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# US ELECTION WATCH 08

**THE UNITED STATES  
STUDIES CENTRE**  
at the University of Sydney

**E-news**

**18 December 2008**

## Inauguration Watch

The inauguration of Barack Obama - the first black president in the US - is expected to draw record breaking crowds to Washington, DC. If you weren't lucky enough to win our prize of a [trip to the inauguration](#) why not join us at the Manning Bar to watch it on the big screen?



Come along to see Obama's speech, listen to our expert commentators and watch the inaugural parade. Why not have your photo taken with our life-size Obama or try an Obama Burger?

### Wednesday 21 January

12.00pm (screening starts at 1.00pm)

Manning Bar, University of Sydney

Free entry!

[More details](#)

## What is the Electoral College?

Did you know the US presidential election was officially decided this week when the Electoral College met to cast 365 votes for Obama and 173 votes for McCain? But the vote isn't actually confirmed until 6 January? If you find the system terribly confusing then we suggest you read Dennis Phillip's article [A Democratic Beast](#). Dennis discusses the history and tradition of the Electoral College and why the system will never change.

## Achievements

Lyn Carson, USSC Academic Program Director, has received a fellowship from the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies. Carson will reside at Thomas Jefferson's former plantation for one month and intends spending her time pondering what Jefferson can teach today's deliberative democrats and what might deliberative democrats teach Jefferson if he were alive today.



Congratulations to US Studies Centre lecturers, Betsi Beem and Stephen Robertson, who both received Faculty of Arts Excellence in Teaching Awards. You can catch Stephen talking about *Obama and Australian Politics* tonight at the Monkey Bar in Balmain. [More details](#)

Carson, Betsi and Stephen are some of the experts teaching in our US Studies postgraduate program which provides an international perspective on the United States. [Find out more](#)

## Martin Luther King Jr

The first of our lunchtime Research Seminar Series for 2009 is on Tuesday 17 February. Daniel Fleming will be speaking on his PhD topic *Remembering Martin Luther King: Radical, Revolutionary or Reformer*.

### Tuesday 17 February

12.00 – 1.30pm

United States Studies Centre Boardroom

John Woolley Building (A20)

Science Road, University of Sydney

[RSVP online](#)



## National Summit

The second US Studies Centre National Summit will be jointly hosted with Harvard University in Sydney from 11-12 June 2009. The Summit theme is "Sustainable Globalisation" and focuses on both the economic issues resulting

## > In This Edition

[Inauguration Watch](#)

[What is the Electoral College?](#)

[Achievements](#)

[Martin Luther King Seminar](#)

[National Summit](#)

[Happy Holidays!](#)

## > Upcoming Events

**18 December**

[Obama & Australian Politics](#)

**21 January**

[Inauguration Watch](#)

**17 January**

[Remembering Martin Luther King](#)

**17 March**

[Judith Anderson in the 1940s: From Mrs Danvers to the Noir Western](#)

## > Our Partners



**The  
University  
of Sydney**

from today's shocks and stresses and the long standing issues concerning the governance of nations, energy, climate change, labour and human rights.

The Summit will feature experts from Harvard and other US based institutions, Australian academics, policymakers, media, practitioners and analysts as well as experts from other countries. A variety of invitation-only and public events will be organised as part of the Summit.

For more information, please email [summitussc@usyd.edu.au](mailto:summitussc@usyd.edu.au) or [visit our website](#).

## Happy Holidays!

The US Studies Centre will be closed from Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January. We have an exciting range of activities planned for 2009 - more programs, research and great events so we'll be in touch soon. Happy holidays!

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