

Co-Patron

Our valued Co-Patron, Sir Anand Satyanand, notified the Society mid-year that he would be stepping down from his role because of other commitments. I have very much appreciated the opportunity to discuss University of Auckland Society issues with Sir Anand and wish him all the very best in his new endeavours.

The Executive Committee in 2019:

Janet Copsey (President), Richard Northey (Vice-President), Karen Thompson (Treasurer), Amy Malcolm, Paul Gilberd, Eva Tollemache, Renee Liang, Jennie Oakley, Rachael Yang and ex-officio member Jody Clarke as the Executive Officer.

Membership

The current membership stands at 402 members with 11 new members joining in the 2018 / 2019 financial year.

Supporting the University Community

Through the Society's commitment to the Vice Chancellor's Student Support Fund, students are able to take up once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to represent the University. This year the Society sponsored three well-qualified students, one to attend the UN Global Development Tour in New York, one to participate in a Pacific Island tour with the NZ Youth Orchestra and the third to attend the Etching Festival Composer programme in France.

The Society also contributed \$500 towards the cash prize for the Doctoral winner of the 2019 Three Minute Thesis competition. This year's winner was Yi-Han Wu from Auckland Bioengineering Institute, with his thesis title: "*Recreating the tissue and cell damage after traumatic brain injury in vitro and in silico*".

Support from the University

As in previous years, the Alumni Relations team has provided considerable support to the Society through the Executive Officer, Jody Clarke, who also works as Alumni Relations Engagement Coordinator, and through the Treasurer, Karen Thompson, who holds the position of Associate Director, Communications and Alumni. Karen has also shared highlights at our meetings of a very full year for the Alumni team with events in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, London, Samoa and Hong Kong.

Events

Highlights included:

- Bright Lights and the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner in March
- The Graduation Gala Concerto Competition in May
- Mayoral Debate in September
- Golden Graduates Luncheon in October
- A hugely popular Society Salon recognising 50 years since the formation of the Halt All Racist Tours (HART) movement in October – over 130 attendees

Photos and audio recordings from the Society Salon are available at www.society.auckland.ac.nz.

Advocacy and Service

Janet Copsey, Renee Liang and Amy Malcolm again served on the Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee.

Thanks to retiring Executive Committee members

Jennie Oakley, a stalwart of the Executive Committee for the past 12 years, has decided to step down. Renee Liang, another long term Executive Committee member, has also decided to step down. Their support has been appreciated and we will miss their contributions.

Janet Copsey
President, University of Auckland Society
4 December 2019