

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 38 | Issue 16 | 29 August 2008

Magic bullet for quality of life



Sam Liebert.

Sport has been described as a kind of wonder drug.

Sam Liebert (Sport and Exercise Science) fully endorses this.

"It can improve people's functioning, make them more productive, lift and maintain their medical and psychological health, and help manage a whole range of conditions, all with very few side effect," he says.

Sam late last year was appointed manager of four research practices within the Department of Sport and Exercise Science. His task was to bring these four effective – but disparate – operations together, to co-ordinate their efforts, unite them around one vision, and combine their strengths to create a unit to enhance the lives and health of New Zealanders.

Thanks to Sam's efforts, and those of the staff and researchers in the four practices and the wider department, an overall collective entitled "Health and Performance" has now been formed.

The four practices comprising the collective are the Cardiac Rehabilitation Clinic, the Exercise Rehabilitation Clinic, the Biomechanics Laboratory and the UniSports Centre for Sport Performance.

The disciplines and services comprising the

practices cover the full spectrum of benefits from exercise: preventing and managing chronic conditions, injury rehabilitation, improving and maintaining general health, and raising sports performance.

"For individuals whose health is compromised by cardiac conditions or their risk factors, exercise can be risky," says Sam. "With a few precautions, the benefits far outweigh the risks and the Cardiac Rehabilitation Clinic designs exercise programmes that are safe for these people."

The Exercise Rehabilitation Clinic creates exercise programmes for people with a range of medical conditions, including chronic pain, low back pain, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and traumatic brain injury. These can help either in improving the condition or in improving general health to enhance life quality.

UniSports offers gym memberships to the public, as well as specialised conditioning for sports teams and individuals. These include leisure athletes wanting to compete in marathons, triathlons or adventure races, and the more competitive athletes focused on reaching their

(continued on page 2)

Key events

General staff: the heart of a university

The Association of University Staff is having a national General Staff Day on 10 September. General staff members are invited to a lunch-time event at Old Government House which will celebrate the integral role that general staff play in the University. There will be an MC, prizes, a quiz, music and of course great food and drink. Watch out for your personalised invitation and for the activities leading up to this event. These will include a poster campaign profiling several staff, a pass-the-parcel game, and some seminars on the new flexible work arrangements legislation.

From Newton to Putin

Now on and scheduled to continue until 29 September is an exhibition of the work of Murray Webb and Malcolm Evans entitled "From Newton to Putin: The wonderful world of master caricaturist Murray Webb with a little Evans on the side". The venue is the Governor's Gallery in Old Government House, open from Monday to Friday 11am-5.30pm.

Body-world mismatch

When humans ceased to be hunter-gatherers and settled as farmers our diets and social structures changed, argues Professor Peter Gluckman, Director of the Liggins Institute. We built cities, developed medicine, technologies.... and much more. Suddenly our biology became mismatched to the world we had created. We were not designed for the diet most of us eat now, nor to expend so little energy. This form of mismatch massively increases the risk of obesity and diabetes, even in young children. In his lecture on 10 September in the Seasons of Life Series Peter Gluckman will cite the evidence and explain why public health strategy must focus on measures that recognise the importance of a healthy start to life. The lecture will take place at 6pm in OGGB3 in the Owen G Glenn Building.

In this issue

- 2 | Another great tertiary debate
- 4 | Excellence in equity
- 6 | Robotic care for elderly

From the Vice-Chancellor

Some of my recent public comments concerning the possible introduction by Government of a universal student allowance have been interpreted as being against the interests of students. That is certainly not the intention, and so I would like to expand on them a little.

Several things are, I think, common ground: that New Zealand wants to have universities of international quality; that the level of investment this country makes in its university system is low by international standards; and that students need a university system which is both high quality and affordable. The important question is how the country can best invest its limited tertiary funding so as to maximise overall benefit to students as well as to the country.

We know that New Zealand's investment in support of tertiary students is among the highest in the world at around 42 per cent of total tertiary funding compared to the OECD average of 18 per cent. It's true that a substantial part of that is in loans, many of which will be repaid eventually, but they clearly come at a cost to the taxpayer given that they are interest free. Furthermore, OECD figures show that New Zealand is above average in the proportion of tertiary investment it expends both on grants to students (12.7 per cent vs an OECD average of 9.9 per cent) and on loans (29.6 per cent vs an average 8.6 per cent across the OECD).

By contrast, successive New Zealand governments have consistently underinvested in the university system. Total expenditure has gone up, but that's hardly surprising given the growth of the last two decades (in our case from 12,000 EFTS in 1988 to 30,000 today). But if the combined investment of government and students in the university system had kept pace with costs, the university system would today have higher income by about a quarter of a billion dollars each year – or about \$60 million per annum in the case of The University of Auckland. It's not difficult to imagine the impact that would have on the ability of our University to attract and retain top staff, to create improved facilities, to promote equity of access and to offer enhanced scholarships – all things that would enhance the quality of the University, and all things that would be of benefit to students, both present and future. In short, reducing the cost of education is not the only option we should consider.



Another great tertiary debate



Raymond Miller chairs the tertiary debate, with Pete Hodgson (second from left), Paul Hutchison and Dail Jones.

The tertiary debate was yet again great, well-attended, with spirited discussion, a diverse audience and strong engagement from the floor.

This debate with its social function to follow – which took place at the Engineering School on the evening of 12 August – is run by The University of Auckland Society and gives a great chance for students, staff and alumni to ask parliamentarians all the hard questions about their policies on tertiary education.

Presenting their parties' policies were the Hon Pete Hodgson, Minister for Tertiary Education, Dr Paul Hutchison, National spokesperson for tertiary education, and Dail Jones from New Zealand First, speaking in that order.

Discussion ranged over topics from levels of government spending on tertiary education – including the relative distribution of spending on

students and institutions – to student loans and allowances and to the issue of creating further universities in New Zealand.

While Pete Hodgson strongly defended his own party's policies and Paul Hutchison offered criticisms, as one might expect, Dail Jones from New Zealand First spoke not only as a politician but also as a past and present student of The University of Auckland.

Associate Professor Raymond Miller (Political Studies), who chaired the discussion, said he thought the debate was excellent and of a kind we don't see very often.

"It was like an old-fashioned debate, in that you could see the disagreements being played out – whereas much of the discussion we see now in the lead-up towards the elections is stage-managed through the electronic media."

(story continued from page 1)

athletic potential. A number of New Zealand's Olympic athletes have trained with UniSports staff and facilities.

UniSports also runs a youth training programme, which Sam describes as innovative, exciting and unique in New Zealand.

"It is important to give young people a chance to learn proper training habits from an early age, and to enjoy themselves at the same time. High quality conditioning programmes for young athletes haven't really existed in New Zealand. There is a gap in the market, and a need for research. As a University facility we can cater to this market demand as well as address the research gap. This will allow us to lead this field."

The services and research of the Biomechanics Lab can be applied in rehabilitation and performance. Within it is the Gait Clinic, a collaboration between the Biomechanics Lab, Associate Professor Sue Stott (School of Medicine) and Starship Children's Hospital. This clinic works with a multidisciplinary surgical team to analyse the gait of children suffering from cerebral palsy. The information from gait assessments is used to inform surgical decisions.

Research is an important component of all four practices, and their formation into a collective will add strength to this. Through the clinical services, the University's research is converted into real health outcomes for the community, while students have the chance to work with experts and can achieve gold standard clinical competency. In turn, outcomes can be reviewed and used to strengthen the research base and refine the services.

Sam is the first person to hold this role, which he believes was the final ingredient needed to draw the strengths of the practices together and make them a truly powerful force.

"We already had fantastic staff, and absolutely top-class research. All that was needed was to bring the focus together and unite them around a common vision."

Sam has a BSc in Sport and Exercise Science and a masters in Health Sciences, both from The University of Auckland. He worked in an occupational medicine clinic in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences and then as manager of the Exercise Rehabilitation Clinic before taking up his present position.

Retrospective 1883-2008

The foundation of a new school of medicine is a considerable event in any place and at any time. Dare we think of Salerno, Padua, Leyden and Edinburgh in a country such as ours, so remote in place and time? However that may be, in the near future the job will have to be done in Auckland, and the novelty for New Zealand lies in the fact that it is likely to be only the second occasion in a century and a half of our national life – though the early years of the twenty-first century will probably witness the third such occasion.

It can therefore scarcely be wondered at if most of us are untroubled by such a development, unaware of changes that have taken place since our teachers and we ourselves were students, and generally not called upon to think of the future. We realise that many fresh viewpoints have accompanied the vast development of scientific and medical knowledge particularly in the last thirty years, but only those who are active in the very forefront of the sciences can have any inkling of what medical teaching will need to be like, by the time a school that is now being conceived gets well into its stride. We have to think not only of medical science, but also of the social and cultural development in which the school will work. There are many signs of maladjustment at the present

time in many countries – is it too much to hope that in the years to come we will be ready to apply clear heads as well as warm hearts to these situations? The front-runners in the study of these matters, to be sure, are at work abroad and we need not go short of guidance.

Thought and discussion on medical education are particularly appropriate in New Zealand at the present time. We need to define our ideas as to the importance of the university in this field. Many medical schools in the world for example have little or no connection with a university. Yet what enrichment is in store for any university, and community for that matter, which undertakes the study of the enormous range and variety of problems that are embraced by the discipline of medicine. We need to take care to identify and nurture the seed-corn of the profession, the future teachers and research workers, of whom there is a shortage throughout the world. Not only in the interests of the new school but also for possible assistance to the older one is it important to clarify and modernise our ideas on this very old theme.

Extracts from Douglas Robb, 'Medical Training in New Zealand', *New Zealand Medical Journal*, 61, 363, 1962, pp.535-39.



The Queen opened the School of Medicine Buildings in 1970. Here she and the Duke of Edinburgh chat with students. Behind the Queen is the Chancellor, Henry Cooper. Photo from University News, May 1983.

Eminent Middle East correspondent coming

Robert Fisk, the best-selling British author and journalist, is speaking at the University on 9 September (6-7pm).

"The age of the warrior – an hour with Robert Fisk" has been organised by Amnesty International. Professor Jane Kelsey (Law) will chair the discussion at the Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Building.

Long based in Beirut as Middle East correspondent of *The Independent*, Robert Fisk has covered numerous conflicts, has won many journalism awards, and wrote the acclaimed book *The Great War for Civilisation*.

Tickets are available through Ticketek for \$25 (\$20 for students with ID). Further details at www.business.auckland.ac.nz

... in brief

General staff awards

Applications and nominations for the following awards and scholarships will open on Monday 8 September.

The General Staff Postgraduate Diploma in Business Scholarships offer up to six scholarships into management programmes for general staff annually. Each covers course fees for the full two years of part-time study. The staff member's chosen course of study must be of benefit to themselves and their departments. Applications for scholarships for study commencing in 2009 will close on Monday 6 October.

The General Staff Excellence Awards recognise excellence in managerial, administrative and technical activities. Three awards are made to general staff each year for Sustained Excellence in Performance, Excellence in Innovation and Excellence in Leadership. Nominating a colleague is a way to recognise excellence, and to encourage and reward such excellence. The awards are contestable across the University and each carries a citation by the Vice-Chancellor and a grant of \$2500. Nominations close 31 October.

All applications/nominations for these awards and scholarships should be submitted on the official forms. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/sodu and click on the "Awards, scholarships and fellowships" link to access these forms and find out further information.

Call for applications

Leading academics have the opportunity to take up prestigious Hood and Seelye Fellowships through the latest round of applications. The Seelye Fellowships close on 30 September and Hood applications close on 31 October.

Members of the academic staff are encouraged to apply or nominate others for these awards, which are each valued at up to \$30,000. The Hood Fellowship Fund was established in 2004 in recognition of Dr John Hood's Vice-Chancellorship at the University. Its key purpose is to maintain and enhance the international standing and performance of The University of Auckland as New Zealand's premier research-led university. The Fellowships aim both to attract the best academic talent to Auckland and to enable the University's top academics to travel to prestigious institutions abroad.

The Ralph and Eve Seelye Charitable Trust Fund was established in 2006 to help the University to attract distinguished persons who are leaders in their field and to host internationally recognised experts for guest lectures and seminars. The Trust provides one or more Visiting Fellowships/Lectureships across all faculties.

Information and application forms for Hood Fellowships and for Seelye Charitable Trust Fellowships are available at www.advancement.auckland.ac.nz Please contact Pramilla Andrew at External Relations with any inquiries: pc.andrew@auckland.ac.nz or ext 88113.

MacDiarmid successes

Two University of Auckland students have been recognised for their scientific research in this year's MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year awards. Dr Craig Radford, a postdoctoral researcher at the Leigh Marine Laboratory, is runner-up in the Understanding Planet Earth category. Hae Joo Kang, a PhD student in Biological Sciences, funded by the Maurice Wilkins Centre, was named runner-up in the Advancing Health and Wellbeing category. Below are brief summaries of their research.

Rowdiest ocean dwellers

Using an underwater listening device, Dr Craig Radford has identified snapping shrimps and feeding sea urchins as making the loudest sounds beneath the ocean.

His study also showed that underwater ambient noise around New Zealand's coast gets louder at dawn and dusk. The sound of shrimp rapidly closing their claws and sea urchins scraping their teeth on rocks contribute to increased noise at those times.

Fish and crab larvae are frequently dispersed tens of kilometres out to sea and Craig set out to investigate how they get back to the coast. He found that reef fish and crab species swim towards underwater sound, and concludes that noise generated around the coast plays an important role in guiding baby fish and crustaceans to a suitable habitat in which they can settle. Replicating those sounds could be a means of attracting fish back to depleted reefs.

The fight against strep throat

PhD student Hae Joo Kang is making significant findings that could lead to new treatments to fight the organism that causes strep throat, *Streptococcus pyogenes*.

This bacterium is also responsible for other more severe illnesses, such as toxic shock and flesh-eating disease. The young researcher has discovered the atomic structure of protein assemblies called pili, which stick out from the surface of strep bacteria. She has also identified a new type of bond in these pili, which makes them super strong, and therefore able to stick to and infect human cells.

The discovery provides new information to help design therapies to combat the strep infection. One strategy is to block the formation of the bonds by which the protein molecules assemble. Another is by developing vaccines based on the Strep pili. When the human immune system is exposed to these pili, it generates antibodies that coat the pili and prevent them from sticking to human cells, fighting off the strep infection.

Excellence in equity



Staff responsible for the NICAI Tuākana Research Assistant Training Programme with Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon at the Excellence in Equity Awards evening. Left to right are Deidre Brown, Te Oti Rakena, Stuart McCutcheon, Matt Tarawa and Mona O'Shea.

One individual staff member and two groups of staff had the honour of receiving University of Auckland Excellence in Equity Awards at a lively and enjoyable function held at Old Government House on 12 August.

Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond received the Award for Sustained Excellence in Equity.

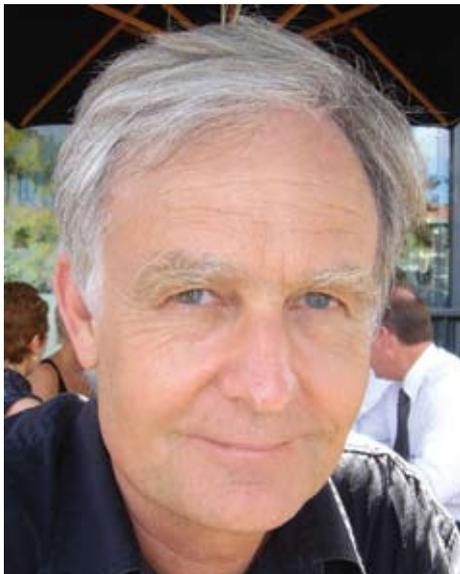
The NICAI Tuākana Research Assistant Training Programme won an Excellence in Equal Educational Opportunities Award. Key people are Dr Deidre Brown (Architecture), Dr Te Oti Rakena (Music), Mona O'Shea (Student Learning Centre) and Matt Tarawa (Student Learning Centre). The

project was designed to equip able students with research skills, and encourage them to proceed to postgraduate level.

An Excellence in Educational Opportunities Award was also won by SPIES (South Pacific Islands Engineering Students) Pacific Tour 2007: Recruiting students of the Pacific. Key people are Marcia Murray, Dr Stuart Mitchell, Eldon Ahmu and J'aimé Laurenson. A group of students accompanied them on the very successful student recruiting trip to Samoa.

For more information about the winners and their achievements, see the "More news" section of the staff intranet.

Research money abroad



Peter Hunter.

Academic staff have been urged to look seriously overseas for research funding, especially in science and technology.

Only 4 percent of University of Auckland research was funded from abroad, said Professor Peter Hunter, Director of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute.

"We really have to try and increase this as the pots of research money are so limited here. We are only scratching the surface of what is possible."

Delivering the fourth Winter Lecture in the series on "Challenges for research in modern academia", Peter said research was inadequately supported in New Zealand and the success rate for applicants was "very low".

For example only 8 percent of those seeking Marsden fund grants were awarded them. This major source of "genuine blue skies funding", while good as far as it went and not subject to the Government's socio-economic priorities, was "too small. It should be bigger by a factor of at least two".

In contrast, success rates by researchers applying for international sources of funding were much greater: 31 percent for money provided by philanthropic and supra-national organisations, by multinational corporations and by public-private partnerships, 34 percent in Britain, 36 percent in

Trusts here to stay

The use of trusts by property developers and business tycoons to preserve their assets against claims by unpaid creditors is again raising concerns as the number of business failures increases.

Whatever the current concerns, use of trusts for creditor protection is an ancient practice.

Since the Middle Ages property owners have used trusts to protect their assets from the State and creditors. The basis of trust law, developed by the medieval courts of equity, is that a person may divest him/herself of ownership of an asset by transferring it into a trust. Once transferred to the trust, ownership of that asset is then effectively divided in two:

- First, legal ownership of the asset passes to the trustee, who is responsible for ensuring that asset is protected, and
- Second, the equitable ownership passes to the beneficiary, who (while not the legal owner) may enjoy all the benefits, such as their personal use or receipt of income from the asset.

The effect of this split ownership is threefold:

1. The original owner no longer has any claim over that asset, which now belongs to the trust. As a consequence, creditors of that original owner also no longer have any recourse to that asset to satisfy the former owner's debts.
2. As new owner of the asset, the trustee is responsible only for liabilities he/she permits to be incurred in respect of that property. Trustees have no responsibility for liabilities incurred by the former owner. Unless a trustee expressly pledges trust assets to the creditors of the former owner (which they virtually never will), those assets will not be available to pay the former owner's debts.
3. The beneficiaries are entitled to have trust assets protected for their use and enjoyment. Unless and until trust assets are transferred to them personally (which, again, they virtually never will be), the beneficiaries' own creditors also have no claim on the assets.

So only creditors of the trust itself have recourse to those assets to satisfy their debts. This is why trustees are always so scrupulous not to put trust assets at risk. Provided trustees

protect assets under their control, neither the creditors of the original owner nor of the beneficiaries have recourse to those assets.

It is this separation of ownership and control that is the principal advantage of a trust. Used properly, the trust can therefore make assets virtually impervious to claims by creditors. It has been that way for hundreds of years.

But that long tradition is no consolation for creditors of either the original owner of the asset or the beneficiaries (who in many instances are one-and-the-same). Creditors simply watch their debtor continuing to enjoy and benefit from trust assets while simultaneously avoiding payment of their debts. It can be galling.

For disgruntled creditors there are few remedies available. Special laws give the IRD and former spouses access to trust assets in some circumstances. But little protection is offered to general creditors. The only hope is where the debtor created the trust or transferred the asset too late.

Wily entrepreneurs know the time to create a trust is when things are going well and creditors are in the distant future. Leaving it to the last minute to create the trust may be ineffective.

The Insolvency Act annuls trusts that were established within six months prior to bankruptcy. Trusts created within two years prior to bankruptcy may also be annulled if it can be shown that the trust was devised for the dominant purpose of defeating creditors. Given that trusts have other legitimate purposes, such as succession planning (passing assets in an orderly manner to children and grandchildren) and tax benefits (splitting income to lower the rates of tax), this is a difficult test.

Given their ancient origins, trusts are here to stay. The many advantages they offer to the rich and powerful make it unlikely any strong "trust-busting" action will ever be taken. So creditors must continue to watch debtors default on their debts yet enjoy all the benefits trusts have to offer. Ironically, the rules of equity were originally established to provide "fairness" against the sometimes harsh consequences of the law. While the rules themselves survive, it seems little of that original spirit remains.

Mark Keating
Commercial Law

Australia and 15 percent in the US.

Internationally the trends were towards open publication, open databases and open software, and the use of globally linked high-speed networks, said Peter. Global science issues – notably climate change and the search for new energy sources – had come to the fore, while doctoral and postdoctoral students were increasingly mobile.

Meanwhile The University of Auckland was increasingly collaborating with overseas partners in research and teaching, and engaging with them in joint degree programmes as well as student and staff exchanges.

International funding mentioned by Peter included the US National Institutes of Health (with \$30 billion a year at its disposal), the US National Science Foundation (\$5 billion), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the UK Wellcome Trust, and various sources in Europe, Australia, Japan, China, Taiwan and Korea.

In addition to access to such funding, working with researchers abroad offered interaction with top scientists in one's field; access to expertise, networks and expensive equipment; collaborative grants; and the chance to recruit international PhD students and staff.

"Challenges" were long flights across the world, absence from New Zealand, different time zones, dealing with different bureaucratic systems, and differences in how research grant overheads are calculated.

Examples given by Peter of successful University of Auckland involvement with overseas researchers ranged from the NZ/Korean Robotics Centre and the International Structural Genomics Organisation to the Reconstituting Democracy in Europe project and his own Bioengineering Institute's collaboration with the University of Iowa in biomedical imaging.

To remain internationally competitive, he said, science in NZ needed a pool of talented and energetic graduate students, a multi-disciplinary environment, and integration of basic and applied science with commercial outcomes. It also required international connections, critical mass, links to undergraduate teaching, and secure careers for research scientists.

"This doesn't work top down," stressed Peter. "What matters most is personal linkages which create bottom up approaches. These can then take advantage of funding opportunities wherever they exist."

- The PowerPoint version of Peter Hunter's lecture, "Opportunities and challenges of international research collaboration", is at www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

Tackling poverty

The Centre for Continuing Education and Oxfam are presenting a lecture from Duncan Green, Head of Research at Oxfam Great Britain, entitled "From poverty to power: How active citizens and effective states can change the world". This will be held on 3 September from 7pm to 9pm in Room 029 of the ClockTower, 22 Princes Street.

Immigration and human rights

A major full-day conference on immigration law and human rights is being staged in Auckland on 12 September.

"Human rights at the frontier", organised by the Legal Research Foundation, will explore the new legal framework for immigration in the context of New Zealand's international obligations, particularly in human rights.

It will bring together international and New Zealand experts in immigration, refugee and human rights law. They include leading academics

in the field along with Roger Haines QC, a specialist in immigration law who is Deputy Chair of the Refugee Status Appeal Authority.

The conference will appeal to practitioners, policy-makers and academics working in the area of human rights and immigration law.

For further information contact the Legal Research Foundation: info@legalresearch.org.nz The Foundation is an independent, non-profit body associated with The University of Auckland Faculty of Law.

Technology adds quality to elder care



Left to right are Dr Mun-Keo Choi, President, ETRI; Dr Peter Lee, CEO UniServices (behind); Dr Yun-Koo Chung, Executive Director, Robotics, ETRI; and Paul Yoo, President of the Korean Society of New Zealand. In the foreground is Dr Bruce MacDonald.

The University is joining forces with Korea's largest government-funded research facility to develop inexpensive mobile robotic care devices for use in health and care facilities for older people.

The Intelligent Robot Division at Korea's Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI) will work with University researchers at a joint New Zealand/Korean Laboratory based in the University's new Centre for Healthcare Robotics.

The developed world's population is ageing rapidly, and in many countries facilities for older

people are struggling to maintain quality care. Mobile robot technology developed by the Centre will help meet this challenge.

The project aims to extend older peoples' time at home and help nursing staff with duties that could be effectively managed by a robotic device.

"Robotic devices can undertake simple tasks that don't require hands-on care, such as vital signs recording, information management, remote telemedicine, and video/audio service links to families and carers," says head of the new centre,

Dr Bruce MacDonald (Electrical and Computer Engineering).

The three-year project will bring together researchers in engineering, computing and health. Psychological and clinical studies will test the acceptability of robotic devices to older people, and establish the effectiveness of the technologies for interaction with older people in their own homes and care staff in care facilities.

"Korea has developed an inexpensive robotic platform and this project aims to customise this platform initially for the export market, but also for the home market, providing access to new high-value export markets for New Zealand companies," Bruce MacDonald says.

Auckland UniServices Ltd has developed the relationship with ETRI and provided seed funding. The Centre is supported by both governments. New Zealand's Foundation for Research, Science and Technology has approved \$1.8 million over three years from its International Investment Opportunities funding stream. The Korean Government will provide \$3.7 million through ETRI.



Doctors MacDonald and Choi with Mr Yun-Sung Kim Consul of the Republic of Korea.

Sir Graham Speight



Sir Graham Speight.

Sir Graham Speight, who died on 17 July 2008, was a member of the Council of The University of Auckland from 1965 to 1989 and served as Chancellor from 1975 to 1980. Over this long period he made a major contribution to the well-being of the University through his conscientious attendance at meetings, wise counsel and sensitive approach to matters involving students.

As Chancellor, Graham Speight presided at Council meetings and ceremonial occasions with skill and dignity. Like the good judge he was, Graham, at Council, listened carefully to all arguments, asked questions with an economy of words and gave his opinions in plain English. His sharp mind, courtesy, humanity, impartiality and rather dry wit helped defuse any controversial issues.

Graham Speight was educated at Auckland Grammar School and at Auckland University College where he was a Hugh Campbell Scholar in Law. He graduated LLB in 1942. During the war he was commissioned in the field and became an aide-de-camp to Lieutenant General Bernard Freyberg. After the war he rejoined his Auckland law firm Meredith, Meredith, Kerr & Cleal and became a partner in 1951.

In 1959 Graham Speight was appointed Crown Solicitor, Auckland, and held this position until becoming a Judge of the High Court in 1966, at the relatively youthful age of 45. When he finally retired from the bench in 1998 he had become the Court's longest serving judge. During this time he had served also as part-time President of the Court of Appeal of Fiji and Chief Justice of the Cook Islands.

Among his other interests Graham Speight served as Commodore of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron and as a member of the Eden Park Trust Board, the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

and the Rothmans Foundation. A keen sportsman, he was a good hockey player in his younger years and an enthusiastic golfer and yachtsman.

The love of Graham's life was his wife Betty whom he married in Wellington in 1947. Betty also was a stalwart supporter of The University of Auckland during Graham's time on Council. Sir Graham was knighted in 1983 and, in the same year, the University conferred on him an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree on the occasion of its Centenary celebrations. He is survived by Betty and son Paul.

Sir Colin Maiden
Vice-Chancellor, 1971-1994

Have your say on ECE

You are invited to be involved in the strategic review of early childhood education centres, facilities, services and kohanga reo. The University of Auckland is committed to providing high quality ECE centres on campus which can be a key to attracting and retaining excellent students and staff. For further details and terms of reference please visit www.eo.auckland.ac.nz or contact eo.admin@auckland.ac.nz

Out on his bicycle selling Rawleighs products door-to-door in Greymouth in the sixties, Toss Woollaston could only dream of becoming a fulltime painter.

Complaining of his lot to Dunedin patron Charles Brasch in a letter in the early months of 1965, he was surprised to receive the first of what would become quarterly payments. This beneficence enabled Woollaston to stop hawking household cleaners and develop his artistic career. Coinciding with the opening of Barry Lett Galleries, Brasch's financial support gave Woollaston the opportunity to travel in the North Island collecting landscape subjects for his first solo exhibition in Auckland in November of that year.

Having grown up in Taranaki "under a dreaming blue sky", it was this region he travelled to from the South Island to refresh his landscape style. "The place seems to mean more and more to me" he wrote to his wife Edith in 1966. There were many commentators who felt that there was no mileage left in regionalism and Woollaston made a determined effort to shift away from descriptive topographical painting to try and capture the energy inherent in the geomorphology of the land itself. Art critic (and Distinguished Alumnus of The University of Auckland), Ian Wedde, praised Woollaston's ability to capture the turbulence and vitality of creation, as well as its massive calm. For the benefit of those who made disparaging remarks about his muddy palette, Woollaston explained that he wanted to paint the colour of the earth after it had absorbed the heat of the sun. This sensual and empathetic approach to depicting specific localities distinguishes his work from the realism of his contemporaries.

Woollaston's parents were fundamentalist Christian sharemilking dairy farmers, and he was born in rural Huinga near Toko in Taranaki. In his book *Sage Tea* he reveals the repressiveness of his upbringing – the beverage of the title was



Taranaki Landscape 1965, 609 x 808mm, Oil on hardboard.

administered to him as his mother's cure for adolescent sexual impulses. In 1928 at the age of 18 years he escaped to pick fruit on a Nelson orchard and took art lessons from Hugh Scott. Travelling to Dunedin to benefit from the enlightened modernist approach of Robert Nettleton Field at the art school there, he developed his signature expressionist technique alongside Colin McCahon and Doris Lusk. Marrying fellow artist Edith Alexander, he settled into art and orchard work in the Nelson region until a young family precipitated the move to Greymouth and a more stable income.

His surviving correspondence from 1965 shows how family drew him back to Taranaki in that year:

"My father is 85 and anxious that I should go and see him for what he believes may be the last time," he writes. English-born John Woollaston lived for another decade, but the mid-sixties return to Taranaki enabled his son to establish two important leitmotives – Bayly's Hill and Mt Egmont – which he would make repeated and systematic use of in his painting for the next decade. Selling 325 pounds worth of work in his Barry Lett Gallery exhibition that year, he continued his exploration of the region until he reached a culmination point with the solo exhibition "Woollaston: A Taranaki Excursion" at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery in New Plymouth in 1977.

Linda Tyler

Auckland graduates among 'best brains'



From left are Pablo German, Paul Paterson, Lauren Lindsay, Kimberley Good (absent Michelle Menzies).

Five of the 12 prestigious William Georgetti Scholarships awarded for 2008 have gone to University of Auckland graduates.

The scholarships are awarded to encourage postgraduate study and research in a field important to the social, cultural and economic development of New Zealand. William Georgetti, who died in 1943 and the residue of whose estate funds the scholarships, wanted "the best brains

available" to benefit from them.

The board which awards the Georgetti Scholarships comprises the Governor-General, the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice, two people of academic distinction and the President of Federated Farmers or their nominees. Public Trust manages the scholarships and the NZ Vice-Chancellors' Committee administers them.

University of Auckland winners were:

- Pablo German, BTech – \$15,000 over three years for a PhD in molecular biology at Auckland. His field of study will be "Olfactory receptor activation in insects".
- Kimberley Good BA/BSc, PGDipCom, BSc(Hons) – \$30,000 over three years for a DCLinPsych in clinical psychology at Massey University, Auckland. Her field of study will be "Is the black dog really a dalmation? An investigation of whether different types of depression lead to different processes and outcomes in cognitive behaviour therapy".
- Lauren Lindsay, LLB(Hons)/BSc – \$45,000 for

one year for an LLM in comparative European and international law at the European University Institute, Florence. Her field of study will be "impact of biotechnology on human rights using EU experiences to develop/examine a possible legal approach in New Zealand".

- Michelle Menzies BA/BFA, BA(Hons) – \$30,000 over three years for a PhD in English literature at the University of Chicago. Her field of study will be "Medium beyond parts and wholes: reconceptualising a twentieth-century aesthetics".
- Paul Paterson, BA/LLB(Hons) – \$6,000 for one year for a LLM in public and administrative law at Harvard University. His field of study will be "The proper role of the courts in reviewing administrative action and ensuring that government agencies act lawfully without unduly interfering with their efficiency".

Six of the other Georgetti Scholarships went to graduates from Victoria University and one to a Canterbury graduate.

What's on

FRIDAY 29 AUGUST

Conference: Twenty years after The Cartwright Report: What have we learned?

8.30am-5pm Hyatt Regency. Key figures involved in the cervical cancer inquiry will speak at this conference marking the twentieth anniversary of the Cartwright Report. Host: Faculty of Law. To reserve a ticket email Jane Kilgour at k.j.kilgour@paradise.net.nz

SATURDAY 30 AUGUST

Courses and Careers Day

9am-3pm. The University hosts its annual open day for all secondary school pupils, mature students and anyone else interested in university study. Find out about academic programmes and student life at this day of talks, lectures, displays and interactive events. Visit www.coursesandcareers.auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

School of Biological Sciences seminar

Assoc-Prof Caitlin Gabor, Texas State University: *Evolutionary maintenance of a sexually parasitic mating complex of livebearing fish*. 1-2pm Mac1, Old Biology Bldg, 5 Symonds St. Queries to Mark Hauber, m.hauber@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

Teaching and learning workshop for academic staff

Ian Brailsford and Mark Jones: *Engaging students in the classroom: Getting students to take responsibility for their learning*. 1-2pm CAD Seminar Rm, 5th Floor, 76 Symonds St. Register to cadreception@auckland.ac.nz

School of Biological Sciences seminar

Esther Angert, Dept of Microbiology, Cornell University: *Fish tales: The unusual life and cellular biology of the world's largest bacteria*. 1-2pm Mac 1, Old Biology Bldg.

Bombshells

8pm, Musgrove Studio, 8 Alfred St. By Ali-Cat Productions. By Joanna Murray Smith. Until 13 September. Tickets can be booked at 308-2383.

WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar

Assoc-Prof Ghil'ad Zuckermann, University of Queensland: *Deifying Zionism and defying religion: Defining ideological secularisation of Hebrew terms within the Israeli language*.

12noon Rm 103, Level 1, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant. Queries to tb.tin@auckland.ac.nz

CCE/Oxfam NZ seminar

Duncan Green, Head of Research, Oxfam Great Britain: *From poverty to power: How active citizens and effective states can change the world*. 7-9pm Rm 029 ClockTower, 22 Princes St.

THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

Personal and professional development workshop

Emotional intelligence at work. 9am-1pm Rm 336, Level 3, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. Provides staff with an understanding of the components of emotional intelligence and how this impacts on their work performance. Bookings and queries to ext 89630 or sodu@auckland.ac.nz

Holy Communion

12.30-12.50pm Maclaurin Chapel, 18 Princes St. A weekly Holy Communion service will be held today led by the Maclaurin Chaplain.

Blackbird

8pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. By David Harrower. Presented by The Auckland Theatre Company. Until 27 September. Tickets can be booked at 308-2383.

TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

Centre for Asian Health Research and Evaluation, School of Population Health seminar

Grace X Ma, PhD, Professor of Public Health, Director, Center for Asian Health, College of Health Professions, Temple University, USA: *Community development approach for improving Asian health: What works and what does not*. 6-8pm The Lynfield Rm, Fickling Centre, 546 Mt Albert Rd, Three Kings.

Personal and professional development workshop

Effective business writing (part one). 9am-1pm Rm 336, Level 3, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. For staff who wish to improve their business writing skills. Bookings and queries to ext 89630 or sodu@auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

An introduction to university teaching and learning

9am-4.30pm Waipapa Marae. A three-day introduction designed to introduce early-career academics to key concepts and strategies for university teaching and learning. This is mandatory for all new-to-teaching academic staff. Please register to cadreception@auckland.ac.nz

Computer Science seminar

Prof Renee Miller, University of Toronto: *Efficient management of inconsistent and uncertain data*. 12noon Computer Science Seminar Rm 279, Bldg 303S.

Liggins Institute 2008 Seasons of Life lecture

Prof Peter Gluckman, Liggins Institute, UoA: *Why our world no longer fits our bodies*. 6pm OGGB3, Owen G Glenn Bldg, Business School, 12 Grafton Rd. View www.liggins.auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering year 4 research project "conference day"

9am-3.30pm Level 4, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Until 12 September.

Final-year students present seminars, representing 86 research projects, distributed over 13 categories.

An introduction to university teaching and learning

9.15am-4.30pm OGH. Continues Friday.

Griffins morning tea

10am-12noon Parentspace, 4 Alfred St. Come and meet other parents who share similar experiences of raising children whilst studying. Queries to spro@auckland.ac.nz

Holy Communion

12.30-12.50pm Maclaurin Chapel, 18 Princes St. A weekly Holy Communion service will be held today led by the Maclaurin Chaplain.

Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences, AUT, Dean's Invited Winter Lecture series

Prof Richard Bedford, Professor of Geography, and former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Waikato University: *Ensuring good settlement and migration outcomes: Lessons from the present and the past*. 4.15pm Rm AH 214, Level 2, Sport and Recreation Centre, AUT, Akoranga Campus. Queries to Bonnie Brannigan, phone 921-9999 ext 7775 or email bonnie.brannigan@aut.ac.nz

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Flatmate wanted: Mission Bay. \$175 pw. Two-bdrm townhouse to share with existing flatmate. Garden and courtyard at back. OSP. No pets or smokers. Prefer female - any age, tertiary student ok, vegetarian ok. Bedroom furnished with single bed, or bring your own. Close to cafes, buses, CBD and two blocks from beach! Contact Janet on (027) 528-1667.

Flatmate wanted: Mt Albert. Available now until Feb 2009. Suit professional or mature student, 30 yrs +, n/s, outgoing, clean and tidy, dble rm, bed available. Share with one other. Comfortable home, sunny deck, all mod cons. OSP. Close to motorway and St Lukes. \$135 pw + expts. Phone 815-2489 or (021) 760-066.

Furnished twin room available short-term (neg) in Ellerslie. Pleasant, quiet end flat, share with one other. 400m walk to bus stop on easy route to City or Tamaki Campuses. \$180/\$210 pw (one or two people) including utilities. Individual food/cooking. Email heather@cs.auckland.ac.nz

Immaculate unfurnished house in Trafalgar St, Onehunga, well situated for transport. Two-three bdrms, \$420 pw, available now for careful tenants. Phone (0274) 754-937 or 378-0806.

Parnell. Available one large fully-furnished bed/sitting room. Close to shops, bus, sea, University. Would suit mature, professional person. Phone 379-8334.

Pleasant and friendly flatmate wanted to share with two others - one professional and one mature student - in a new, light and sunny house in Waterview, just 12 minutes by car from the central city. Off-street parking. Quiet surroundings. \$120 pw + expenses. Phone ext 87383 or (021) 135-5306.

Room available in Grey Lynn villa with English-speaking family. Furnished or unfurnished, close to buses, shops, cafes

and parks. We are happy to provide English conversation sessions for a language student. Available short or long-term. Phone 376-8008 or email petalproductions@ww.co.nz
Room to rent/flatmate wanted. Double room with own bthrm; brand new in Meadowbank. Available for short-term/longer-term rent either furnished or unfurnished as required. Great location with bus stop outside; five minutes drive to Tamaki Campus, supermarket, train station. \$200 pw + expts. Contact Nicola on (021) 560-161.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Reliable, mature, well-travelled woman looking for a two-bdrm abode to rent. Wonderful tenant. Also interested in house-sitting. Please contact Jacqueline on (021) 232-3601 or email jackiehacking@hotmail.com

Three-bedroom house wanted to rent long-term. Willing to pay up to \$450 pw or a bit more for a really comfortable place. Four reliable adults and one baby with excellent references. Contact Hannah on 373-7599 ext 88669 or h.edwards@auckland.ac.nz

PROPERTY FOR SALE

House for sale, 12 Fontenoy St, Mt Albert - stunning original Californian bungalow, three-four bdrms, polished floors, 134 msq on 405 msq land area, newly painted, garden, suit academic couple or family. Gladstone Zone, near Unitec, in quiet side street. \$629,000 ono. Phone Andrew on (09) 849-7212 or (021) 054-8768.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Experienced academic copy-editor, proof-reader will check through your essays or thesis. Minimum rates charged @ \$100 per 1,000 words. Each job negotiated to suit your needs. Please email drjanmaureenwhite@gmail.com or phone 838-6025.

Sixth Auckland Grammar School art exhibition cocktail preview evening. Tickets now on sale for Friday 5 September, 6.30-9.30pm event in the Main Hall, Auckland Grammar School, Mountain Rd, Epsom. Price \$50 per person. Bookings are essential. Phone 623-5639 or email development@ags.school.nz

The Dentist's Chair - a comedy with bite. From the makers of Krishnan's Dairy. A deliciously dark, joyous celebration of dentistry as a metaphor for life. A brilliant ensemble cast, live band and stunning visual effects - this is a great night out. SKYCITY Theatre, September 10-27. \$22 to \$45. Book at Ticketek (09) 307-5000.

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).