Australian National University, as well as Gordon Flake, the CEO of the Perth USAsia Centre.

Jakobson said the conference noted the remarkable resilience of the US–China relationship, despite an ongoing media focus on conflict.
New Orleans under the microscope

*New Orleans as Subject: Beyond Authenticity and Exceptionalism* was a three-day conference organised by Centre lecturer Thomas Adams with Matt Sakakeeny of Tulane University held in September. The conference examined the extent to which a city that has occupied a distinct place in US culture for years should be considered exceptional.

The Centre sponsored lecturer Aaron Nyerges to address the conference, looking at how the idea of community had been co-opted by mass society and how New Orleans exceptionalism had emerged in the Reconstruction era. His contributions, along with those of other conference participants, will form part of a book on New Orleans to be released in the near future.

Centre looks west for pop symposium

In July, academics from the US Studies Centre and the University of Western Australia convened *Pop West*, a research symposium in partnership with the Perth USAsia Centre. Exploring the idea of the west as understood in America, Australia, and China, sessions at the symposium examined how popular media — film, music, radio, television, storytelling, maps, and novels — shape each nation’s conception of its occidental regions.

Sessions included “Shaping Identity: ethnicity, belonging and geography in western China, America, and Australia” and “Global wests and feminist critical regionalism: thinking otherwise.” Among the attendees were Centre lecturer Aaron Nyerges and Krista Comer, from the Americas Research Center at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Academics on secondment

Centre lecturer David Smith spent the first semester of 2014 on secondment at the University of Washington’s political science department in Seattle. Collaborating with Centre visiting professor Margaret Levi and 2013–14 visiting fellow Christopher Parker, Smith worked on a number of research projects, including his forthcoming book about the persecution of religious minorities in the United States.

In the second half of 2014, Centre lecturer Rebecca Sheehan spent her research leave at the Department of Modern History, Politics, and International Relations at Macquarie University. She worked on her book, which explores how the interactions of the sexual revolution and conservative Christianity remade gender roles in America’s long 1970s.

American insights for Thompson

In January, the Centre supported University of Sydney associate lecturer in history Michael Thompson on a trip to the United States to explore the intersection of religion and politics in American public life, history, and culture. Thompson attended the Danforth Distinguished Lecture Series in Religion and Politics in St Louis, Missouri. Led by David Hollinger, one of the leading scholars in 20th century American religious and intellectual history, the three-day event offered a unique opportunity to critically examine the scholarship in the field and explore new areas for research. Thompson will use the insights for his PhD research and forthcoming book, *For God and Globe: Christian Internationalism in the United States.*
**O’Connor awarded prestigious scholarship**

Associate Professor Brendon O’Connor was awarded a fellowship in public policy at the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington DC, which he will begin in August 2015. O’Connor will spend five months at the Wilson Center, which is part of the Smithsonian Institution, where he will research a number of articles exploring the relationship between American isolationism and the nation’s decline relative to other powers.

**New creative arts fellowship**

In 2014, the Centre launched a new fellowship program aimed at those working in the creative arts. The US Studies Centre–Indiana University Fellowship in Creative Arts will support an individual to spend up to four months in residence at Indiana University in Bloomington, working on a significant artistic project.

The fellow will be selected based on previous artistic and scholarly accomplishment, relevance of his or her project to an American setting, and willingness to share knowledge between Australia and the United States. The fellow will host a major seminar at Indiana University and deliver a presentation at the Centre upon returning. The fellowship was made possible through the generosity of Michael and Deborah Thawley.

**VISITING FELLOWS**

The Centre’s Visiting Fellows program continued in 2014, offering a number of stipends for accomplished scholars in American studies to take leave from their home institutions and spend between one month and one year in Sydney. The program is an opportunity for scholars to make progress on a serious writing project, engage with the Centre’s academics, and interact with the Australian academic community. In 2014, the following scholars visited the Centre as part of the program.

**Heather Murray**

Heather Murray, an assistant professor of history at the University of Ottawa, arrived at the Centre in August.

Having completed her PhD at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in 2006, Murray’s first book, *Not in this Family: Gays, Their Parents, and the Meanings of Kinship in Postwar America*, was published in 2010, and won the Organization of American Historians’ Lawrence Levine award for cultural history in 2011.

While at the Centre, she undertook work on her second book, tentatively called *A Doctor in the Family*. This work looks to the psychiatrist–patient–family relationship in 20th century America through an array of personal correspondence, medical documents, and cultural representations. Both Murray’s books seek to fuse the history of private life with cultural and intellectual history; the second adds the dimension of the history of psychiatry, the history of emotions, and medical humanities.
Benjamin Kahan

Benjamin Kahan is assistant professor of English and women’s and gender studies at Louisiana State University, and began his fellowship at the Centre in August 2014.

Kahan has held postdoctoral fellowships at Washington University in St Louis, Emory University, and the University of Pittsburgh and is the author of *Celibacies: American Modernism and Sexual Life*. His articles have appeared in or are forthcoming in *GLQ, Arizona Quarterly, African American Review, Criticism*, and *A Handbook of Modernism Studies*.

Kahan used his time in Australia to work on a second book looking at sexuality. Tying in closely with current debates over the rights of LGBT people around the world, Kahan argues that a new approach needs to be taken to the history of sexuality, preferring *why?* over *what? or how?*

Charles Shipan

Charles Shipan is the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Professor of Social Sciences at the University of Michigan and began his fellowship at the Centre in August.

Prior to joining the faculty at Michigan, Shipan served on the faculty at the University of Iowa and held positions as a research fellow at the Brookings Institution, and a visiting research fellow at Trinity College in Dublin.

Shipan is the author of two books, *Designing Judicial Review* and *Deliberate Discretion?*, the latter of which was coauthored with John Huber.

At the Centre, he has worked on three large-scale projects concerning bipartisanship in the United States, the diffusion of anti-smoking laws, and the duration of laws.

Matthew Wittman

Matthew Wittman is the assistant curator of American Collections at the American Numismatic Society and began his fellowship at the Centre in August. His scholarly work focuses on the cultural, material, and transnational history of the United States during the 19th century.

Wittman’s first book, *Circus and the City: New York, 1793–2010* explored how the development of the circus paralleled New York City’s rise as the nation’s cultural capital. He also co-edited and contributed to a volume of essays called *The American Circus*, published by Yale University Press, and he has written widely on the history of popular entertainment in the United States.

While at the Centre, he worked on his current project, which looks at the experiences of American entertainers who travelled around the Pacific in the 19th century, giving birth to a vibrant entertainment circuit that fomented interactions and mediated exchanges between the United States and the diverse communities and cultures of the Pacific world.
Media continues to be an integral part of the Centre’s outreach and 2014 saw growth in quality and in our international profile, led by increased appearances in the United States and the Asia-Pacific region.

While domestic US news stories continued to drive headlines, including the midterm elections and the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, major ongoing international issues and crises, including the shooting down of flight MH17, conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, and visits by US President Barack Obama to Asia and to Australia generated significant demand for the Centre’s experts, academics, and guests.

Media activity around Alliance 21 events in Washington and Canberra drew strong domestic and international interest, while the Centre’s other programs and think tank activities established and cemented its thought leadership on topics such as urban planning, women’s empowerment, and behavioural economics. The Centre also expanded its reach on social media, especially via Twitter.

INTERNATIONAL

International broadcast media appearances rose by nearly 10 per cent and the number of international op-eds nearly tripled from 27 to 72. In print and online, much of this growth was driven by research associate Nicole Hemmer’s weekly column in US News & World Report but was also marked by a number of high-profile op-eds and articles in major international outlets. These included two op-eds co-written by CEO Bates Gill and research associate Tom Switzer in The Wall Street Journal and The Wall Street Journal Asia on the resilience of America’s rebalancing strategy toward Asia.

Following the Australia and United States Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) on defence and security co-operation, quotes by Bates Gill and associate professor
Brendon O’Connor in Australian Associated Press (AAP) and Agence-France Presse (AFP) garnered international reach. Reporting about the Centre’s Alliance 21 conference in Canberra by Associated Press (AP) travelled around the region, as did two articles in Chinese newswire Xinhua about the international reaction to Ferguson and the Centre’s Behavioural Exchange conference (BX2014).


In broadcast media, the Centre continued to be a go-to source in the region for Bloomberg TV and CNBC Asia and Centre academics made appearances on major global TV networks Al Jazeera, BBC World, and CNN. The Centre also featured on Voice of Russia, Tokyo Broadcasting System, Phoenix TV, RIA Novosti, RTHK Radio, Voice of Vietnam, the Australia Network, Radio Australia, and public radio in New York, Iowa, New Orleans, and Minnesota.

**NATIONAL**

Coverage of Centre events and commentary on major US news continued to drive the media efforts of the Centre in Australia with a number of agenda-setting op-eds leading the way. Centre academics had 15 op-eds published in The Australian and another 21 in major Fairfax papers, with highlights including multiple op-eds by Tom Switzer on the dangers of intervention in Iraq in The Age and The Australian and an essay written by Centre guest Richard Haass for American Review being reprinted in The Australian Financial Review.

ABC TV’s influential 7:30 and Lateline programs hosted a number of Centre academics and guests including Simon Jackman, Heather Zichal, Robert Hill, Russell Trood, Karl Eikenberry, Leah Farrall, David Frum, and Tom Switzer. Guests were also interviewed on a host of ABC radio shows across Radio National, NewsRadio, Local Radio, and Triple J, with Christopher Parker, Matthew Wittmann, and Tony Haymet all featured on Midday with Margaret Throsby on Classic FM. The Centre’s event TV Nation: What The Wire, House of Cards, and Girls Can Teach Us About America was broadcast in full on ABC Radio National’s The List. This complemented a range of appearances on local and commercial radio networks across the country.
Throughout 2014, Centre experts made appearances on all the free-to-air TV networks, as well as SKY News, SKY Business, and the Australian Public Affairs Channel, which aired the International Dialogue on Women in Leadership, BX2014, the Alliance 21 conference, and speeches by former US ambassador James Jeffrey and New York Times journalist Carol Giacomo, among others.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Centre continued to expand its social media profile throughout 2014 with BX2014, the Alliance 21 conferences in Washington and Canberra, and the International Dialogue on Women in Leadership (IDWL2014) all generating significant engagement via Facebook and Twitter. At the Alliance 21 Canberra conference, over 1,500 tweets were sent using the #Alliance21 hashtag and at IDWL2014 in Brisbane the @empowerwomen_au account generated over 300 retweets, with the most popular tweet reaching almost 100,000 people and multiple tweets reaching over 50,000.


**WPI MEDIA FELLOWSHIP**

The 2014 US Studies Centre–World Press Institute Fellowship was awarded to Shalailah Medhora, formerly of SBS and now at The Guardian Australia.

Medhora spent nine weeks in the United States with several other international journalists, visiting sites including the New York Times, Politico, Spanish-language TV network Univision, and hyper-local news organisation MinnPost, all as part of her immersion in US politics, business, culture, and media.

She said the trip left her optimistic about journalism’s future thanks to the passion of those still working in the industry. “Yes, it’s a deeply challenging time for the media industry,” she wrote. “But as long as there are journalists, the industry will survive.”

The Centre would like to thank board director Joe Skrzynski and his family’s Sky Foundation for co-sponsoring the fellowship in 2014 and securing its future for the coming two years.
Turmoil in Eastern Europe, America’s fight against Islamic State, and the future of the Australia-US alliance took the spotlight at American Review in 2014.

In 2014 American Review, the Centre’s quarterly journal on international and domestic affairs, helmed by editor and Centre research associate Tom Switzer, dissected the foreign policy challenges confronting Barack Obama as he entered the sixth year of his presidency, and explored key domestic and cultural issues facing the United States, from immigration to gender discrimination.

The February issue, *End of a Pax Americana*, featured a consideration by president of the Council on Foreign Relations Richard N. Haass of the dangers posed to America’s international power stemming from internal problems, while editor of *The American Interest* Adam Garfinkle examined the United States’ changing role in the world order.

*A New Cold War?*, the May issue, explored the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, led by a feature article by David Hendrickson, who said the conflict violently pitted self-determination against territorial sovereignty, and Mary Kissel, who argued the turmoil stemmed from failures in Obama’s foreign policy.

Meanwhile, August issue *In Defence of the Alliance* included a widely read essay by Australian China strategist Hugh White responding to calls from former Australian prime minister Malcolm Fraser for Australia to end its strategic dependence on the United States, while November issue *Reluctant Warrior* combined articles on America’s military return to Iraq with features on sexism in Supreme Court rulings by Nicole Hemmer and gender-based pay inequality by Melissa Grah-McIntosh, the director of W21, the Centre’s 21st Century Global Women’s Initiative.

Supplementing the digital edition was the magazine’s website, which included daily updates to the Blogbook section.
In 2014 the Centre held 100 events across Australia and the United States. The 5,000 people who attended the events, and countless others involved in sponsored activities, had the opportunity to hear perspectives on America from across the globe.

**Behavioural Exchange**

The world-first Behavioural Exchange (BX2014) conference co-hosted by the Centre and the New South Wales Government took place in June, with 400 people gathering over two days to share the latest in behavioural insights.

Presented in association with the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, and Harvard University, BX2014 looked at how behavioural economics, psychology, and neuroscience research can create better practices and policy across business and government. EY was a major sponsor of the conference, strengthening the backing from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Telstra, and Cisco.

The conference featured presentations on the most up-to-date research from world-leading thinkers and practitioners, including Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein, the co-authors of *Nudge*, which was listed among *The Economist* magazine’s best books of 2008; White House advisor Maya Shankar; and David Halpern, the head of the United Kingdom’s Behavioural Insights Team, the first government initiative of its kind in the world.

They were joined by members of Harvard University’s Behavioral Insights Group Max Bazerman, David Laibson, and Michael Norton to discuss how an academic approach to examining consumer behaviour can produce a range of solutions for public policy issues. Harvard’s Iris Bohnet presented on the future of behavioural insights, focusing on the application of behavioural insights to the issue of gender equality.
At the conference, NSW treasurer Andrew Constance released a groundbreaking report on the work of the government’s Behavioural Insights Unit. The Sydney Morning Herald and the Australian Financial Review both covered the report’s findings, including the projected $10 million the state will save annually by rewriting fine notices.

Many of the speakers were interviewed on television and radio to discuss how research into behavioural economics and neuroscience could be applied to public policy and business to boost efficiency and save money.

Professor Michael Hiscox, a member of Harvard’s Behavioral Insights Group and director of the Centre’s STAR Lab project, explained that giving people feedback on how their actions compared to others — on electricity bills, for instance — helped to inspire better behaviour. “You get this social pressure,” he told ABC Radio PM. “And that’s a very powerful motivator for most people to do what’s right.”

**Creating a digital nudge**

Professor and co-chair of the Interdisciplinary Group in Behavioral Decision Making at the UCLA Anderson School of Management, Shlomo Benartzi discussed how people think and behave differently in the digital world at a Centre event presented in partnership with the New South Wales Department of Premier and Cabinet and the University of Sydney Business School in November.

Benartzi’s talk, moderated by NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet’s Behavioural Insights Unit managing advisor Rory Gallagher, was followed by a panel discussion featuring ipac chairman Arun Abey, University of Sydney Business School professor Dan Lovallo, and VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter.
Addressing global inequality

Four academics, including Centre lecturer Thomas Adams, gathered at a Centre event, held in partnership with the University of Sydney’s Laureate Research Program in International History, to discuss Thomas Piketty’s New York Times bestselling book Capital in the 21st Century. Lecturer in political economy Mike Beggs, director of development studies Robbie Peters, and professor of international history Glenda Sluga, all from the University of Sydney, discussed the groundbreaking conclusions of the book and examined why global attention has shifted so suddenly to economic inequality.

Reception profiles HIV/AIDS engagement

On the sidelines of the International AIDS Conference 2014 in Melbourne, the US Studies Centre, in partnership with the United States Consul General in Melbourne and the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC, co-hosted a reception giving profile to America’s leadership and engagement in combating HIV/AIDS in the Asia–Pacific.

Centre CEO Bates Gill introduced the US Ambassador to Australia John Berry at the reception, which also featured remarks from American visitors Deborah Birx, global AIDS coordinator at the US Department of State; Mark Dybul, the executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the US National Institute of Health.

American technology, Asia-Pacific future

Driverless cars are just one example of the technological revolutions that will transform the world in the coming decades according to Centre visiting professor and former US ambassador to Australia Jeffrey Bleich. Speaking at a public lecture at the University of Sydney, Bleich used his Silicon Valley experience to explain how the rising middle classes of Asia could take advantage of new disruptive technologies to rewrite the economic and cultural future of the region.

Major League Baseball in Sydney

America’s Major League Baseball teams the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Arizona Diamondbacks were in Sydney to open the 2014 American baseball season at the famed Sydney Cricket Ground. The Centre was proud to be one of the sponsors of the event.

The two teams faced off on a transformed SCG complete with pitcher’s mound, dugouts, and an infield area constructed with 14 shipping containers worth of imported clay from San Diego. There was no love lost between the teams, with the Dodgers toppling their longtime rivals the Diamondbacks in both games in front of 60,000 fans.

The Centre hosted a competition in partnership with the MLB with the five winners receiving two tickets to an exhibition match at the SCG between Team Australia and the Diamondbacks.
Contemporary art and film collide

Examining the influence of film on the practice of contemporary artists was the focus of a Centre-sponsored event as part of the 19th Biennale of Sydney in June.

The Dream Factory event looked at the formal, perceptive, and psychological qualities of film and how they have interacted with contemporary art practice. Opening with an address by professor of art at the University of California, Los Angeles, Russell Ferguson on the use of narrative in art and mainstream film, the event concluded with a discussion with Biennale artists Henry Coombes and Daniel McKewen that was moderated by Bruce Isaacs, the lecturer for the Centre’s American Film and Hollywood postgraduate unit.

Gill discusses US-China at Reserve Bank

US–China relations and the Asia–Pacific were the focus of a presentation given by Centre CEO Bates Gill to board members of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) in July. Invited by RBA Governor Glenn Stevens to talk about current political, economic, foreign policy, and security developments in the United States, Gill welcomed the invitation, saying it provided an excellent opportunity to engage with some of Australia’s highest level financial policymakers and to further the Centre’s mission of increasing understanding of the United States in Australia.

Scholarship winner headed for New York

Sydney playwright Katie Pollock was selected from a strong field as the 2014 Edward Albee Scholarship winner. Presented at a ceremony at the residence of Sydney consul general Hugo Llorens by Australian arts body Inscription with support from the Centre, the scholarship allowed Pollock to spend a month in New York writing a new play, while being introduced to a range of US-based playwrights, literary managers, agents, and artistic directors.

Election Watch launched

Ahead of November’s US midterm elections, the Centre launched its US Election Watch website to help make sense of the vote and what it means for America’s future. The website provided analysis from the Centre’s academics and experts on the key midterm races that saw the Republican Party regain control of the Senate, as well as explainers on the basics of the US electoral system. The website will remain an invaluable resource for everyone from the armchair enthusiast to the political junkie during the lead up to the 2016 presidential election.

uselectionwatch.org.au
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Margaret Levi, Visiting Professor and Director of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University

Susan Pond AM, Adjunct Professor in Sustainability

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**Lecturers**

Thomas Adams, Lecturer in History and American Studies

Sarah Graham, Lecturer in US Foreign Policy

Gorana Grgic, Lecturer in US Politics and Foreign Policy

Aaron Nyerges, Lecturer in US Studies

Jane Park, Senior Lecturer in Contemporary American Media

Rebecca Sheehan, Lecturer in US History

David Smith, Lecturer in American Politics and Foreign Policy

Rodney Taveira, Lecturer in American Studies

**Research Associates**

John Ahlquist, Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Thomas Barlow, Research Associate specialising in Innovation

John Barron, Journalist and American Election Commentator

James Brown, Director of Alliance 21

Sandy Burgoyne, Director of the Future Cities Collaborative

James Curran, Research Associate specialising in the History of the Australia–US Alliance
Leah Farrall, Research Associate in Counter Terrorism

Sean Gallagher, Research Associate specialising in American Higher Education

Evelyn Goh, Shedden Professor of Strategic Policy Studies at the Australian National University

Jurgen Haacke, Associate Professor in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science

Natasha Hamilton-Hart, Associate Professor at the University of Auckland Business School

Pete Hatemi, Research Associate specialising in the Neurobiological Mechanisms of Social and Political Behaviours

Bill Hayton, Writer on Southeast Asia, reporter, producer

Chin-Hao Huang, Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Southern California

Malcolm Jorgensen, PhD Candidate and Research Associate

Mary E. Kissel, Member of The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board

Andrea Koch, Director of the Soil Carbon Initiative

Rebecca Nelson, Lead Researcher, Comparative Groundwater Law and Policy Program at Stanford University

Marc Palen, Research Associate

Nina Silove, Research Associate specialising in US Grand Strategy

Tim Stephens, Professor of International Law at the Sydney Law School

Tom Switzer, Editor of American Review

Visiting Scholars

Tony Haymet, Director and Vice-Chancellor for Marine Sciences Emeritus at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego

Nicole Hemmer, Media and the Modern Conservative Movement

Adam Lockyer, US Politics and Foreign Policy

Huw McKay, Executive Director and Senior International Economist at Westpac

Christopher Parker, Stuart A. Scheingold Professor of Social Justice and Political Science

Shawn Treier, Lecturer at the Australian National University

Affiliated Academics

Rowena Braddock, Lecturer, The American City

Bruce Isaacs, Lecturer, American Film and Hollywood

Martijn Konings, Lecturer, US Economic Policy and Regulation

Harry Melkonian, Senior Lecturer, US Constitution

Michael Ondaatje, Lecturer, US Politics: Competing Centres of Power

Ian Tyrrell, Lecturer, American Exceptionalism
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Cindy Tang, Finance Manager
Amelia Trial, Student Affairs Officer
Alex Vipond, Intern, Alliance 21
Meghan Walters, Office Coordinator and Personal Assistant
Harriet Whyte, Research Assistant, Future Cities Collaborative
The following information has been extracted from the United States Studies Centre’s Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

**Overall result**

The Centre recorded an operating result of $766K for the financial year ended 31 December 2014, which represented growth of $113K, or 17 per cent, over the 2013 operating result of $653K. It reflected a strong operating performance in 2014.

**Revenue**

The Centre continued its strategy of growing non-member revenue sources and diversifying funding bases. Revenue growth of $1.5M or 15 per cent was achieved in 2014. Growth was mainly driven by grants received from governments and corporations for the Centre’s new think tank programs, fee income from new study abroad programs, with revenue from member contributions remaining at 2013 levels. The percentage of income other than member contribution increased to 65 per cent in 2014 (57 per cent in 2013) from an initial 3 per cent in 2007.

**Expenditure**

Overall expenditure increased by $1.3M or 15 per cent during 2014; new think tank program costs, investments in new initiatives such as the visiting fellow program, women in leadership project, and further investment in developing study abroad programs were the key drivers behind the result. More than 75 per cent of the Centre’s expenditure was directed towards strategic outcomes (teaching, research, and outreach activities).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 $</th>
<th>2013 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching and training</td>
<td>1,947,081</td>
<td>1,596,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and analysis</td>
<td>4,510,481</td>
<td>3,404,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach and events</td>
<td>1,360,028</td>
<td>1,443,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>2,308,616</td>
<td>2,341,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,126,206</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,785,529</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Extract from Financial Statements

### Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 $</th>
<th>2013 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue from continuing operations</td>
<td>10,891,778</td>
<td>9,438,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses from continuing operations</td>
<td>10,126,206</td>
<td>8,785,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating result for the period</td>
<td>765,572</td>
<td>652,875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 $</th>
<th>2013 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>8,370,118</td>
<td>6,815,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Current Assets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>8,370,118</td>
<td>6,815,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>2,005,795</td>
<td>1,216,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>2,005,795</td>
<td>1,216,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>6,364,323</td>
<td>5,598,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained earnings</td>
<td>6,364,323</td>
<td>5,598,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Equity</td>
<td>6,364,323</td>
<td>5,598,751</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Retained earnings

The Centre had a surplus of $766K during 2014 with retained earnings increasing to $6.36M, of which $2.15M is committed to specific purposes relating to relevant contractual agreements.

### Interest in associates

The Centre owns 25 per cent of voting rights for the Perth USAsia Centre. There was no financial investment in the Perth USAsia Centre in 2014.

NOTE: Full copies of the audited financial statements are available on request. Please contact the company secretary.
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