

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 37 | Issue 18 | September 28 2007

Assistant director welcomed



Associate Professor Bing Zhou.

In any creative endeavour two minds are better than one.

Developing the Confucius Institute is a highly creative enterprise, says its director, Nora Yao (Asian Studies), which needs to respond to the needs and aspirations of educators and others in the community, and to be proactive in advancing understanding of Chinese language and culture in New Zealand.

She is therefore delighted to welcome the new assistant director of the institute, Associate Professor Bing Zhou, appointed from Fudan University in Shanghai. Hosted by The University of Auckland, the Confucius Institute, one of more than 100 worldwide, is run in partnership with Fudan.

Nora says that though they have some experiences in common, the differences between Bing's background and her own make him an ideal person to help broaden the perspectives of the institute and extend their collective views of what is possible.

Bing was born and grew up in Shanghai, completed his BA, MA and PhD in history at Fudan University, and then joined the staff there. Fudan is a highly prestigious university – third in the Chinese ranking of universities – with top students from all over China competing to gain a place.

Though Bing's academic specialisation in the historiography of the West has taken him on quite frequent journeys out of China, including a year conducting research in Holland, this is his first experience of living in an English-speaking country. And though accustomed to the vibrant city of Shanghai, he has found Auckland "very nice, not as quiet and rural as I expected". He has been surprised at the number of Chinese people in the University and in the community, and has been pleased at the interest in China shown by the New Zealanders he has met.

Bing will be joined later by his wife, Shan Hong, who works as a magazine journalist in China, and their five-year-old son, Zhou Zhiyu.

Bing sees the Confucius Institute in New Zealand as "quite special, partly because it is the only one" (most countries have several) and therefore deals with the full spectrum of schools and organisations throughout the country.

Already he has been impressed, at a prize-giving ceremony for a language competition, at the proficiency of some New Zealand children in Mandarin.

Bing is confident his connections in China will help enrich the links the institute is building between educators in the two countries.

Key events

Chatting with Bernadette

Hood fellow Philippe Antonell will be "In conversation" with Associate Professor Bernadette Luciano at the Gus Fisher Gallery at 1pm on 29 September. Philippe, a professional set photographer, will discuss his work with Bernadette. While in Auckland he has mounted a photographic exhibition in conjunction with the Cathay Pacific Italian Film Festival, featuring photos from a range of Italian and international films, including films in this year's film festival, and others previously shown in New Zealand. The exhibition will accompany the film festival as it travels around the country. It shows at the Gus Fisher Gallery until 6 October.

Ethnicity and human rights

The Sir Douglas Robb Lectures 2007 on "Ethnicity, human rights and democracy" start this coming week. Dr Yash Ghai, a renowned constitutional lawyer from Kenya who has published and advised extensively on human rights and ethnic conflicts, will present three lectures on 2, 4 and 8 October (7pm, B28). The individual lecture titles are "The emergence of ethnicity as a political force", "The challenge of ethnicity to human rights" and "Designing the state in multi-ethnic states". Full details are at www.auckland.ac.nz/robb

All the world's a network

Professor Ian Stewart, popular science writer on mathematical themes, will give a public lecture on 4 October, leading his audience through the emerging area of networks and their dynamic behaviour, as well as introducing them to "six degrees of separation", the Kevin Bacon game, and other fun things. A science writer, science fiction writer and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Warwick in England, Ian is the University of Auckland's first Seelye Fellow. His public lecture is on 4 October at 6pm in the Fisher and Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G. Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Road.

In this issue

- 2 | Universities' Travel Plan
- 3 | Film documents nuclear protest
- 6 | Three new books on Tonga

From the Vice-Chancellor

We are now approaching the conclusion of the very extended and difficult process leading to our first negotiated Profile/Investment Plan under the tertiary "reforms".

On 24 September, Council held a special meeting to consider the draft Profile which encapsulates the proposed Investment Plan, and Senate will give it a second and final consideration on 1 October. The final version of the Profile, incorporating comments from Senate, will go to the 15 October Council meeting for discussion and (if appropriate) approval before it is forwarded to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC).

The process has been made particularly difficult by the inability of Government to properly construct the framework for the reforms. Most notably, the legislative change required to permit the reforms has not yet passed through the House. Thus we are forced to work to "new rules" not yet in place, while being legally obliged to play by the "old rules". The Gazette notice issued by the TEC supposedly to overcome this problem was demonstrably inconsistent with the Act and had to be re-issued. Then we were issued with an Investment Brief that instructed the University on how it was to change under the reforms. After the statutory autonomy of universities was drawn to the attention of TEC, that Investment Brief too was withdrawn and reissued.

A key issue yet to be resolved is what levels of EFTS funding growth Cabinet will be willing to accommodate. This is important because, while we have been guaranteed at least the 31 December 2006 funding level for 2008, there has been EFTS growth during 2007 which must be accommodated (both directly and in terms of its effect on the pipeline). Furthermore, any new student-related initiatives, such as a strategic shift to a greater proportion of postgraduates or increases in enrolments in key undergraduate programmes to meet stakeholder demand, will come at an additional cost. Finally, we have advanced to the TEC as part of the Profile/Investment Plan a number of strategic initiatives that, if Government chose to invest in them, would allow us to respond more effectively to the Investment Brief. It will be interesting to see whether any of these is actually supported or whether the approved Investment Plan turns out to be merely a description of "business as usual".



Universities push sustainable travel

A ten-year strategy to give the 40,000 plus students and staff travelling in and out of central Auckland more choices has been officially launched.

In particular the Universities' Travel Plan encourages them to make their journeys to and from the city's "Learning Quarter" more sustainable.

Already many staff and students at the two universities walk, cycle and use passenger transport. The Plan, involving The University of Auckland, AUT University, the Auckland Regional Transport Authority, Auckland City Council and Transit New Zealand, aims to make sustainable transport increasingly convenient as against private vehicles.

Noting that University of Auckland staff and students are "already efficient users of transport in the city" Registrar Tim Greville said: "What we want to do is to encourage the university population to lead by example and continue to use sustainable transport options, reduce reliance on single occupancy cars, reduce Auckland's congestion problems and have a positive impact on the reduction of CO₂ emissions."

At the launch function on 11 September he said consensus on any issue, let alone transport and travel, was rare in Auckland. Creation of the plan showed that "co-operation can happen. What is special and exciting about the plan is that we are

leveraging off each other and jointly benefiting."

The closure of Alfred Street to all but buses and service vehicles had been "a wonderful success", noted Tim. The University looked forward to "doing our bit" to advance the plan.

Other speakers at the launch, who included Auckland Mayor Dick Hubbard and Auckland Regional Council chairman Mike Lee, spoke of the necessity to make transport more sustainable. Describing the plan as "a very important project to further ease traffic congestion", Mike Lee said it was an example of different organisations in Auckland "working well together for positive outcomes for the public good".

John Williams, AUT's General Manager, Services and Operations, said the plan was "only the beginning. Good intentions must be followed up by hard work."

In phase one of the plan (2007-2008) safety, walking and cycling in and around the Learning Quarter will be improved, information on travel options upgraded, and action taken to reduce the need to travel. Actions in Phase 2 (2008-2010) include a tertiary ticketing review, and making walking and cycling safer. Development of new rail facilities is among the actions set down for Phase 3 (2010 onwards).

There is more about the Universities' Travel Plan at www.arta.co.nz

Prizewinner chooses bicycle

The University of Auckland and AUT – the two universities involved in the Travel Plan – each ran a competition for students: the UPT Travel Wise competition.

The challenge for competitors was to create a design for a campaign that would encourage more students and staff to travel to the universities in a way that was gentler on the environment than solo travel in a car.

Initially, says one of the judges, Lesley Stone – Environmental Coordinator for The University of Auckland – they were seeking one winner from each of the institutions. However the judges, finding merit in a number of entries, decided to split the prize among four.

The winning students were asked to participate in a workshop to refine their ideas. The entries will be combined to develop a single campaign to be implemented both at The University of Auckland and at AUT.

University of Auckland winner, Lucy Hawcroft, a student in Psychology, consolidated her environmentally-friendly credentials by choosing a bicycle as her prize.



University Registrar Tim Greville, with Lucy Hawcroft and her environmentally-friendly prize.

Timely movie documents dissent

With nuclear issues prominent again on the world agenda, the timing is ideal for the release of a new film documenting the history of nuclear protest in New Zealand.



The protests were colourful and entertaining. Photo Sil Hanly.

The filmmaker is renowned New Zealand artist Claudia Pond Eyley, a drawing lecturer in the School of Architecture and Planning in the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries.

The world premiere of her 50-minute film *No Nukes is Good Nukes!* will take place on 30 September at the Academy Cinema in Auckland at 5.10pm. It is one of 92 movies showing in the DOCNZ 2007 Documentary Film Festival, running in Auckland from 27 September to 10 October.

The audience will have the chance to speak with Claudia Pond-Eyley, who will be present for a question and answer session. The movie will screen again on 9 October at 3.10pm at the Academy Cinema, and will also be showing in Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

No Nukes is Good Nukes! tells of the grassroots nuclear-free movement in New Zealand with historical references to the anti-nuclear legislation, as well as to the opposition to French nuclear testing at Mururoa, the movement for a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific (NFIP), and to ANZUS.

Intentions were serious in the anti-nuclear debates, but the protests were colourful, lively and entertaining – with street theatre, music, and the arts all working towards raising New Zealanders' awareness of the issue.

Claudia lets the eyewitnesses tell the story of the anti-nuclear movement, which she was very much involved with herself. She was a founding member of Visual Artists Against Nuclear Arms, worked on

the mural on the corner of Ponsonby and Karangahape Roads, and made banners for the peace flotillas which sailed to Mururoa Atoll to protest against the French testing of nuclear weapons in 1995.

Claudia is the author of a book called *Protest at Mururoa*, published by Tandem Press, and has made a previous film entitled *Departure and Return: Final Journey of the Rainbow Warrior*.

Films in DOCNZ 2007 will be screening at the Academy Cinema and SkyCity Queen Street. Alex Lee, festival director, is a masters graduate in Creative and Performing Arts at the University and teaches part-time in Film, Television and Media Studies.



Claudia Pond-Eyley.

Ushering in the Spring

Some 2500 students received their qualifications at Spring Graduation this week.

The 2428 graduates received a total of 2636 qualifications at five ceremonies held on 25 and 27 September.

The Faculty of Business and Economics had the

most graduates, with 717 degrees and diplomas conferred, followed by Science (553), Arts (509) and Education (382).

There were 157 conferments in Medical and Health Sciences, 125 in Engineering, 92 in Law, 84 in Creative Arts and Industries and 17 in Theology.

... in brief

Women in Leadership Programme 2008

The Women in Leadership Programme aims to provide opportunities for women to develop their leadership skills. The objectives are to increase the number of women in senior positions, enhance recruitment and retention of women in non-traditional areas and foster training, mentoring and career development for academic and general staff women. In 2006 the programme received the EEO Trust Manaaki Tangata Innovation award.

The core programme consists of an off-campus overnight introductory retreat in February, mentoring by a senior academic or general staff person and a full-day workshop in June. A supplementary workshop programme designed around the identified development goals of participants is offered throughout the year.

All interested women are invited to apply but priority will be given to general staff women at Levels 4-7 and academic women who are considering applying for promotion in the next two years. These are likely to be at Lecturer 6-7, Senior Lecturer 4-5 or Senior Tutor 3-4 and 6-7.

Further information and the application form can be found on the website: www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/for/staff/admin_services/training/staff-development-opportunities/staff-development-opportunities_home.cfm or by contacting the Programme Manager, Mary Ann Crick, ext 86379 or ma.crick@auckland.ac.nz

The closing date for applications is 31 October.

Ralph and Eve Seelye Charitable Trust Fund

The Ralph and Eve Seelye Charitable Trust Fund will provide annually one or more Visiting Fellowships/Lectureships across all faculties. These aim to attract the best academic talent to Auckland, by providing Visiting Fellowships/Lectureships for public lectures and seminars by outstanding overseas and local academics and leading international authorities.

Each fellowship will comprise a grant which must be used to cover accommodation, general and travel expenses. Those nominating or applying will be required to present a provisional budget with their nomination/application, and all expenditure should be accounted for in the report submitted on completion of the fellowship.

All applications for Visiting Fellowship/Lectureships, supported by The Ralph and Eve Seelye Charitable Trust, should be submitted on the forms available from the Secretary to the Ralph and Eve Seelye Charitable Trust Fund, University House, 19A Princes Street, Auckland. Applications will close 15 October.

Contact Pramilla Andrew on pc.andrew@auckland.ac.nz or ext. 88113.

Network supports international students

The first meeting of the International Student Support Network, held on 15 August in iSPACE, brought together 27 people from across the University.

These represented the faculties, the counselling service, the chaplaincy, accommodation, the Careers Centre, the English Language Academy and the Student Learning Centre. Auckland International introduced the International Student Support Team and explained the role of the International Student Advisors.

Those attending contributed ideas and comments about international student issues in their areas. This group will meet monthly.

Visas and career planning

The Auckland International and staff from the New Zealand Immigration Service ran a two-hour immigration and career seminar on 4 September for final-year international students. Among topics covered were graduate job search visas, permanent residency and career planning.

Three brothers

With the support of the Vice-Chancellor, the International Relations Team of Auckland International is developing a trilateral partnership programme between The University of Auckland, Tsinghua University in Beijing and Qinghai University in the western province of Qinghai. The programme, personally endorsed by the Chinese Minister of Higher Education, Mr Zhou Ji, is engaging with emerging universities beyond the coastal provinces of China for the long-term development of academic links and networks across China. This is the first of what is intended to be a series of trilateral relationships.

Māori language efforts rewarded

The Department of Paediatrics reached the finals of the Māori Language Week awards for their bilingual Youth 2007 survey. The Youth 2007 project was one of three finalists in the new Health category of the awards, and was recognised for its work in translating the Youth 2007 survey, including all written and audio materials, into Te Reo Māori. Māori Language Week Awards recognise and celebrate creative efforts to promote Māori language. Forty two entries made the final list and the winners were announced at an awards ceremony.

A sage gift

The Confucius Institute received a gift last month that was pleasingly in accord with the institute's image and aspirations, as well as being a welcome expression of support from the Chinese business community.



Mr Jerin Yan (left) and Associate Professor Chris Tremewan with the painting of Confucius.

The gift was a fine painting on rice paper on a scroll of silk, a copy of an ancient painting of Confucius, the world-renowned Chinese philosopher, political figure and educator who lived from 551 to 479 BC.

The painting was presented by Mr Jun Ren Yan, CEO, New Zealand Chinese Media, who travels frequently between China and New Zealand.

Mr Yan said that after discovering with pleasure that the Confucius Institute had been opened by Prime Minister Helen Clark, he decided that he would also like to show his support for the institute. He commissioned a well-known artist (who is also a friend) to make a fine copy of the original painting,

which hangs in the Confucius residence in the city of Qufu in Shandong Province.

Mr Yan presented the painting on 7 September to Nora Yao, Director of the Confucius Institute, at a small celebration attended also by Assistant Director, Associate Professor Bing Zhou, newly arrived from Fudan University in China, and Associate Professor Chris Tremewan, Pro Vice Chancellor (International). Accompanying Mr Yan was his associate, Mr Jim Hue.

Nora said it is still being decided where the painting will hang: "It is a very fine example of Chinese traditional work and it is important that it be protected as well as displayed."

\$1.4 million for international health research

Four research teams at The University of Auckland have received \$1.4 million funding for international collaborations in health research through the International Investment Opportunities Fund (IIOF), coordinated by the Health Research Council of New Zealand.

The four research projects are investigating lung disease, osteoporosis, cataract and neurodegenerative disease.

Associate Professor Peter Black (Pharmacology) and his team will work with Professor Chun-Xue Bai of Fudan University, Shanghai, to compare environmental factors in New Zealand and China that may lead to development of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in non-smokers.

Professor Jillian Cornish and Professor Ian Reid (Medicine), with Dr Dorit Naot, will work with

Oxford University researchers to study bone. Using Oxford's 3D scaffold cultures, the Auckland team will assess potential therapies for osteoporosis.

Associate Professor Paul Donaldson and Dr Julie Lim (Physiology) will collaborate with researchers from the Medical University of South Carolina and the University of Sydney to look at the mechanisms of age-related nuclear cataract (ARN), to further research novel therapies to reduce ARN cataract.

Dr Johanna Montgomery (Physiology) and Dr Bronwen Connor (Pharmacology) will collaborate with a researcher at the University of Chicago to investigate the development of brain cells. The team will study how new neurons integrate into the adult brain, with the hope of developing future therapies for neurodegenerative disorders.

Lecture series of global proportions

The United Nations Association of New Zealand will team up with the Centre for Continuing Education to present three lectures examining what are arguably the most important issues of the times: the state of our people, our planet and world peace.



Seeing the world as a whole.

Featuring some of the leading thinkers from the University and around the country, "The state of the world" lectures will provide a global insight into sustainable development, poverty, conflict, human rights, and peace and cooperation. Each lecture will conclude with questions and discussion.

In "The state of our planet" on 3 October, Professor of Law and Director of the New Zealand

Not to be missed

A concert to be given by staff and student performers from the School of Music has the familiar title of *Eroica*, taken from Beethoven's famous symphony. The concert, to take place at 2pm on 7 October at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell, will raise funds for World Vision.

Performers include Glenese Blake (soprano), Elizabeth Holowell (violin), Associate Professor Karen Grylls (conductor), Professor Uwe Grodd (conductor), The University of Auckland Chamber Choir and The University of Auckland Orchestra.

From the subtle *a cappella* introduction to the powerful *Eroica* symphony, this promises to be an unmissable evening, says Russell Finnemore, Concerts Secretary in the School of Music.

Members elected unopposed



Lyn Stevens.



Dan Bidois.

Two members have been elected un-opposed to serve on the University Council.

Justice Lynton (Lyn) Stevens (BA/LLB (Hons)

Centre for Environmental Law Klaus Bosselmann will join engineer David Kettle to discuss the impact of increasing demands for food, fresh water and natural resources on ecosystems worldwide.

"The state of our people" lecture on 10 October will address issues of poverty and initiatives to reduce it. Dr Susan St John (Economics), Co-Director of the Retirement Policy and Research Centre and advisor to the Child Poverty Action Group, will be joined by Barry Coates, Executive Director of Oxfam New Zealand.

"The state of peace" lecture on 17 October will address such questions as how the world can sustain a state of peace and co-operation, and what we can expect from America, China and India. The lecture will be co-led by Treasa Dunworth (Law) and former NZ diplomat and UN Ambassador Terence O'Brien.

"The state of the world" lectures will be held at the City Campus. For more information call 0800 UNICONTED (0800 864 266) or visit www.cce.auckland.ac.nz

The programme includes *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen* Praetorius/Jan Sandström; Laudate Dominum from *Solemn Vespers K339* Mozart; *Vado, ma dove? Concert Aria K 583* Mozart; *Violin Concerto No 3 in G Major K216* Mozart; and *Symphony No 3 "Eroica" Op55* Beethoven.

Entry is by donation. For more information see concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz



Beethoven.

was re-elected to serve a third consecutive four-year term.

A former partner at Russell McVeagh Barristers and Solicitors, Lyn was a Queen's Counsel from 1997-2006 and is now a High Court Judge.

Dan Bidois, President of the Auckland University Students' Association (AUSA) for 2006, has been elected to the Council unopposed.

Dan (BA/BCom Hons) is a business analyst for Deloitte Consulting and says he is committed to being part of the debate to ensure high investment in tertiary institutions in New Zealand.

Alumni have three representatives on the University Council (the other is Kate Sutton whose term ends in 2009). The other 15 council members are a mixture of lay, staff and student members variously appointed, elected and *ex officio*.

Viewpoint

A good death?

The issue of euthanasia is once again in the public eye, in the case of a man charged with murder after he gave his dying mother a fatal dose of morphine.

As this case illustrates, everyone wants a "good death" (the literal meaning of euthanasia) for themselves and their loved ones. However, we cannot escape the reality that however individual people may regard the practice, "euthanasia" is mercy killing. Essentially, it is the act of intentionally killing, by an act or omission, a person whose life is considered not worth living. This emphasis on killing, although objected to by the proponents of euthanasia, is unavoidable.

The legal character of the act is not altered by the fact that the act of killing may be driven by a compassionate motive. The intentional killing of one person by another, in the absence of a recognised statutory exception or common law defence, is necessarily murder. This reality cannot be disguised by the fact that the intended victim of the merciful act seeks the release of death. No person can consent to the infliction of death on himself or herself.

Of course, euthanasia evokes strong emotions on both sides of the debate, but in the final analysis the position of those opposed to the practice must be favoured. The principal reason is that the law cannot be of two minds. It is impossible to allow for the practice of euthanasia and maintain a coherent theory around intentional killing, whether expressed as murder or manslaughter. The law must, above all, preserve its ability to satisfy its social role of public protection, including those vulnerable to self-deprecation on account of long term illness and suffering. The legal authorisation of euthanasia would be inimical to that purpose, because the law would be sending contradictory messages. It cannot condemn intentional homicide, on the one hand, and permit the selective killing of individuals, albeit from motives of compassion, on the other.

If euthanasia were ever to be legalised in this country it would lead ultimately to the de-stigmatisation of homicide and greater public pressure to allow the selective killing of other vulnerable groups of people whose lives are considered to be not worth living. In a civilized society that cannot be allowed to happen.

Professor Warren Brookbanks (Law)

Staff survey

Four presentations will be held for staff to present the results of the staff survey. These will take place at the following times and venues. Grafton Campus: Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Cole Lecture Theatre, 2 October, 12noon-1pm. City Campus: Conference Centre, 5 October, 1-2pm. Epsom Campus: Lecture Theatre J2, 8 October, 12noon-1pm (to be linked to Tai Tokerau via videoconference). Tamaki Campus: Building 721,201, 9 October, 11.30am-12.30pm

Three new books on Tonga

Three new books – all authored or co-authored by Dr 'Okusitino Māhina from the Department of Anthropology – were launched in Tonga at an Education Centre named for 'Okusitino in recognition of his services to the community.

The three books, all on aspects of Tongan society, history and culture, were launched in the village of Tefisi-Nga'akau on the island of Vava'u on 1 September.

The original essays in the books are critically examined in the philosophical context of 'Okusitino's tā-vā, time-space theory of reality which he is currently developing with seven of his

colleagues. The cover designs – created by renowned Tongan artists Sēmisi Paula Manuēsina Tōnata Potauaine, Filipe Tohi and Uili Lousi – are based on highly elaborate and complex geometric shapes derived from customary Tongan *tufunga lalava* material art.

The three books were funded by The University of Auckland and the Vava'u Academy.



'Okusitino Māhina speaks at the launch.



Faiva ta'anga: Maau filifili 'a 'Okusitino Māhina

This new book (which translates as *Art of poetry: Selected poems by 'Okusitino Māhina*) is in Tongan.

The foreword, introduction and conclusion were written by members of the Vava'u Academy. The book comprises a selection of 'Okusitino's poems written since the early 1970s when he was a student at 'Atenisi University in Tonga.

The book is divided into nine sections, representing the nine poetic genres in which he produces his poetry. They range from nature, historical and scenery poetry through love, dance and political poetry to mourning, social praise and advertising poetry.

Some of the poems that have been translated into English and Māori are included in the appendices. The collection is accompanied by an original essay in which 'Okusitino critiques the nature of Tongan poetry, making important findings relating to such things as *heliaki*, Tongan epiphoric and metaphoric devices for the qualitative and associative exchange of ideas, images and objects in poetry.

Tufunga lalava artist Filipe Tohi created the beautiful cover design, *haulea*, for the book, with the *veimau kupesi* (or shapes) as a background. It involves a translation of one of the shorter poems into the Tongan *lalava* language, which Filipe discovered to have been secretly but cleverly encoded into the geometric designs.



Veimau

Co-authored by 'Okusitino, with five others, this book marked the official opening of the Tūtoatasi Study Hall and the formal establishment of the Vava'u Academy for Critical Inquiry and Applied Research, Tāpinga'amaama Campus, located in the Dr 'Okusitino Māhina Education Centre.

These form part of the activities of the Tefisi-Nga'akau Village Education and Development Trust legally incorporated in 2003, with the New Zealand branch chaired by Dr Māhina.

All the authors are members of the academy, which focuses on research and publication in Tongan and English.

The other authors are postgraduate students Sēmisi Paula Manuēsina Tōnata Potauaine (Architecture), Mele Ha'amoā Māhina-'Alatini (Classics and Ancient History), and 'Aisea Nau Matthew Māhina (Philosophy), Manuēsina 'Ofakihautolo Māhina who is on the staff of Pacific Studies, and Kolokesa Uafā Māhina-Tu'ai from Te Papa Museum, Tongarewa.

The book includes poems by members of the academy, with accompanying literary analyses. The highlight is an essay by 'Okusitino on philosophical, aesthetic and intellectual aspects of customary Tongan theories of education, *talanoa* (literally talking-critically-yet-harmoniously) and mind.

The cover design is based on an enlarged *veimau*, the abstract dimension of water.



'Aati 'o e Lea Tonga Heliaki: Tufunga mo e Faiva Lea Heliaki

This book (translated *Art of Proverbs: Material and Performance Arts of Proverbs*) by Dr 'Okusitino Māhina (Anthropology) and Kolokesa Uafā Māhina-Tu'ai (Te Papa Museum Tongarewa) records, all in the vernacular, some 1695 of the most beautiful Tongan proverbs, *lea heliaki*.

These reflect on the breadth and depth of the Tongan conceptual and functional sense of creativity, originality and objectivity in connection with language.

Unlike 'Okusitino's first book of proverbs, which featured some 600 proverbs that were more old than new, this book presents more contemporary *lea heliaki* than customary ones, confirming the fact that, like all things in nature, mind and society, language changes ceaselessly.

In their joint essay, the authors make some critical observations of the nature of Tongan proverbs which are considered an art form and can be regarded as one-line, one-verse poems.

They also discover that, like the Tongan arts of myths and legends, Tongan proverbs can be classified aesthetically either as a form of comedy, *faiva fakaoli*, or a type of tragedy, *faiva fakamamahi*, or a mixture of both, thereby functioning as instruments for moral instruction.

In 1973, abstract painter Geoff Thornley was reading the works of an eighth-century Chinese poet who retreated from the world to live at one with nature, writing his poems on the bamboo, rocks and boulders of the mountain where he made his home. Known as Cold Mountain or Han Shan, his poetry drew on Buddhist and Taoist themes, remarking on life's short and transient nature, and the necessity of escape through some sort of transcendence. For example:

*Spring water in the green creek is clear
Moonlight on Cold Mountain is white
Silent knowledge – the spirit is enlightened of itself
Contemplate the void: this world exceeds stillness.*

Han Shan's straightforward verse contains a limited number of characters in each line, and contrasts with the clever intricacies of Tang Dynasty poetry. Geoff Thornley's quiet abstraction is its parallel in painting, and uses a limited range of colours and forms to distinguish itself from the context of American gestural expressionism and minimalism.

Thornley produced a series of four paintings inspired by Han Shan. He inscribed the surface of one work with the text "Long, long the way to the cold mountain" in reference to both the Chinese poet and the difficulty of his own painter's journey towards simplicity.

Each painting in this series is rectangular, featuring an oval sitting upright which the artist describes as "the expanding moonlight". Using geometric forms such as this one, or circles, squares and rectangles poised in equilibrium, Thornley achieved a sense of highly compressed space. Planes, vertical alignments, and edges are emphasised, and these soon segued into the series of gridded white *Albus* paintings in the later 1970s.

Disliking the linoleum-like finish of most oil painting on canvas, Thornley has evolved a technique of mixing his own colours, sponging and brushing them onto a gesso ground on heavy



Geoff Thornley, *Oval Number Two*, 1973, mixed media on paper, 705mm x 725mm.

Steinbach paper, so that the surface is stained and saturated with pigment.

The medium and the support become one. Instead of the physicality of traditional oil painting where the effect is all fleshy substance, the surface becomes a palimpsest, where the changes in texture reveal the direction and speed of the paint application – "the nature of the stroking" as the artist refers to it.

In contrast to the illusionary effects and painterly pools of light in this work, the Gus Fisher Gallery has on exhibition 19 works from Geoff Thornley's later *Constructions* series where the supports are shaped and arranged into concrete physical forms. The exhibition continues until 6 October.

Linda Tyler

Exuberant SOUNZ

Congratulations to School of Music senior lecturer Eve de Castro-Robinson, who has won the 2007 Sounz Contemporary Award for the best new work of the last 12 months by a New Zealand composer.



Eve de Castro Robinson. Photo Stephen Gibbs.

In her composition *These Arms to Hold You*, Eve unites a children's choir and New Zealand's national orchestra and sets to music a poem by Bill Manhire. The piece, commissioned by the Royal New Zealand Plunket Society, was featured as part of its centenary celebrations earlier this year. It was premiered in the NZSO's annual Made in New Zealand concert conducted by Hamish McKeich.

In June the NZSO and choir took the work on a five-city national tour with critics and commentators universally praising its zest, exuberance and energetic sense of fun – an assessment shared by the four-person jury convened by SOUNZ to judge the 28 submissions.

"This work had moments of magic," they commented. "The writing is fresh, lively and full of the uninhibited joy of youth while also being adventurous and imaginative."

"It was a thrill to receive recognition from the music industry and to be a finalist alongside such respected composer colleagues as Ross Harris and

Chris Blake," says Eve, who was the inaugural winner of the SOUNZ Award in 1998 and a finalist in 2006.

"The commission was a considerable musical challenge, since I had to incorporate children's voices and symphony orchestra in a birthday celebration of Plunket – but Bill Manhire's deceptively simple text, by turns wistful and zany, provided a real inspiration."

"Eve is one of New Zealand's leading composers and this award is a tribute to the esteem in which she is held by her peers and a reflection of the calibre of teaching within the School," says Head of the School of Music, Professor Robert Constable.

The SOUNZ Contemporary Award is a collaborative project of both SOUNZ, the Centre for New Zealand Music and APRA, the Australasian Performing Right Association. The award recognises creativity and inspiration in composition by a New Zealander, and consists of a \$3000 prize and a trophy.

What's on

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Philippe Antonello: Cinema! 1994/2007

Exhibition runs until 6 October. Opening 5.30pm Gus Fisher Gallery, Shortland St. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz View www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

In conversation

Photographer Philippe Antonello, here as UoA Hood Fellow, discusses his work in the cinema world with Assoc-Prof, Bernadette Luciano, School of European Languages and Literature. 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, Shortland St.

SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

Exhibition opening

Dr Jill Smith, Principal Lecturer, School for Visual and Creative Arts, Faculty of Education, UoA: *Talking my way through culture*. 3-5pm Blue Orange Gallery, 29 George Street, Takau, South Auckland. Runs until 21 October.

NZTrio concert

NZTrio will perform a fiery repertoire featuring two short and spicy works from NZ composers Jack Body and Ross Harris. They will be followed with lashings of French passion courtesy of Chausson, and Spanish exoticism by Turina. The evening will culminate with a jazzy piece by American composer Paul Schoenfeld. 7pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. \$30/\$20/\$10. Bookings phone 0800 111-999. Visit www.nztrio.com

MONDAY 1 OCTOBER

Dance Studies research seminars

Scopic bodies, 6pm Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre.
1) Vera Bullen, Dance Studies, UoA: *Developing a language for performance analysis*.
2) Marianne Schultz, History, UoA: *Moving with the times*.

School of Architecture and Planning public lecture

Nigel McKenna, Melview Developments Ltd: *Auckland: Fast forward*. 6.30pm Rm 1.439, School of Engineering. Queries to ext 88134.

TUESDAY 2 OCTOBER

Aegrotats and compassionates workshop

Information for staff outlining the processes and application of regulations when advising students with regard to aegrotats and/or compassionate consideration. 9.30-10.30am Rm 730.211, Tamaki Campus. Bookings and queries to ext 85070 or je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz

Department of Molecular Medicine and Pathology seminar

Dr Paul Dunn, NZ Blood Service: *Tissue typing, transplantation and disease*. 1-2pm Seminar Rm 4336, Bldg 504. Queries to Chris Hall, phone ext 82910.
First Sir Douglas Robb Lecture
Dr Yash Ghai, constitutional lawyer, Kenya: *Ethnicity, human rights and democracy: The emergence of ethnicity as a political force*. 7pm Lecture Theatre B28, Library Basement, 5 Alfred St.

WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER

Computer Science seminar

Assoc-Prof Paul Bonnington: *Engaging with computational resources on the Australasian GRID: BeSTGRID*. 12noon Computer Science Seminar Rm 279.

Inaugural lecture

Prof Roger Davies, Physics: *The legacies of Fourier and Arrhenius: Greenhouse effect and global warming*. 1-2pm Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER

Dept of Anthropology seminar

Franziska Herbst, University of Heidelberg, Germany: *There is only darkness: Perception of illness among the Giri, Lower Ramu, Papua New Guinea*. 4pm HSB 704. Queries to Pam Knight, ext 89375 or p.knight@auckland.ac.nz

Second Sir Douglas Robb Lecture

Dr Yash Ghai, constitutional lawyer, Kenya: *Ethnicity, human rights and democracy: The challenge of ethnicity to human rights*. 7pm Lecture Theatre B28, Library Basement, 5 Alfred St.

Faculty of Science public lecture

Prof Ian Stewart, Seelye Fellow: *All the world's a network*. 7pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Business School.

Inaugural lecture

Prof Brad Jackson, Management and International Business: *Leadership in Aotearoa NZ: Ideals, norms and opportunities*. 7-8pm Lecture Theatre 073, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, Grafton Rd.

SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER

In context

Linda Tyler, Director, Centre for NZ Art Research and Discovery presents a slide talk on Geoff Thornley's work. 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, Shortland St.

MONDAY 8 OCTOBER

Dance Research Forum, Tempo Dance Festival

Dr Carol Brown, Dr Emilyn Claid, Dr Ralph Buck, Michael Parmenter, and Alys Longley interrogate issues and ideas that inform current international choreographic research and dance practices. NICAL. Queries to Mark Harvey, m.harvey@auckland.ac.nz

School of Architecture and Planning public lecture

Ken McBryde, Innovarchi: *Auckland: Fast forward*. 6.30pm Rm 1.439, School of Engineering. Queries to ext 88134.

Final Sir Douglas Robb Lecture

Dr Yash Ghai, constitutional lawyer, Kenya: *Ethnicity, human rights and democracy: Designing the state in multi-ethnic states*. 7pm Lecture Theatre B28, Library Basement, 5 Alfred St.

TUESDAY 9 OCTOBER

Aegrotats and compassionates workshop

Information for staff outlining the processes and application of regulations when advising students with regard to aegrotats and/or compassionate consideration. 9.30-10.30am FGW Suite, OGH, City Campus. Bookings and queries to ext 85070 or je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Robert O'Callahan, Mozilla Corporation: *Small, hot and parallel: The future of web browsing (and*

computing). 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, Bioengineering Institute, Address UniServices House.

WEDNESDAY 10 OCTOBER

Oticon Foundation Hearing

Education Centre research seminar
Prof Billy Martin, Oregon Health and Science University, USA: *A tinnitus radical or radical research in tinnitus?* 5-6.30pm Rm 730.289, School of Population Health, Tamaki Campus. Queries to audiology@auckland.ac.nz
Auckland Museum and Institute Darwin series lecture
Professor Ian Stewart, FRS, Mathematics Institute, University of Warwick, UK: *The Mathematics of evolution*. 7.30pm Auditorium, Auckland Museum. \$10/\$5. Phone 306-7048 or email bookings@aucklandmuseum.com

THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER

Griffins coffee morning

For students with children. 9am-12noon Parent Space, 4 Alfred St. Queries to spro@auckland.ac.nz

Inaugural lecture

Prof Hugh Whittaker, Management and International Business: *What comes after entrepreneurship?* 7-8pm Lecture Theatre 051, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, Grafton Rd.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Coastal cottage in Onetangi, Waiheke Island This is a lovely summer house above Onetangi Beach which was built in 1923, and recently renovated. Has two dble bdms, a sunporch and sleepout, open fire. \$390 pw longterm, or negotiable for shorter. Please phone 445-6153 or (021) 267-6835.

Devonport house, fully-furnished, for approximately five weeks. Two bdrm, two lounges, study. Walk to Cheltenham beach, ferry, shops. Suit mature university visitor or for summer holiday. N/s. Available 16 Dec to 24 Jan. \$550 pw includes local calls, water, gas, electric and linen. References required. Email r.raine@auckland.ac.nz or hamilton_robbyn@yahoo.co.nz
Herne Bay, bedsit, single occupant, n/s, close to beaches, shops and bus route \$250 pw + power. Phone 378-1965 (ah).

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Creative female. Hi. I'm a film maker developing a feature film, with the intention of investing my current rent outgoings into my project. If you are looking for a responsible, honest person to housesit and take care of your pets, please contact Karyn (021) 498 463.

Visiting scientist on sabbatical from Seattle USA looking for house for family of five mid January through June 2008. Responsible n/s family would consider either rental or house swap. West Auckland area a plus, as near to family. Email Deborah at deborahdonnell@comcast.net

SITUATIONS VACANT

Senior Marketing Co-ordinator, English Language Academy. This position supports the ELA achieve

its recruitment objectives for academic students. Experience in marketing, liaison and communications is required. Collaboration with Auckland International, and international agents is central to the role. Full-time position. Some travel. Closing date 19 Oct 2007 to jobs@uniservices.auckland.ac.nz For information phone Bryan Read, ELA on (09) 919-7695 or email b.read@auckland.ac.nz

MISCELLANEOUS

A weekend escape at Karekare Treetops Lodge. Bed and breakfast in the Waitakere Ranges, only 45 mins from the University. Enjoy scenic walking in the wild beauty of the West Coast or relax indoors by the fire. Stunning location on ridge, with panoramic view to beach. Optional gourmet dinners. Perfect for celebrations - birthdays, anniversaries, graduation - visitors to Auckland. See www.karekaretreetopslodge.co.nz or phone Maria on (09) 812-9015.

Applying for permanent residency? Avoid delays and problems. Keep your application on track with an easy-to-follow action plan tailored to your situation. For a free no-obligation quote contact Glenys at GVL Faculty Migration & Settlement. Email glenys@gvl.co.nz Ph (027) 476-8771 or view www.gvl.co.nz
Editing and proofreading. Editwrite offers efficient, competitive and professional online text editing for staff and students. Theses, dissertations, academic treatises, monographs, reports, etc can all be expertly edited. We will review spelling, punctuation, grammar and syntax to turn your text into fluent, clear, literate prose. For more details, visit www.editwrite.co.nz

Fo Guang Shan temple grand opening. Come and visit a new beautiful temple at Corner of Stancombe and Chapel Rds, East Tamaki. There is a Tea House which serves healthy vegetarian foods. Fo Guang Shan North Island will be holding their grand opening ceremony on the 2nd October 2007. This will be an important event of culture and religion in NZ and also a very rare opportunity to see Venerable Master Hsing Yun, original founder of the Fo Guang Shan Monastery, one of the world's most renowned contemporary religious leaders. For details please visit the website at www.fgs.org.nz
International travel insurance. The AUS recommends that members use Uni-Care insurance for sabbatical, other study and very long-term travel overseas. Uni-Care offers 15% off standard rates for travel out of NZ to all university staff, full-time tertiary students and their families. Uniquely, we can maintain cover for greatly extended periods overseas. Uni-Care International Insurance Service, PO Box 32-167, Devonport, ph (09) 446-1166, fax (09) 445-8832, email insure@uni-care.org, website www.uni-care.org (secure online application facility).
Painting. High quality house painting. Also hand painting of boats. Refs available. Phone me for a quote on your painting requirements. Contact Rick on (09) 638-4252 or (021) 953-901 or email rick@gaffrig.co.nz Website www.gaffrig.co.nz

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).