

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

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A graduation first for one of nine

Dr Kepa Morgan, Associate Dean Māori at the Faculty of Engineering, became the first Māori to be awarded a PhD in Civil Engineering from The University of Auckland at the Spring Graduation ceremony.

His thesis topic was the "Mauri model", a holistic sustainability assessment tool that takes account of cultural and spiritual values. This tool differs from current approaches to sustainability which are typically dominated by economic rationalism.

Kepa completed his degree while working full-time as Associate Dean Māori for the Faculty of Engineering and as a senior lecturer in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. He also holds directorships at Meridian Energy Limited and the Engineering Associates Registration Board.

His research was motivated by the significant impact of engineering decision-making on ecosystems, and the inability of economic modelling to deliver sustainability. He has been invited to speak on his work at international conferences and he hopes to publish a book on it next year.

Kepa is Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Kahungunu and Ngai Tahu; and is a Chartered Professional Engineer.

The University's 2008 Spring Graduation was held on 23 and 25 September. A total of 474 students graduated, including 117 from the Engineering.

Kepa was one of nine staff to receive a doctorate in the Spring Graduation. Others will be featured in this issue of *University News*, and the next.



Dr Kepa Morgan at the Town Hall for Graduation.

Key events

Obama for president

Presented by the Department of Political Studies, this lecture by Professor Frank Fischer will examine the current electoral campaign for the presidency of the United States. The event will take place on 13 October at 6.30pm in Theatre 401, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds Street.

Keith Sinclair Lecture

Every year, thousands of New Zealanders make their way to Gallipoli and walk the battlefields of the Great War. What draws them there and do they walk in the footsteps of earlier generations of pilgrims? This lecture by Professor Bruce Scate from Monash University will explore the memory of World War One across four generations of Gallipoli travellers. Presented by the Department of History, it will take place on Thursday 16 October in the Business School Theatre OGB4, to be followed by refreshments.

Wild globalisation

The Centre for Development Studies will hold a guest seminar led by Dr Julie Cupples on "Wild globalisation, Hurricane Felix, and the gendered economies of the Miskito Keys". This will take place at 1-2pm on Thursday 16 October at HSB 901, 10 Symonds Street. Queries to Cornelia Bluefeld on c.bluefeld@auckland.ac.nz

Challenge to lifestyles

Drastic changes in how we produce and consume are required in order to save the environment from further catastrophic harm. Professor Klaus Bosselmann from the Law School will deliver this blunt warning in his inaugural professorial lecture on 21 October, addressing the topic "Losing the forest for the trees: Reductionism of the environment in law and policy". The lecture will take place at 7pm at Lecture Theatre 401.439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds Street. All are welcome. RSVP to ext 85971, lawreception@auckland.ac.nz

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From the Vice-Chancellor

In what is a significant achievement for the University, our new PeopleSoft HR and payroll system was implemented as planned on Monday 29 September 2008. We now have a system with the capacity to meet our immediate and future needs, and underpinned by new, streamlined HR processes. Recently established teams within HR are providing the expertise we need now that over 6000 staff are active users of the HR system. The new Solutions & Recruitment and HR System Support team are all located on Level 4 of Bldg 810, 1-11 Short Street, on the City Campus and Payroll will be moving to the same location at the end of October.

HR is now tracking and reporting on the nature of the inquiries they receive. All calls to ext 83000 and emails to askhr@auckland.ac.nz are being logged so it is possible to identify trends and continually improve HR services to better meet our evolving needs. All of this enables us to better connect staff, budgets and delegations within our complex organisation and fulfil our objective of attracting and retaining excellent staff.

By the time you read this we will have been using the new PeopleSoft system for around two weeks. I fully expect that some of the changes to work practices will still seem difficult. This is entirely natural when an organisation of our size embarks upon a change of this scope. What I ask everyone to do is to stay focused on the benefits of having ready access to information, the elimination of inefficiencies and the certainty that adoption of consistent and compliant HR practices provides to the University.

On behalf of the senior management team I extend my sincere thanks to the HR Connect+ project team, the Steering Group, Reference Group and to the staff in Human Resources and ITS. Their professional approach to the delivery of this large project for the University has set a high standard for future initiatives of this nature.

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of the significant number of individual members of staff from all areas of the University who over the last 18 months willingly became involved when asked, and contributed essential knowledge of how the University operates to the design and implementation of this important new system.



Speaking of the Blues



Edith Amituanai.

“Dance is like a yoke that ties sport and culture together – like a bridge across the chasm”, said Michael Parmenter, guest speaker at the annual Blues Awards Dinner in the Alumni Marquee on 12 September.

Introduced by Paul Minifie, Director of the Maidment Theatre, as a “dazzling dancer” whose name is “synonymous with bold and innovative choreography”, and whose work is “unpredictable, often disturbing and always challenging”, Michael proved himself a similarly dazzling, bold and eloquent speaker.

Drawing strong parallels between dancers and sportspeople in their “rigorous training of the body,” his words were highly appropriate to an event that celebrates achievement in both sporting and cultural fields. Like sports, he asserted, the arts are about exploring the body: “Art is about different degrees of sensation, about exploring touch, sight, smell and colour.

“What can a body be?” he asked. “What can a body do?” These, he said, are the questions that both sportspeople and artists are asking, as both seek to go where they’ve never been before.

Ask HR online right now

An HR service line “askhr@auckland.ac.nz” has been set up to direct human resource enquiries to the recently established Solutions and Recruitment team.

Andrew Phipps, Deputy Director HR Advisory Services, speaks strongly of the need for this new HR service channel. “With the introduction of the new PeopleSoft human resources and payroll system we have gone from a few hundred people using the HR system to potentially 6000+ staff accessing HR information through ESS (employee self service) and MSS (manager self service). We had to re-think how the HR Division handles queries and provides the support required.”

The Solutions and Recruitment team log the queries they receive via askhr into “RightNow”,

The Blues Sporting and Cultural Awards are a joint venture between the Auckland University Students’ Association and The University of Auckland, supported by the Bank of New Zealand, The University of Auckland Society and Speight’s.

Among the 26 cultural awards, the highest accolade, The University of Auckland Society Arts and Cultural Award, went to Edith Amituanai for her striking and innovative photography.

Among the 50 who received sporting awards, the supreme award winners were Sportswoman of the Year, Julia Toomey, winner of one gold, one silver and two bronze medals at the Surf Life Saving World Championship, and Sportsman of the Year, Anthony Boric, a member of the 2008 All Blacks team. Most Meritorious Sportsperson of the Year was Chris Smith, captain of the NZ Under 20 World Champion Rugby team in Wales and one of three nominees for the IRB Young Sportsman of the Year.

Māori Sportsperson of the Year was surfer Mischa Davies, winner of the Whangamata Surfing Pro, the Mt Maunganui Surfing Pro, and the Super 16 competition in Piha.

the same system that Student Administration uses.

“Logging each request for assistance means that HR is capturing, monitoring and reporting on the nature of queries received. This allows HR to improve customer service and to identify potential training requirements” says Andrew. The RightNow Knowledge base also updates the frequently asked questions on the HR pages on the staff intranet, so the information is always topical.

The new Solutions and Recruitment Manager, Alan Ward, is building a team that will provide specialist support on general HR queries and recruitment to staff and managers in the future. The team can be reached on askhr@auckland.ac.nz and by calling ext 83000. They are located on Level 4, 1-11 Short Street on the City Campus.

Retrospective 1883-2008

Extracts from "Library News", *University of Auckland News* 9, June, 1979, pp.30, 36-37.

Auckland University College, established in 1883, lacked almost all of the accepted university facilities, including a library. Such books as were available were kept by the appropriate professors in their cramped rooms. But in 1884 the College Council acknowledged the existence of at least a notional library with the resolution: "That a vulcanized rubber stamp be procured, and the books belonging to the Council be marked therewith as such, and that a Classified Catalogue of the Library be formed."

An 1888 report on library organisation commented: "so long as the books constituting the Library are deposited in the several detached buildings in which the classes are now conducted, it would be impossible to frame any rules which would prove satisfactory for the securing of a uniform management."



The Auckland University College Library in the Arts Building (Clock Tower), 1931 from Keith Sinclair, *A History of the University of Auckland 1883-1983*, Auckland, 1983, p. 147

Warm welcome for Robert Fisk

War correspondent Robert Fisk told *University News* that more of his books are sold in New Zealand per head of population than anywhere else in the world.

The warmth of his welcome supported that statement as he addressed the enthralled 600-strong audience that filled the large Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium at the Business School last month.

Dr Fisk's main messages were that journalists had failed the Western world with their reporting of the Middle East and that wars would continue there as long as the West did not retire its military from Middle Eastern lands.

On war reporting, Dr Fisk said that while journalists should be questioning governments, they instead had a parasitic relationship with people in power and did not report enough on the side of the

Plans for the University's first permanent Arts Building brought a flurry of excitement, and in its excitement, and in its anxiety to provide for all foreseeable future requirements the Council called for a modification to Mr Lippincott's plans to provide an additional 8ft of reader space in the Library wing. For the first time the University had a Library worthy of the name, well proportioned, spacious, quiet and dignified. But its heyday was all too brief. Barely 20 years after its opening it was beginning to feel the pressure from increasing student numbers.

A tardy recognition of the University's continuing expansion, coupled with dissensions over the permanent site, delayed building operations until the 1960s, and it was 1968 before the Library took possession of its handsome new building. But already the books and readers have claimed part of the concourse and the former Bindery, dispossessed the English Department, and are knocking at the floors of the Law School.

victims. Editors blocked the truth by editing or refusing to show footage unfavourable to the West.

"I can't express the degree to which journalists have failed you," said Robert Fisk.

The next conflagration would be in Pakistan.

Dr Fisk is based in Beirut and writes for *The Independent*. He has lived in the Middle East for three decades and holds more journalism awards than any other foreign correspondent. His visit to the Business School was in association with The Christchurch Press, Amnesty International and Harper Collins Publishing.

After the talk, Robert Fisk signed books, including his latest work, *The Age of the Warrior*, which contains writings published in *The Independent* over the past ten years, including interviews with Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein and Ayatollah Khomeini.

... in brief

Universitas 21 Fellowships: Call for applications

Academic and general staff are now invited to apply for the 2009 round of Universitas 21 Fellowships. The application deadline is 14 November.

The University aims to provide fellowships to academic and general staff who have demonstrated outstanding innovation in their fields and who would benefit from the opportunity to share best practice with at least two other Universitas 21 universities. For a list of current Universitas 21 institutional members, please visit www.universitas21.com/memberlist.html

The fellowships are part of the University's commitment to staff development and to sharing best practice among Universitas 21 institutions. The benefits to the University will include the experience that Universitas 21 Fellows gain and the wider perspective that this brings to their work.

For 2009 up to four Universitas 21 Fellowships will be offered. A selection panel will consider the candidate's capacity to act as an effective ambassador for the University; the benefit to the University and alignment with its strategic objectives; and the benefit to the individual of appointment as a Universitas 21 Fellow. Guidelines are available online.

For further information, please contact the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) (Claire Speedy on c.speedy@auckland.ac.nz or ext 86671, or Kathleen Kramlinger on k.kramlinger@auckland.ac.nz or ext 84202).

Functional foods

The focus of a two day symposium on functional foods to be held on 12-13 November is on lipids, antioxidants, specialist functional ingredients, their scientific understanding, nutritional significance and economic success.

The symposium caters for researchers, food technologists, nutritionists, dieticians and legislators seeking to understand how functional foods can be made, marketed and used.

The symposium is an initiative of the Oils and Fats Specialist Group of the NZIC, the Australasian section of the American Oil Chemists Society and The University of Auckland.

Invited speakers from Australasia, Asia, America and Europe will cover the topics such as aquaculture, Omega-3, olive oil, trans-fat substitution, food versus fuel, nutrigenomics, lipidomics, plant sterols and other functional lipids, dietary supplements, antioxidants, new oilseed crops, and frying fats.

Register your interest via the website of the Oils and Fats Specialist Group of the NZIC www.foodworks.co.nz/oilsfats/

Computer vision for driving

One of the many applications of computer vision is camera-based driver assistance. While humans can see and make the judgements needed for driving – with fault rates of less than one accident in ten years – the task is extremely challenging for computer vision algorithms. Lanes and objects must be detected and measured at all times, even under adverse weather conditions, with rain, snow or backlight. Car companies already include this technology in their top-end vehicles. A seminar presentation by Dr Stefan Gehrig from Daimler AG, Germany, will give an overview of the challenges of the technology and some direction on how these are being tackled or solved. The seminar will be held on November 7 at 3pm in Lecture Theatre 731.201 at the Tamaki Campus.

Five join APRU

The 37 research universities comprising the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) were recently joined by four Asian universities and another from Latin America. After obtaining a two-thirds majority vote at the APRU Steering Committee level, Korea University, Nanjing University, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Tohoku University and the University of Hong Kong went on to secure a three-fourths majority vote from APRU's membership. The addition of these five new members brings the total membership to 42. The University of Auckland is the only New Zealand member of APRU. The list of APRU members can be found at www.apru.org/about/members.htm

Award of Hamilton Memorial Prize

The Royal Society of New Zealand has announced that the 2008 Hamilton Memorial Prize has been awarded to Dr Maurice Curtis (Anatomy with Radiology). During his doctoral studies and later in postdoctoral work, Maurice has developed highly innovative methods and approaches to examining neurogenesis in the human brain. His research identified for the first time, a pathway located in the human forebrain called the Rostral Migratory Stream where new proliferating progenitor brain cells migrate from deep in the lateral ventricle to the olfactory bulb. This landmark discovery, published in a highly cited article in *Science* in 2007, has overturned widely held dogma that such a stream did not exist. This finding has major implications for how we view neurodegenerative disorders such as Huntington's, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease.

From Beijing to the Town Hall



Gregor and Heather Coster with their daughter Elizabeth at Spring Graduation.

For Elizabeth Coster, this has been a year of huge effort and exceptional achievement.

On 23 September at Spring Graduation, Elizabeth's parents – Gregor Coster, Dean of Graduate Studies, and Heather Coster, an alumna of Auckland with a Master of Arts Degree with first class honours in New Zealand Studies, watched her graduate BCom. Also present were Elizabeth's brother Andrew, LLB (Hons), and his wife Joanne, BEd, both alumni of The University of Auckland.

The previous month at the Beijing Olympics, Gregor and Heather, with equal pleasure, had seen Elizabeth reach the semi-finals in the 100-metre backstroke, breaking her own fastest time and taking the New Zealand record down to 60.6 seconds. (This was a time that would have won her a medal at the Athens Olympics, where she also competed four years ago.)

Elizabeth holds seven New Zealand records in swimming. Not surprisingly, she has also won a total of seven Blues Awards during her time at the University, including Most Meritorious Performance and Sportswoman of the Year.

The experience of competing in the Olympics Elizabeth describes as simply "amazing", with the thrill of seeing world-famous sporting figures every day – and the surprise of encountering human physical types at their extremes.

"It's not unusual," she says, "in the Olympic Village, to pass a group of a dozen women, all over six feet tall (and almost certainly volleyball players), followed by a few tiny women who might be mistaken for ten-year-olds (and are probably members of a national team of gymnasts)."

In the huge food hall in the Olympic Village – catering for every possible national and ethnic taste – Elizabeth noticed similar extremes in consumption of food, with tables full of well-muscled people tucking in to large steaks, alongside others at which super-slim athletes were picking at modest portions of vegetables and nuts.

She also noticed the MacDonald's queue growing

longer as the Games progressed, with more and more athletes concluding their events and taking a welcome rest from their strict training diets.

One of her great thrills was seeing Michael Phelps compete – "being there in the flesh watching history being made".

Another exceptional day was when she went with friends to watch others competing after her own efforts were over. First was the rowing, where they had the great thrill of watching three medals being won for New Zealand. Next was the cycling where they were lucky enough to witness the medal-winning performance by Haydon Roulston. And from there, it was straight on to the athletics, where they saw Val Vili win her gold.

"You get shivers in your spine when you watch it on TV. To see it in person was overwhelming," says Elizabeth.

Also present in Beijing were Elizabeth's sister, Sarah, and her husband, Hugh Gollan, both alumni of Auckland, Sarah in Arts and Law (followed by a soon to be completed doctorate in law at the Australian National University) and Hugh in Chemical and Materials Engineering.

After the Olympics, Gregor and Heather took the chance to visit Sarah and Hugh, who are now living in North Korea, where they are working in development finance. Sarah also runs the Pyongyang International Swimming Club, a swim school for international children in the residential compound where they live.

During the eight-day visit to North Korea – a rare destination for travellers from New Zealand – Gregor visited the Kim Il Sung University and the Kim Chaek University of Technology, and met senior officials in the Ministry of Education.

The New Zealand Government has agreed to sponsor ten scholarships for North Koreans to come to New Zealand for short courses at undergraduate or postgraduate level. Gregor discussed these scholarships with the Ministry and will discuss them further now that he is back in New Zealand.

Double celebration



Thirty years ago Helen Dixon and Ruth Williams taught juniors in adjoining classrooms at May Road School in Mt Roskill.

On 25 September the lifelong friends graduated side-by-side with Doctor of Education degrees from The University of Auckland.

Ruth and Helen are both Acting Associate Deans in the Faculty of Education and admit their careers have followed spookily similar paths.

“We became friends at May Road where Ruth was a beginning teacher and I was an early career teacher. We both became deputy principals at the same time, and we both started teaching at the Auckland College of Education (now the Faculty of Education) in 1991,” Helen says. “We started our doctorates together and now we are graduating together.”

But Ruth and Helen’s closest similarity is a shared passion to see primary teachers furthering their careers and professional development through higher education.

Ruth and Helen were among the first wave of

teachers to return to University to pursue high-level academic qualifications above their initial teacher education diploma. Between them, they have also taught many of Auckland’s teachers who have upgraded from the diploma to a degree.

Their doctorates both explored areas where they perceived a gap in our understanding of teacher knowledge and experience. Ruth’s doctorate looked at the impact on practising primary teachers’ professional identity when upgrading to a degree from a diploma. Helen’s doctorate investigated teachers’ beliefs, understandings and use of feedback in the classroom.

Completing their doctorates at the same time meant they could always call on each other for advice and support.

“There are always times when you are completing a doctorate when you think it’s all too much and you can’t do it – but we were able to keep each other going when we doubted our abilities. Graduating together is very special for us and for our families,” Helen says.

Smiles show spirit of graduation

The pleasure of the day was written on the faces of Dr Robin Woodward, senior lecturer in Art History, and her daughter Kitaj, who graduated BA/LLB on 23 September.

Kitaj is now working in corporate law at Buddle Findlay but also finds time to tutor in Criminal Law at the University. This follows a very full life as a student, where she was not only president of the Auckland University Law Students’ Association, but also one of four directors of the Law Revue, and was appointed one of two student representatives on the New Zealand Council of Legal Education. Kitaj is a former head girl of Avondale College.

Robin also completed her undergraduate study at The University of Auckland, but moved on to the University of Edinburgh where she became the first New Zealander to graduate with a PhD in Art History.



Viewpoint

Cluster bombs unacceptable

While cluster bombs have been in use since the Second World War, for several decades concerns have been growing about their indiscriminate impact on civilians.

Their large “footprint” (the area in which they are scattered once the “parent munition” explodes) and the fact that the bomblets contained within the parent do not always explode on impact mean that cluster bombs pose a particular threat to civilians, often long after the conflict has ended.

For many years, negotiations within the United Nations attempted to reach agreement on limiting their use, but because many states consider cluster bombs to be militarily useful, negotiations were in effect stalled. Matters came to a head in 2006 when, it is estimated, Israel fired about four million explosive submunitions into Southern Lebanon in a single month. According to British NGO Landmine Action, about 60 percent of the strikes were in areas populated by civilians.

Tragic though it was (and continues to be because the unexploded munitions remain a danger to the local population), the Lebanon War was the impetus to what became known as the Oslo Process – a group of states led by Norway and including Austria, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and Peru – which spearheaded negotiations away from the stalled UN negotiations. At their first meeting, in Oslo in early 2007, participating states (by then there were 30 states involved) declared their intention to agree to a binding legal instrument banning cluster munitions by end 2008. That timetable has been met and following several other meetings, including in Wellington in February, a treaty banning the use, possession and development of cluster munitions was agreed to. Over 100 states, including New Zealand, have pledged their intention to sign up at a ceremony in Oslo in early December.

A treaty, of course, is no panacea and will not in itself eliminate the weapons. But it will make it increasingly unacceptable for any state to use these indiscriminate weapons. That was evident with the surprise, but welcome, announcement from the United Kingdom renouncing the use of cluster munitions and signaling its intention to join the treaty.

Long recognised for its leadership role in global disarmament negotiations, it was only fitting that New Zealand, as part of the Core Group, has played such an important part in bringing about this treaty and bringing us closer to consigning the use of cluster munitions to history.

Treasa Dunworth
Faculty of Law

Town-gown links celebrated



Chancellor, Hugh Fletcher, speaks to guests.

The mutually beneficial links between the University and Auckland City were affirmed at a 125th Jubilee function.

A town and gown reception, held at the Fale Pasifika on 24 September mid-way through Spring Graduation week, was attended by politicians, senior local authority staff, business, professional and other community leaders along with alumni.

In his welcome the Chancellor, Hugh Fletcher, said universities and their cities were closely intertwined. "These relationships are most intense when the university is the major institution in a city or town.

"But in a city such as Auckland where activity is more diverse, and there are many players, the University is still the intellectual home for its citizens, a thought leader and source of ideas, an urban landmark, a dynamic centre for young people on the threshold of their careers, and a major employer and creator of wealth."

Mr Fletcher said The University of Auckland had relationships with groups from all parts of the City – the councils throughout the region, Māori authorities and iwi, the district health boards, the media, cultural institutions such as the Auckland Institute and Museum, the Auckland Art Gallery and the Auckland Philharmonia, primary and secondary schools and other tertiary education institutions.

"These partners are crucial to the university – to its teaching and learning programmes, to its research and to its ability to provide a vibrant intellectual centre for the city. We hope that we give to you as much as you give to us."

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, said: "What we can do for the City is to build a great University. We will do this by attracting outstanding students and staff, by investing heavily in creating excellent facilities – an investment likely to be in the order of a billion dollars over the next 10-15 years – and by increasing our economic contribution to the region – currently estimated at \$5 billion per annum, up from \$3.8 billion just four years ago.

"In short, a respectful and productive compact between the City and its University is of huge advantage to both partners."

The Mayor, John Banks, said the University was "very important" to the City. Auckland would never be an international city "without a truly international university".

Natural step



Left to right are John Walker and Tessa Hagemann, Conference Co-ordinators, and Tomas Pernecky, Conference Manager.

Academic and Professional Conferences (APC) have been chosen as the University's "preferred supplier" of conference management services.

After 20 years' experience running highly successful conferences, this seems a natural step for the conference management team in the Centre for Continuing Education.

APC is now "preferred supplier" for all conferences organised by University groups, either on University premises or off-campus. This means that conference organisers who wish to employ paid management services must first request a proposal from APC, and must provide reasons if they wish to appoint an alternative.

APC Conference Manager Tomas Pernecky says the new status, along with a larger team and a fresh new image, has allowed APC to widen its scope: "The team are all very excited about the opportunities out there and are looking forward to helping create successful conferences that promote thinking and advance knowledge in a variety of disciplines."

The most recent conference organised by the team was the 34th International Conference on Very Large Databases, 12 months in the making and with 450 delegates.

Held at Sky City, this was described by Tomas as a "phenomenal success". It also earned high praise from programme chair, Peter Buneman, who said he was "particularly impressed by the helpfulness of the staff and the ability of the conference management to adapt to last-minute changes".

The first task in running a conference is to be quite clear on what you want to achieve, says Tomas. "You need a full understanding of the purpose of the conference and the audience."

He also highlights the importance of planning ahead: "It takes between six and 12 months to organise a conference, depending on its nature and complexity".

Tomas Pernecky has been with APC for the last year and brings with him international conference management experience. Originally from the Czech Republic, Tomas has worked throughout Europe, with leading conference companies such as Guarant International. Now his skills are available for the University and its affiliates.

He is currently completing his doctorate in Tourism Studies and has published papers in international refereed journals.

Tomas and his team are now inviting inquiries from all departments for conferences in 2009 and beyond. Contact Tomas Pernecky on t.pernecky@auckland.ac.nz or ext 88903 or visit www.conferences.auckland.ac.nz

Outstanding adult learner

"It's better to try something and fail than never to try at all."

So says postgraduate Karl Gatoloai who was recently awarded the Outstanding Adult Learner Award by the Auckland Adult and Community Education network as part of their celebration to mark Adult Learner's Week. He was nominated by the New Start programme at the Centre for Continuing Education.

The 28-year-old hasn't looked back since graduating from the New Start business programme in 2001. That's despite being dealt a life-changing blow as a teenager in Samoa when he was left paralysed from the chest down after a car accident and university plans had to be shelved as Karl headed to New Zealand for spinal surgery.

Down but not out, Karl recalls those early days of the New Start Business programme which eventually led to his Commerce and Law degrees: "It was really helpful. It had been a few years and I needed to get back into study mode. It eased me into it."

Confidence was also something young Karl needed after his rehabilitative journey: "It was all part and parcel of the course, getting my confidence back."

This is the reason why New Start programme managers Kahu Pou and Maria Meredith nominated Karl for the award: "We found Karl's motivation, enthusiasm for life and learning made

him the ideal candidate for the Adult Learner Award," says Kahu Pou.

Now enrolled in a masters programme the family man says life has to mean something. Husband to Vivienne and father to two-year-old Tilomai, he also chairs the North Shore Pasifika Forum, is involved in church activities and last year stood for the North Shore City Council.

On the look out for career opportunities Karl has inspiring words for anyone thinking about academic studies. "You don't want to be looking back with regret. If there's something you really want, try it; you'll never know where it will lead you. There are so many opportunities out there."



From left are Jan Edmonds (New Start), Karl Gatoloai, and Kahu Pou (New Start Programme Manager) on the day of Karl's graduation.

From the collection

Art

The University of Auckland Art Collection was quick to take an interest in the work of Richard Killeen, purchasing two paintings from Barry Lett Galleries in 1969 and a monotype print-on-canvas from his first solo exhibition at Barry Lett the following year.

Subsequently, a good selection of the artist's many career phases have come to be represented in the collection.

Killeen's early works, in stark contrast to the romantic New Zealand landscapes common at the time, depicted figures bustling in suburban streets and domestic interiors. Even at this early stage, having graduated from Elam School of Fine Arts in 1966, Killeen was exploring relationships between nature and culture, figure and field, image and pattern, figuration and abstraction, concerns that still dominate his work. As in the abstract work of Gordon Walters, whom Killeen met in 1970, an ambiguous relationship between foreground and background brought a dynamic tension to the work.

Killeen's early figurative paintings give the impression of being constructed by quoting and combining existing components into new arrangements within a single image.

In the following years, his work would become increasingly abstract, often using a dice to determine colour or composition, but his patterns would either be derived from or embedded in a figurative image.

In 1978 he famously liberated the forms in his paintings to exist as free-floating individual motifs that collectively form a larger work in endlessly configurable combinations of 'cut-outs'. The

instruction for configuring his work *Red Insects, Blue Triangles* (1980), which hangs in the entrance to the General Library, is simply: "hang in a group."

At first he began with silhouettes of shapes or creatures appropriated from a variety of sources. However these are not simple animal shapes but



representations of the way animals have been depicted in different ways by different cultures. Combined, these image samplers form complex narratives. Each shape is a form translated and redeployed from a prior source, often within Killeen's own work. These are icons, pictograms, logos, patterns – all representations of things that have their own narrative as representations and tell us about the way we perceive the world. Later

cut-outs would become containers for further images, which may in turn have images drawn onto the surface of each shape. Like words, Killeen's iconography can be traced through its usage and origins. Together they form sentences and stories.

The increasing accessibility of computers for digital storage and processing has had a marked effect on Killeen's practice, turbo-charging his ability to cut-and-paste, layer and transform, cultivating an ever-growing image bank. Earlier icons now become three-dimensional forms, wrapped, decorated and populated with patterns from new and old designs. These hyper-worlds present rich story-telling possibilities, some of which bear an intriguing resemblance to Killeen's early suburban works, teeming with suited clones.

Butterfly Morning is a prime example of Killeen's recent return to working within a single canvas, composing his cut-out forms with a variety of computer software and outputting compositions of dizzying complexity. It was first shown at Ivan Anthony gallery in the May 2008 exhibition *Butterfly Evening*, a memorial to the artist's late son.

Immediately afterwards it was included in the Gus Fisher Gallery exhibition *The Swarm* and subsequently purchased for the collection, adding yet another important phase of the artist's career to the campus environment.

Andrew Clifford

Richard Killeen (b.1946) *Butterfly Morning*, 2008
Pigment ink on canvas, 1360 x 1360mm The University of Auckland Art Collection

Launch for Cook Islands conversational Māori



Mei George, a performance student from the Centre for Pacific Studies, dances at the launch of the *Cook Islands Conversational Māori* textbook and course.

The University's *Fale* recently became a site of song and dance, celebration and remembrance, as around 60 people gathered to pay tribute to a beloved member of the Centre for Pacific Studies and to launch a new textbook and course at the Faculty of Arts.

The textbook, *Te Pepe Kuri Airani – A Beginner's*

Guide to Cook Islands Māori, is the work of the late Taria Kingstone, who lectured in Cook Islands Māori at the University from 2003 until his death in 2006. The textbook has been revised, edited and prepared for publication by his colleagues.

The launch of the textbook coincides with the announcement that the University will next year offer the country's first paper on Cook Islands Conversational Māori. The Centre for Pacific Studies will soon appoint a lecturer to teach the course, which will be offered in alternate semesters starting in March 2009.

For Taria, the language of the Cook Islands reflects an "exciting, hard-case, expressive, humorous, passionate and never-a-dull-moment world" that could not be accessed in any other language.

Professor John Morrow, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, also announced to the crowd that three scholarships have been earmarked for qualified students conversant in Cook Islands language. The

Health Research Council of New Zealand grants will support two masters students and one doctoral student to undertake research into health issues among Cook Islands communities.

Taria's mother, Mrs Fanaura Kingstone, expressed her gratitude to the friends and family members who had travelled long distances to attend the ceremony. She also paid special thanks to the University for honouring her son's work in this way.

"It makes perfect sense for the University to be offering the country's inaugural paper on Cook Islands Conversational Māori, given that 90 percent of Cook Islanders in New Zealand live in Auckland," says Associate Professor Richard Moyle, Head of the Centre for Pacific Studies. "NZ Census figures show the percentage of native Cook Islanders who are conversant in their native language is low, especially when compared with languages such as Samoan. Clearly, the need for this course is strong," he says.

Hood Fellow builds bridges

Few people bridge the divide between the sciences, the humanities and humanitarianism the way Alan Lightman does.

Internationally renowned as both a physicist and novelist, Professor Lightman was the first person at Massachusetts Institute of Technology to receive a joint

appointment in science and humanities. He has lectured in more than 75 universities worldwide on the differences and similarities in the ways artists and scientists see the world.

This month, Professor Lightman will deliver three public lectures spanning science, literature and his

own international charity work, three areas to which he has devoted his life.

For information about these three lectures refer to the entries below entitled "Hood Fellow Lecture", under the dates 15, 16 and 17 October.



What's on

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER

Theology staff research seminars
Venue tba.

1) Stephen Garner: *Constructing a theology of technology in response to transhumanism*. 2-2.40pm.

2) Nasili Vaka'uta: *Talanga: Theorising a Tongan mode of interpretation*. 2.40-3.20pm.

3) Elaine Wainwright: *Bringing out the new and the old: Ongoing development of a reading paradigm*. 3.20-4pm.

Electrical and Computer Engineering research exhibition day

2-6pm ECE laboratories, Science Bldgs 301 and 303. Academic staff and postgraduate students showcase their work. Prizes for best research demonstrations awarded from 6.30pm.

MONDAY 13 OCTOBER

Dept of Political Studies seminar

Prof Frank Fischer, Rutgers University: *Barack Obama for President: The political transformation of American politics?* 6.30pm Lecture Theatre 401, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER

Planning for retirement

9am-12noon Rm 336, Level 3, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. A look at retirement from the financial, emotional and psychological angles. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (course = HRPFR). Queries to ext 89630.

Inaugural Lecture

Prof Laurence Murphy, Property: *From Wall Street to your street: The evolving dynamics of property markets*. 1pm Rm 310, Decima Glenn, Owen G. Glenn Bldg.

School of Music research seminar

David Nalden: *Gesture in musical performance: Its use and misuse*. 1-2pm Music Theatre, School of Music.

Bioengineering research seminar

Assoc-Prof Ian LeGrice, Dept of Physiology/Auckland Bioengineering Institute: *Cardiac Structure and Function Lab: Some recollections*. 4-5pm Rm 421 W-301, ALR5.

WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER

Hood Fellow Lecture

Prof Alan Lightman, MIT: *The physicist as novelist*. 5pm Commerce A 114.

School of General Knowledge event

David Wong: *Tai Chi*. 6.30pm George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St.

THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER

Holy Communion

12.30-12.50pm Maclaurin Chapel, 18

Princes St. Holy Communion service will be held led by the Maclaurin Chaplain.

Centre for Development Studies guest seminar

Dr Julie Cupples: *Wild globalisation: Hurricane Felix and the gendered economies of the Miskito Keys*. 1-2pm HSB 901.

School of General Knowledge talk
Dr Steve Matthewman, UoA: *Sociology and the military*. 6pm George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St.

2008 Keith Sinclair Lecture

Prof Bruce Scates, Monash University: *Gallipoli and beyond: Returning to the battlefields of the Great War*. 6.30pm OGG84, Owen G Glenn Bldg.

Hood Fellow Lecture

Prof Alan Lightman, MIT: *Cambodia: Helping to rebuild a country after genocide*. 6.30pm Lecture Theatre B15, Library Bldg, 5 Alfred St.

FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER

Film screening

Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media. 1-4pm
Email mustseefilms@gmail.com for further details and location.

Hood Fellow Lecture

Prof Alan Lightman, MIT: *The Discoveries*. 6pm Large Chemistry Lecture Theatre, Science Bldg 301.

TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER

New staff orientation

9am-12.30pm Fale Pasifika, Wynyard St. Gain an overview of the University and meet new staff. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (course = HROUA). Queries to ext 89630.

School of General Knowledge talk

Dr Grant Christie, President, Royal Astronomical Society of NZ: *The big ideas of astronomy*. 6pm George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St.

Inaugural Lecture

Prof Klaus Bosselmann, Law: *Losing the forest for the trees: Reductionism of the environment in law and policy*. 7pm Rm 1.439, School of Engineering. RSVP by 16 October to ext 85971 or lawreception@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER

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. Holy Communion service will be held led by the Maclaurin Chaplain.

School of General Knowledge event
Composting, worm farming and Bokashi: Create your own Eden. 6pm
George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Available now: Friendly, n/s, 20s-30s flatmate wanted to share lovely sunny two-bdrm unit with one other. Sandringham. Small dbl room. Fully furnished except bdrm. Close to shops and buses. OSP. No pets. \$145 pw + exps. Phone Jem on (021) 171 5120.

Furnished house in St Heliers/ Glendowie. Attractive house in a quiet leafy street. Three bdrms, or two with a study. Recently redecorated with polished rimu floors and carpeted bdrms. Near excellent schools and public transport. Just 15-20 minutes from the city and University. A 10-minute walk to St Heliers beach and village. Available anytime from mid-November 2008 to July 2009 negotiable. No pets or smokers. \$525 pw includes lawnmowing. Contact (09) 373 7599 ext 87230 or (021) 072 8701 or email nautikos07@yahoo.com.au

Lovely three-bedroom family villa for rent, Grey Lynn, close to shops, parks, bus routes. 7-10 minutes from University and city centre by car. Fully furnished, TV/DVD, washer/dishwasher, polished wood floors, two living rooms, one bthrm, large kitchen-diner, wood-burner and logs supplied, large garden with trampoline, OSP. Available mid-March until mid-July. Use of car (Toyota Camry/Scepter) negotiable. \$600 pw. Contact Cris or Fiona +64 9 361 5800 or c.shore@auckland.ac.nz

Parnell. One bdrm flat with carport, newly refurbished, harbour view. Opposite Parnell Village. \$420 pw. Phone 373 2894.

Short-term summer rental from 15 December 2008 for up to five weeks. Art Deco home in Point Chevalier, Auckland. Location is fabulous, walk to the beach! Three bedrooms. Fully-furnished and rent reduced to \$450 pw if you are cat lovers and would enjoy two happy pets. Phone (021) 158 9467 or email carynb@xtra.co.nz

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Professional couple with three children want a house to mind or rent from January 1, 2009 to March 31, 2009. Prefer Ellerslie area. Please advise Gordon Hookings, Maths Department on 528 3385.

Reliable, experienced house-sitter available. 51 year old woman - former

high school teacher. Happy to feed pets, mow lawn and weed garden. References available. Contact Sandra on (021) 439 696 or (09) 528 7778.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Holiday accommodation available

for rent from 24 December to mid-January. Recently-refurbished, sunny, private, three-bdrm home at Papamoa beach. Three-minute walk to lovely white-sand beach, short walk to Papamoa Beach Plaza supermarket and shops, 15 minutes drive to Mt Maunganui. Fully-furnished including linen, OSP for two cars. Sleeps 7. \$220 per night, minimum 4 night stay. Families preferred. Contact (021) 970 665 or 09 575 8345 (evenings) or lynetteread@ihug.co.nz

OVERSEAS ACCOMMODATION

Dreaming of Italy? Is it the Art (the works of Piero della Francesca), the architecture, the wine, the hilltowns, the food or the people that excite you? Sansepolcro has them all. Come and stay with us ... at the edge of Tuscany and Umbria. Stay in our mini apartments or B&B and enjoy your Italian dreams! Contact Colin and Val Stevens. Casa Mila, Via Firenzuola 49, 52037 Sansepolcro, Tuscany, Italy. Phone/fax +39 0575 733 477, email thesteve@libero.it
Website www.casamila.it

MISCELLANEOUS

Carpenter/builder available. Over 30 years experience. Lots of renovations and historic places. References available. Phone Chris on 828 2298 or (027) 293 2279.

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, phone 09 446 1166, fax (09) 445 8832, email insure@uni-care.org
Website www.uni-care.org

Permanent residency assistance special offer. Once only this year

and just for UoA staff who have been on a work-to-residence permit for approximately 24 months. Free assistance (INZ fees not included) for first five eligible registrations - special conditions apply. Don't delay. Register with GVL Faculty Migration & Settlement now by emailing glens@gvl.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).