

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 38 | Issue 8 | 9 May 2008

Support for research



Professor Jane Harding, a specialist in the physiology and clinical care of the human fetus and newborn, has been appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Having been “acting” in the position since December, Jane has had a chance to gain an understanding of the pleasures and challenges of the job.

The big advantage, she says, is in getting to know people from all parts of the University, and learning about the full range of research across a very large and complex institution.

The huge challenge is to keep the research functions of this very complex institution active, vital and growing. The “growing”, she adds, is a particularly big challenge in a small country with constrained economic resources.

“In addition there are challenges about creating understanding between different parts of the University about the very broad scope of research, and also increasing understanding in the community and in Government about what a university can contribute.”

There is one anomaly in filling the position of

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). While an essential requirement is a highly successful track record in research, the reality is, says Jane, “that you can’t do the job and be a fulltime researcher”. Though most people who accept the position continue with their own research, the time they can devote to it is much reduced.

However, there are compensations for this. “Part of the joy of research for me has always been in supporting other people’s research, and that’s what the job is all about.

“It’s about supporting research across the University, which means supporting internal processes and research relationships, advancing funding opportunities, and supporting the wonderful people who are conducting the research.”

Jane is a graduate of Auckland and of Oxford where she was a Rhodes Scholar and received her DPhil. She is an international authority on the regulation of fetal growth, placental function, and the treatment and consequences of undernutrition in the womb.

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Key events

Run for more than fun

Run, have fun and raise funds on 11 May for University research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. For a small registration fee you can take part in a five – or ten-kilometre run or a five-kilometre walk at the Nurture Foundation’s inaugural Mothers’ Day fun run. Money raised will support research to help overcome infertility, miscarriage, stillbirth and serious pregnancy complications. Visit www.nurture.org.nz

Rare viewing

Running until 24 May at the Gus Fisher Gallery is Art-Speak, featuring work from The University of Auckland Art Collection. Recent acquisitions and classic works are brought together for a rare combined viewing. On 17 May at 1pm Paul Hartigan will discuss his work in the collection. See www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

Informing postgraduates

Prospective postgraduate students will be informed about the University’s coursework and research programmes, scholarships, professional development and careers, admission and application procedures at Postgraduate Information Week, 12 to 16 May. Visit www.ourownwords.ac.nz for more information.

The barbarians and Tolkein

Edward James, Professor of History at University College Dublin, will lead two seminars in the Classics and Ancient History Seminar Series. On 13 May at 4pm in 029 in the ClockTower he will speak of “How to recognise a barbarian”. On 14 May at 6.30pm in Theatre B15 at the Library Basement he will speak on “J.R.R.Tolkien and C.S.Lewis: Friendship, religion and fantasy”.

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From the Vice-Chancellor

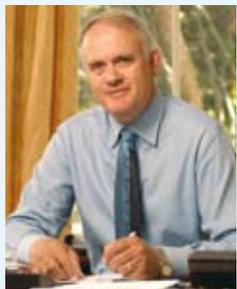
At its meeting on 21 April, the University Council adopted the report of the taskforce which it established in December last year to consider the equity implications of extending limited entry to all undergraduate qualifications from 2009. The taskforce was convened by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Raewyn Dalziel and included both staff and student members. It consulted extensively and looked closely at the equity practices of universities against which we benchmark internationally.

The 56-page report, which was endorsed by the University Senate before it went to Council, addresses issues at the interface of two of our key strategic objectives – to limit growth and enhance quality of our students while at the same time creating an environment in which all people of ability have the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their personal circumstances. The report thus provides a framework for managing entry in a fair and equitable manner. Its conclusions will inform the setting of enrolment limitations and selection criteria in all faculties from next year.

The taskforce made 22 recommendations which the University is committed to carrying out. These include: requiring faculties to develop selection criteria that are fair and equitable; setting targets to increase numbers of Māori and Pacific students; enhancing our learning and other support structures for improving academic performance by target equity groups; continuing to use a single ranking system but including other factors where required; reviewing the ranking system to ensure it does not discriminate against students with the potential to succeed; publishing annually indicative minimum rank scores for admission to academic qualifications; retaining Special Admission; continuing current Foundation Certificate Programmes; and maintaining targeted admission schemes for under-represented groups.

As well as being ambitious in the goals it sets, the report is highly informative and I commend it to you. A PDF version is now on the University home page under "Notices". Producing such a comprehensive report has been a major undertaking, and I want to acknowledge not only the members of the taskforce but also the many members of the University community who made submissions to it or contributed to its work in other ways. The work of the taskforce will continue, as it

remains in existence for three years to further monitor and evaluate the impact of limited entry.



Traditional processes recreated



Tahau Thompson's project for the Te Kete Aronui paper was to make (and use) fire sticks. At the time University News visited, he had completed the sticks and was attempting to make fire.

"I would recommend this class to everyone in the University," said Kym Maxwell, who is doing a conjoint BA/BHS.

Her enthusiasm and pleasure are shared by most of the students in what is, indeed, an unusual and challenging class. Entitled "Te Kete Aronui" and taught by Dante Bonica, a senior lecturer in Māori Studies, it is one of two papers at stage two level in which students recover and use traditional techniques and technology to create Māori artefacts. Dante also teaches a similar stage three course, "Te Ao Kohatu", in the second semester.

All these papers have a strong research component, as students choose which artefacts to make, and then look at examples of the original objects in museums and consult historical sources to see how they were made. They then make the artefacts, with advice and assistance from Dante, who has been a master craftsman since the early 1970s. Every step along the way is fully documented.

In Te Kete Aronui, students use materials such as stone, shell, wood and fibre to create artefacts such as adzes, weapons, fish-hooks, personal ornaments and tattooing chisels. In "Aho tahuu", the other stage two paper, they use fibre from flax and other plants to make objects such as cordage, cloaks, kete, hinaki and other fishing nets. Te Ao Kohatu is a more advanced version of Te Kete Aronui, in which students choose a more ambitious project with a more extensive research component.

All of these papers are of great interest and relevance to students of Archaeology, Art History, Māori Studies and Museum Studies.

Eighty-five percent of students who take the paper are of Māori ancestry – unlike Dante, who, though New Zealand-born, had a Sicilian father and an English mother. His passion for Māori material culture goes back to his childhood in Napier. When other children in his class, on visits to the Museum, rushed to see the ships in bottles, Dante was always fascinated by the Māori artefacts, which he saw as "some of the most significant objects ever created in Aotearoa".

As a young adult Dante had the opportunity to work with Piri Poutapu, the last wakataua (war canoe) builder in Waikato, who took on the task in 1970 and 1971 of passing on his skills to another generation at Turangawaewae Marae. Dante was inspired by his determination to retain Māori identity by recreating and passing on the skills of its material culture.

Dante has since devoted his life to a similar aim. For many years he worked for the Museum Education Service, and on the restoration of carvings for the Auckland and Waikato Museums.

The courses he is teaching do a lot of good, he believes, in giving the students traditional knowledge which they then help spread through the communities "as part of the ongoing healthy Renaissance of Māori tanga, or Māoriness".



Kym Maxwell is making a heru (comb).

Retrospective 1883-2008

Extracts from the 'Stunts Report', Proceedings (University of Auckland Engineering Society), VXXIII, 1970, pp.25-26.

This year there was a large variety of stunts performed. The Royal Tour presented a golden opportunity early in the year when about 30,000 leaflets advertising a Royal Garden Party in Albert Park were distributed. This was only partially successful, only a couple of hundred people turned up, due to the rather fast reaction of the news services. More account will have to be taken of this in the future. A brave band of madmen made a fun – loving gesture to the Royal Family (and tried to enrol them into the Society). Unfortunately, it was misinterpreted by the police and others.

It was also unfortunate that [the] Haka Party met so much trouble this year, and so next year the numbers will have to be kept down so that the party can be better controlled.

Capping Week produced some pretty good stunts, with an elephant appearing in the Miss Capping Parade, a large bottle opener on the Smirnov Sculpture in Newmarket, and one brilliant affair that ended in panicking authorities in Hillsborough. Some of the gear used for this stunt is still available for a repeat performance next year as the potential of this stunt has not been fully exploited. Another pedestrian crossing appeared

this year and there is some suggestion that this be made an annual event.

This year's float entered in Process, the "Leaper and Grinder" won second prize. This was a magnificent effort and those who were involved deserve congratulations.

All in all we had quite a successful year and pissed a lot of people off. But the climate around Auckland is changing, people are becoming less tolerant (some have lost all sense of humour) and so very great care is going to have to be taken to increase security and make sure that no-one ever gets caught.



A new pedestrian crossing appears on Symonds Street in Capping Week 1969. Reproduced in Judith Bassett, Prospero's Island – A History of the School of Engineering at the University of Auckland, Auckland, 2003, p.114

Stepping out undaunted



The faces tell it all; the joy and general jubilation of Autumn Graduation was undiminished by the floods of rain.

More than 1,000 Arts, Engineering and Law graduands braved a damp morning punctuated with heavy showers to march in this year's first procession on 1 May.

Some 5598 students graduated during this round, receiving a total of 6149 qualifications at 13 ceremonies spread across four days (1, 5, 7, 9 May).

The Faculty of Business and Economics had the most graduates with 1346 followed by Science (1053), Arts (1014), and Education (1004).

There were 503 in Medical and Health Sciences, 501 in Engineering, 482 in Creative Arts and Industries, 224 in Law and 22 in Theology.

The *University News* will publish full coverage of Autumn Graduation in the next issue.

... in brief

Engineers without borders

A trip to Vanuatu during the mid-year break will be no holiday for a group of Engineering students, who will help design a fresh water supply system for villagers on Tanna Island. The students have enthusiastically taken up the challenge in conjunction with World Vision. Villagers on Tanna Island follow a traditional way of life with few modern amenities. Their current gravity-fed water system, built in the 1980s, is woefully inadequate and does not provide enough water for the island's inhabitants. The students will help design an upgrade of the system. The team of seven University of Auckland engineering students and a professional mentor are from Engineers without Borders New Zealand, which helps engineers apply their skills to projects that benefit developing communities close to home. The team is led by Ross Copland, who is a final year BE/BCom student, and will be accompanied by Victoria Fray, a graduate and a professional environmental engineer, who has years of experience in aid projects in the South Pacific. World Vision plans to build a four-kilometre extension pipeline to connect the system to a water source with adequate capacity for the island. The student team will spend three weeks surveying the area using GPS equipment and mapping the existing system. They will locate the best new water source and will make recommendations on how to upgrade the system.

Outreach tour

Fulbright New Zealand's educational advising team is visiting the University to inform students and staff about options for studying, researching and teaching in the United States through the Fulbright programme's awards.. This will take place on 19 May, 11.30am - 1pm, room 423 - 342, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds Street.

How to say Beijing

We'll hear it over and over again this year and it deserves to be pronounced correctly. The Chinese capital Beijing literally means "northern capital". But unlike the New Zealand way of pronouncing it with a soft J, it should be pronounced with a hard J – as in waging. If you want to get really technical, the tones are third tone for the first syllable (a down and up tone) followed by a first tone (high and flat).

Understanding numbers

Dr Anna Wilson and Dr Karen Waldie (Psychology) are studying why some people suffer from dyscalculia, a learning disability which makes it difficult for the brain to process and understand numbers and simple mathematics. The research is also looking at the relationship between dyscalculia and dyslexia, in which the brain is slow to read words. The researchers will use standard cognitive and neuropsychological methods to study dyscalculia and dyslexia in individuals with one or both conditions. A second study will also use functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to compare the areas of the brain active in number and word identification. The study is seeking adults aged 18 to 35 years in the Auckland region who suffer from learning difficulties in maths or reading to attend one or two testing sessions at the University. Contact Anna at anna.wilson@auckland.ac.nz or on ext 83401.

The honorary mammal

Kiwi rely on smell and touch to find their way about the forest floor, a characteristic more common to mammals than birds. Researchers from the University, with colleagues from the Universities of Lincoln and Birmingham in the UK, have shown that kiwi gather and process information differently from other birds, including nocturnal birds such as owls, and are more similar to nocturnal mammals in this respect. Dr Fabiana Kubke (Medical and Health Sciences) says kiwi do not seem to follow the normal evolutionary route of nocturnal birds, where larger eyes allow information to be processed visually, but seem to have evolved mechanisms similar to nocturnal mammals that rely more heavily on touch and smell.

More on kiwi

Researchers at the University have been studying the brains of frozen kiwi specimens using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) techniques. This allows them to look more closely at the brain structure of endangered kiwi and get a better understanding of the birds' behaviour and how to tailor conservation projects. The research, which shows the feasibility of using modern imaging techniques to study the brains of extinct or endangered species, was conducted by PhD student Jeremy Corfield, in association with Dr Fabiana Kubke and Professor Martin Wild (Anatomy), Dr Brett Cowan (Centre for Advanced MRI) and Dr Stuart Parsons (Biological Sciences), and is published in *Nature Protocols*. Funding was received from SBS and the Marsden Fund.

Ceremony charged with sadness

The conferral of Honorary Doctorates is always uplifting — in its celebration of people who have used and refined their talents to make exceptional contributions to New Zealand and the world.

This year's ceremony was also charged with a depth of sadness as Robin Dudding, one of the two to have earned this highest of honours, died on 21 April, just two days before his Honorary Doctor of Literature degree was to be conferred.

Two of his six children, Ruth and Anna, accepted the Honorary Doctorate on his behalf, saying they were glad that he had had the pleasure of knowing the degree was to be conferred.

"The many phone calls and letters of congratulation meant a lot to him and to us," said Ruth.

Robin's wife Lois and their other four children were also present at the ceremony.

Robin Dudding was regarded as the most gifted and significant literary editor of his generation. He edited a succession of major literary journals: *Mate*, *Landfall*, where he succeeded Charles Brasch, and finally *Islands*, which he founded and ran for 15 years. These journals were vital at a time when New Zealand literary publishing was in its infancy.

He encouraged and supported many younger writers who name him as an important influence in establishing their careers. He is seen as having a major role in creating New Zealand's literary culture over four decades.

In 1979 Robin Dudding was the first Literary Fellow at The University of Auckland and he worked as an editor for Auckland University Press during the 1980s.

Emeritus Professor Vincent O'Sullivan, who also received an Honorary Doctor of Literature degree, gave tribute to Robin Dudding in his acceptance speech.

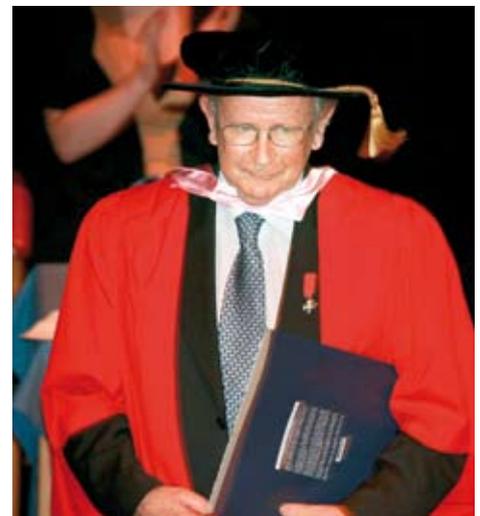
"May I first say to Lois Dudding and to Robin's children my regret that I am not sharing this space with him this evening... Robin graced the writing life in New Zealand for what he brought to it."

Vincent O'Sullivan, a University of Auckland MA graduate and Wellington resident, has long been prominent as a poet, short-story writer, novelist, playwright, critic, biographer, editor, essayist and anthologist.

His short-story collection *Dandy Edison* for Lunch was joint winner of the 1982 New Zealand Book Award for fiction, his novel *Let the River*



Two of Robin Dudding's daughters, Ruth and Anna, accept his Honorary Doctorate on his behalf from Chancellor Hugh Fletcher.



Vincent O'Sullivan after the conferral of his doctorate.

Stand won the 1994 Montana NZ Book Award, and he has twice won the Montana NZ Book Award for Poetry.

He is one of the world's foremost Katherine Mansfield scholars, and his *Oxford Anthology of Twentieth-Century New Zealand Poetry* was a standard text for a quarter of a century.

Vincent O'Sullivan was Professor of English and later Director of the Stout Centre at Victoria University of Wellington and has held prestigious writing fellowships and residencies.

New Dean to start in July

A new Dean of Business and Economics has been appointed and will take up his position on 1 July.

Professor Greg Whittred holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from the University of Queensland, a Master of Economics from the University of Sydney and a PhD from the Australian Graduate School of Management, University of New South Wales.

He has had extensive teaching and research experience in accounting and has held visiting professorial appointments in the USA, England, Hong Kong and China.

He has held the position of Professor of Accounting at the University of Sydney, has occupied senior management roles with the Australian Graduate School of Management, has filled the post of Dean of Commerce and Economics at the University of New South Wales and has been President of UNSW Asia.

Professor Whittred will take up the role of Dean following the retirement of Professor Barry Spicer.

(story continued from page 1)

She was Visiting Assistant Professor in the University of California's San Francisco Division of Neonatology before returning to Auckland as a senior lecturer in Paediatrics (Neonatology) in 1989. Eight years later she gained a personal chair in Neonatology.

She conducts both clinical and experimental research, and has spent part of each year working at Auckland National Women's Hospital's newborn intensive care nursery.

She has also served on a range of national and international academies and bodies, including the

Health Research Council of New Zealand, National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, and Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 2001 and was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2002. In 2004 *North & South* magazine made her joint New Zealander of the Year.

Jane succeeds Professor Tom Barnes, who has moved to a similar position at the University of Greenwich in London.

Look out for these

Appearing now on the staff intranet news is a series of stories exploring the work of the support services that aim to ensure that all students have all possible opportunities to fulfil their potential.

Also scheduled to appear is a story on the work of Pacific Equity Adviser, Cathleen Fokotai, who is based within the Equal Educational Opportunities Office (EEdO).

Look out also for a story giving an overview of the work of EEdO, as described by one of its key people, EEdO Manager Lorraine Evening.

Already featured in this series have been the Disability Services and the Māori Equity Advisers. Stories no longer to be found on the front page can still be opened and read through "More news".

Suggestions from staff for stories to appear on the staff intranet will always be welcomed. Please email stories, photos or suggestions to Judy Wilford on j.wilford.ac.nz or ext 87383.



Staff from Disability Services, which works to support students in a whole raft of ways. From left to right are Rebekah Williams, Outreach Co-ordinator for students and staff with disabilities at Epsom, Tamaki and Tai Tokerau Campuses; Susanna Van Der Meer, Careers Adviser for students with disabilities; Samantha Dalwood, Disability Services office administrator; and Jane Rennie, Disability Services Manager. Jane says the function and aim of Disability Services is to create a level playing field for students whose impairment can create barriers to their academic success.



Margaret Tuarere, Māori Equity Adviser, who is responsible, with her assistant, Puawai Wereta, for recruitment and retention of Māori students throughout the University. Margaret says her position is not about marketing education, but about giving students clear and accurate information on which to base their choices, and about encouraging them to fulfil their potential by putting aside barriers that might prevent this.



Cathleen Rokotai, Pacific Equity Adviser. For more information on support for Pasifika students, look for the story soon on the intranet front page.

The government, people and health

Is it the government's job to promote good health among citizens?

There has been a lot of interest in this question lately, inspired by the efforts of the government in areas like regulation of smoking, and influencing the drinking habits of the people. Understandably, there has been resistance to such efforts and it has been suggested that the government must resist the temptation to be a nanny-at-large to the society. The resistance is mostly from the perspective of individual liberty and the widely-varying inclinations and abilities of individuals to handle things like alcohol, tobacco or dangerous sports (such as hang gliding).

In considering the role of the government with respect to the state of health of the people, we must remember that we have, by and large, accepted the principle of the welfare state, which means that the government has formal responsibility for all aspects of the welfare of the people. The more practical dimension of the government's role in health is the public healthcare system that is in operation in countries like New Zealand and Canada.

When the state pays the medical bills, it is quite logical that it has an interest in people's health and well-being. If only from a purely economic standpoint, it would like to promote good health and save on bills. Indeed, not just the government but every individual has an interest in the health of his or her neighbour because the public healthcare system is funded by tax revenues to which all of us contribute.

Other than merely the question of money, even a sense of paternalism on the part of the government in promoting the health of the citizenry as a good in itself would not be out of place in a welfare state. There are also a number of other relevant issues, such as minimising the risk of passive smoking to non-smokers (by regulating smoking in public places) or improving the safety of the roads (by regulating drinking).

Therefore, the question of governmental intervention in health issues is much wider than liberty and has other ramifications which go to the fundamental question of the welfare state and its responsibilities. Health being an important part of human welfare and the government having assumed financial responsibility for the health of the citizens, the debate on the extent of its intervention in health-related issues must recognise the broad scope of the subject.

Dr Palladam Vasudev
Commercial Law

The University of Auckland—The First 125 Years



In 2007, Auckland University Press and the Vice-Chancellor decided that the 125th anniversary of the University should be celebrated with, among other things, an illustrated book on the University's history and achievements. Proposals were sought from authors, and my proposal was successful.

It was a pleasure and a privilege to be chosen, but also a little daunting.

The book was never meant to be an academic text, but rather a short celebratory account with equal weight given to text and photos. Even so, how do you encapsulate the essence of the University in a total of 20,000 words? *The University of Auckland—The First 125 Years* is organised around two 5,000 - word essays, on the University's past and present, and photographic sections with another 10,000 words of long captions.

In one sense, I know the University very well. I

did my two masters degrees and my doctorate here, and spent some time tutoring in the History Department and giving the odd lecture. Also, a family connection meant I couldn't help knowing some of the institutional history in general terms. My father was the late Professor John Reid of the English Department.

But in another sense, as I quickly discovered, there was much about the University, its governance and its faculties that I did not know. I was very grateful for the two solid histories by Keith Sinclair and Nicholas Tarling upon which I drew extensively, not to mention such faculty histories as Judith Bassett's excellent account of the School of Engineering. And then there were the helpful files of *University News* and *Ingenio* and departmental newsletters and websites.

In the end, I found my real headache was not what to put in, but what to leave out. The extensive files of the University Library's Special Collections, and of the University Art Collection, provided me with so many interesting images that it was hard to have to lay some of them aside.

The three months I spent compiling and writing this book were for me an education. I was happy to discover how the three departments that I knew well fitted into the University's greater scheme of things. More important, I got a clearer understanding of the breadth of the University's activities, the number of its academic publications and the variety and intensity of its research. Also, of course, the fun element of learning and of Student life.

I hope all this is communicated in the book.

Nicholas Reid

British railway enthusiasm

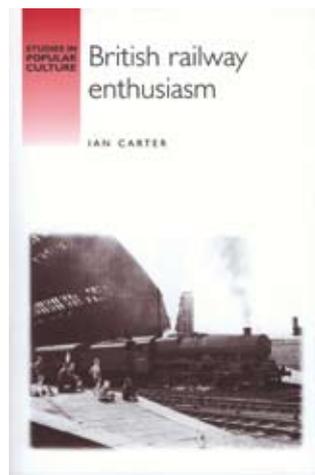
Published in the Studies in Popular Culture Series of Manchester University Press, *British railway enthusiasm* by Professor Ian Carter (Sociology) is the first academic book to study railway enthusiasts in Britain.

Far from being a trivial topic, the post-war train spotting phase swept most boys, and some girls, into a passion for railways. For many this ignited a lifetime's interest.

The book traces this post-war cohort, and those which followed, as they invigorated different sectors in the world of railway enthusiasm—train spotting, railway modelling, collecting railway relics—and then, in response to the demise of main line steam traction, Britain's now—huge preserved railway industry.

Today this industry finds itself riven by tensions between preserving a loved past which ever fewer people can remember, and earning money from tourists.

The widespread and enduring significance of



railway enthusiasm will ensure that this groundbreaking text becomes a key work in transport studies, and will appeal to enthusiasts as much as to students and scholars of transport history.

"This is a magnificent achievement," writes Dr Douglas Reid from the University of Hull. "It is entertaining, erudite, witty, wise, thorough and fascinating. This is a remarkable book about a remarkable phenomenon."

New associate professor

**David O'Sullivan
(Health Systems)**



Originally from Belfast, I came to Auckland from my previous position in North America.

I arrived in my current field by a similarly circuitous route, having worked as an engineer for several years, before chancing upon geographical information systems in a trade magazine article about what the Norwegian State Mapping Agency was doing with this new technology.

My research interests are in dynamic simulation models of geographical phenomena, particularly in urban settings. A recent focus has been the shifting residential pattern of different socio-economic groups. Auckland's diversity provides an ideal setting for these interests, although published work to date has been predominantly with colleagues at Stanford and Penn State and looks at the more segregated environments of US cities. Lately, I have become interested in urban ecology, which is less of a digression than it appears, seen from the perspective of simulation models. I serve on the editorial boards of four international journals.

Home life in Mt. Albert is also busy. An unanticipated side-effect of recent renovations is that we can now see what a mess the garden is (blame the "indoor-outdoor flow") so that's the next project. Aside, that is, from chasing after our two energetic small boys...

South Pacific champions

A team of undergraduate computer programmers has retained the South Pacific Champion title for The University of Auckland. Matthew Gatland (Software Engineering), Heather Macbeth (Mathematics), and Matthew Steel (Computer Science), with coach Dr Michael Dinneen, represented New Zealand in the International Collegiate Programming Contest, held in Banff, Canada. They were named South Pacific Champions, beating their peers from Australia, and were ranked in the top 100 of the 7000 teams competing in the competition worldwide.

From the collection



Colin McCahon (1919–1987) *Let us possess one world*, 1955.

Enamel and oil on board, 750x550mm.

Gift from the artist to the Auckland University Students' Association. On long-term loan to The University of Auckland Art Collection.

John Weeks Trust, Auckland University Students' Association.

McCahon's left-handed writing wins no prizes for neatness.

In *Let us possess one world*, lower case letters crowd together, shuffled by punctuation into a tripartite scheme so that one world is hoisted proudly on a stem above the mirrored halves below. Whereas the staid pronouncements of his earlier word paintings (*I Am* and *I and Thou*) were freighted with significance by the use of cubist capitals, this looping script dips into the sensuality of the source, John Donne's seventeenth century love poem.

By painting the text in shiny Dulux Super Enamel house paint illuminated with titanium white oils, McCahon lets you look at the words and at yourself simultaneously. "Form, subject and message become order as carbon becomes diamond" as McCahon and Caselberg had written a few years earlier in *On the Nature of Art*.

Described as an aubade, or song to the dawn, Donne's "The Good Morrow" poem uses a dialogue of one to rehearse its manifesto of erotic love. Eclipsing the discovery of new worlds like America is the speaker's earth-shattering realisation that his lover completes him. She is his other half, they are two hemispheres, each has one and is one – world, that is. They find everything in each other, heaven and earth. Donne's is a prescription for image-making and McCahon chimes in with miraculous blending of autumnal Titirangi rainforest colours, putting straight with

Art

curved lines and opening up space in all directions. Beneath a veneer of clumsiness, McCahon's stubby brush points up the delicate modulation between the lyric and dramatic notes in Donne's poem, his manipulated background seismically shifting. In the space behind the words an abstracted nature intrudes like the drapery in a Cézanne still life. Nothing is perfectly still, pulsations and nuanced mood signal all the complexities of a human relationship.

Later, McCahon made whole paintings out of One, then tangled the number one and first person singular, writing on the invitation card for his Necessary Protection exhibition at Barry Lett in 1971, "The I of the sky, falling light and enlightened land, is also ONE. The T of the sky and light falling into a dark landscape is also the T of the Tau or *Old Testament*, or *Egyptian cross*."

The breakthrough of the word paintings of 1954-55 coincided with the artist's move from the South Island to Titirangi and these achievements will be contextualised by Associate-Professor Peter Simpson (English) at the Writers' and Readers' Festival in the session devoted to his book *s* on Thursday 15 May at 4.30pm.

Linda Tyler

First ever engineering revue

For the first time in its one hundred year history, the Faculty of Engineering presented an engineering revue at the Maidment Theatre.



Some of the cast in rehearsal.

With sellout crowds at both performances the revue received the enthusiasm it deserved.

Given the significance of the occasion, the group decided it was appropriate that the revue be titled *A World without Engineers*.

A world without engineers equates to a world without wheels, planes, skyscrapers, laptops, iPods and, some may argue, existence itself. But what does it really equate to in our modern society?

The show, which thoroughly delighted the full houses, consisted of a series of skits, with music, dancing, comedy and film interspersed with a story of high drama in which - as comrades of the engineering trades vanished without a trace - a group of multi-disciplined engineering students went off on an adventure that led them to uncover a dark and evil plot. Would they be able to rescue their friends? Would the world be plunged into darkness forever? You had to be there to find out.

Described by a member of the audience as polished, professional, funny and absorbing, the show gave a chance for the engineers to show they have an abundance of other talents. It also represented seven months of dedicated work.

Staged at the Maidment Theatre on 24 and 25 April, *A World without Engineers* was produced and directed by the new student club, the Revue for Engineering Faculty Students (REFS).

Paving the way



Emeritus Professor Charmian O'Connor.

Emeritus Professor of Chemistry Charmian O'Connor CBE is paving the way for an outstanding female Chemistry student to reach for the top – and to get there.

Last month Charmian presented a cheque to The University of Auckland Foundation. The endowment gift is to be used to fund a new annual prize, to be awarded on merit to a first-year female Chemistry student about to embark on a second year

majoring in Chemistry.

As well as providing financial support, Charmian hopes to mentor future winners of the prize. Having taught first-year Chemistry students for more than 40 of her 50 years in the department, she considers this stage to be crucial in influencing the students' decision to continue in the discipline.

She spoke of a lack of women pursuing an academic career in

Chemistry and hoped that by gifting financial support and giving time and energy, she would be able to continue to "make a contribution".

What's on

FRIDAY 9 MAY

University of Auckland Graduation Gala: Concerto Competition 7.30pm Auckland Town Hall. Free.

SATURDAY 10 MAY

Pacific Graduation Dinner 6.30pm Fale Pasifika. Phone ext 85893 or email m.gabriel@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 13 MAY

Communique '08
Charmaine Ilaiu, UoA: *Persistence of the Fale Tonga*. 1pm Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St. Queries to ext 89150 or k.waghorn@auckland.ac.nz

Classics and Ancient History seminar
Prof Edward James, Medieval History, University College Dublin: *How to recognise a barbarian*. 4pm Rm 029, ClockTower.

Bioengineering research seminar
Assoc-Prof Patrice Masson, Dept of Mechanical Engineering, Université de Sherbrooke, Québec: *Structural health monitoring with acoustic waves*. 4pm Rm 421 W-301, ALR5.

WEDNESDAY 14 MAY

Dept of Philosophy graduate seminar
Prof Graham Oppy, Monash University: *Higher-order ontological arguments*. 4-6pm Rm 202, Fisher Bldg.

Centre for Laccanian Analysis seminar
Gustavo Restivo: *Beyond that uncanny object of enjoyment*. 5.15-7pm Rm WS114, Level 1, WS Building, AUT, 24 St Paul Street. Queries to la.holmes@auckland.ac.nz

Centre for Medieval and Early Modern European Studies seminar
Prof Edward James, Medieval History, University College Dublin: *J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis: Friendship, religion and fantasy*. 6.30pm B15, Library Bldg, 5 Alfred St.

THURSDAY 15 MAY

ECE Engineering research seminar
Robert Coup: *Fame and fortune from Open Source development*. 11am Rm 3.401, School of Engineering. Queries to ext 84535.

Dept of Anthropology seminar
Prof J.W.K.Harris, Anthropology, Rutgers State University of New Jersey, National Museums of Kenya: *Our earliest tool-making ancestors: The evidence from Africa*. 6.30pm Rm 439, School of Engineering.

FRIDAY 16 MAY

Orientation to The University of Auckland for new staff
9am-12.30pm Federation Rm, OGH. For new

staff employed for more than 20 hours a week on permanent agreements or fixed-term agreements of at least 12 months. Bookings to ext 89630 or b.hoskin@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 19 MAY

Getting the most for your General Staff Development Review
10am-12noon Rm 336, Level 3, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. Information on the Development Review process and how to best prepare for your review. Bookings and to ext 85070 or je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz

Fulbright NZ Outreach Tour
11.30am-1pm Rm 423-342, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

TUESDAY 20 MAY

Aegrotats and compassionates workshop
10-11am Federation Rm, OGH. Information for staff outlining processes and application of regulations when advising students regarding Aegrotats and/or Compassionate Consideration. Bookings and queries to ext 89630 or b.hoskin@auckland.ac.nz

Communique '08
Dr Julia Gately: *The DOCOMOMO book*. 1pm Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St. Queries to ext 89150 or k.waghorn@auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY

School of Asian Studies seminar
Kelvin Bradford: *Earth and fire: The history and development of Japanese ceramics*. 6.30pm B4, Owen G. Glenn Bldg.

Dept of Philosophy graduate seminar
Stuart Johns: *On the origin and proper use of the term 'consciousness'*. 4-6pm Rm 202, Fisher Bldg.

THURSDAY 22 MAY

Dept of Anthropology seminar
Prof Timothy Darvill: *Merlin's magic circles: Stonehenge and the Preseli Bluestones*. 6.30pm B4, Owen G. Glenn Bldg.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Accommodation - short to medium term. Parnell corporate bedsit, handy to Parnell village and UoA. Sunny with views of Rangitoto, North Head and Mt Victoria. Sheltered outdoor patio. Ideal for visiting academics. Serviced weekly. \$500 pw sgle or \$550 pw dble. Contact Roger Baker at (021) 742-885 or roger@sealion.net.nz For more information/photos visit our website www.saxophone.co.nz/hosted/bedsit/

Devonport house, fully-furnished, private garden, from July 2008 to January 2009 (flexible). Walking

distance to beaches, shops, and ferry to city. Two bdrm, two lounges, study, central heating. Ideal for sabbatical visitor. N/s. \$600 pw (neg), includes free local phone calls. Contact r.raine@auckland.ac.nz

Flatmate wanted to share Mt Albert home. Available from mid-May 2008. Preferably female, n/s, dble room, furnished, share with one other, (female artist). Very nice, comfortable home, decks, nature, all facilities. Osp, close to motorway and Unitec. \$130 pw + exps. Suit someone who is motivated, outgoing, clean and tidy, sense of humour. Ph 815-2489 or (021) 760-066.

Freemans Bay apartment. Spacious one-bdrm for sublet July 2008 to Jan 2009. Furnished, modern kitchen with DW, w/m/dryer, and two secure car parks. Apartment complex has gym and swimming pool. Walking distance to CBD, Ponsonby, bus stops and supermarket. Perfect for visiting academic. \$380 pw. Contact Karl at (09) 336-1805 or k.stol@auckland.ac.nz

Mt Albert, three-four bdrm large bungalow on full section. Four minutes to motorway, 10 minutes to UoA. Train and bus within 10 minutes walk. Close to Motat, zoo and St Lukes. Fully-furnished with computer network. \$500 pw available from 20 June to 12 October. Contact (09) 846-8521 or p.rouse@auckland.ac.nz

Pleasant accommodation offered. Fully-furnished dble room with ensuite, plus use of lounge and kitchen to share with family of three. Quiet location, six-bdrm house in Dannemora, Botany. Bus stop two doors from house. \$190 pw + meals. Short or long-term let. Please contact Roshni on (09) 523-8256 or (09) 273-2356 (ah).

Ponsonby. Fully-furnished villa, three bdrm, central heating etc, on Link bus route, 30 minutes walk to University. Available 3 July to 5 October. \$300 pw + utilities. Contact 378-6091 or a.poletti@xtra.co.nz

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

German maths professor is visiting UoA during sabbatical together with her husband and two children (11 and 13 yrs). We are looking for a three-bdrm home in the Ak area from late Oct 2008 to mid-March 2009, preferably fully-furnished and with broadband connection. Email schoebel@math.uni-goettingen.de

House to rent short-term. Visiting professor with family requires a fully-furnished three-bdrm house for the duration of one month, during the month of June 2008. Contact Kim Williams, 373-7599 ext 88392 or kn.williams@auckland.ac.nz if you have anything available.

We're coming to Auckland on sabbatical, 2 Aug 2008 to 4 Jan 2009, and we need a place to live: furnished, two-three bdrms, Internet. We are a couple, n/s academic types and can look after resident dogs, cats or plants if needed. Please reply to Stephen.Wilson@nau.edu with details.

FOR SALE

2004 Toyota Corolla station wagon (blue) 54,000 km \$9,500 ono. From the Schools Partnership Office fleet. For more information, to view the car or to make an offer, contact Rhona Grogan, r.grogan@auckland.ac.nz or ext 85613.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Home and income, Mt Eden near Dominion Rd shops, one bus stage from University. Villa converted into two self-contained flats, one with two bdrms, one with three bdrms. Live in one flat and let the other pay the mortgage! Large private back garden. Offers around \$625,000 (cv \$710,000). Phone 630-6815 or 521-4251.

Waiheke Island. 88 Wharf Rd, Ostend. 1887m², private, sunny, north-facing property with lovely established gardens across the road from Putiki Bay. Three-bdrm home + numerous outbuildings including large office. View TradeMe #150555569 or come and see it yourself. \$920,000. Phone 372-2450 or email jhunt@ihug.co.nz

SITUATIONS VACANT

Part-time employment tutoring a child with Down Syndrome. I am seeking to employ a tertiary student from mid-May until the end of the year to work after school with my 10-year-old daughter with Down Syndrome to help with homework and a prescribed speech therapy program. If you are interested in early childhood education and related psychology, you may be interested in this opportunity. We require someone to pick Amelia up from school in Newton and then work with her for 1.5 hours sometime between 3-6pm, 2 to 4 days a week, depending on your availability. The tutoring will take place at our home in Mt Albert. You will need a full driver's license, to have some experience with children and be able to engage with a child in a playful and fun way to achieve the educational outcomes associated with the work. Please contact Janet on (021) 298-1242 for further details including remuneration.

MISCELLANEOUS

Amnesty International breakfast - all welcome. Enjoy breakfast with Amnesty International members (koha only) and hear about our activities and campaigns. Sat 24 May, 8-10am, St Heliers Community Church, 100 St Heliers Bay Rd, St Heliers. Enquiries please phone Jeanette on 521-2050, or jeanettemiller@pohutukawa.com

International travel insurance. The AUS recommends that members use Uni-Care insurance for sabbatical, other study overseas. Uni-Care offers 15% off standard rates for travel out of NZ to all university staff, full-time tertiary students and their families. Uni-Care Educational Travel Insurance, PO Box 32-167, Devonport, ph (09) 446-1166, fax (09) 445-8832, email insure@uni-care.org Website www.uni-care.org

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see Next Week Online: www.auckland.ac.nz/nextweekonline

Please email classified ads to m.playfair@auckland.ac.nz nine days before publication. Cost \$20 (incl GST).