

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 38 | Issue 20 | 24 October 2008

Six siblings set probable record



PHOTO GARY HEWLETT, LOVE IMAGES LTD.

The Cervin family (from left): Liam (BA/BCom), Naomi (BA/LLB(Hons)), Carmel (BA/BCom – wearing her Massey PhD hood), parents Anne-Marie and Maurice, Siobhan (BA/LLB(Hons)), Brendan BE, Seamus BE.

A likely record was set at Spring Graduation when Siobhan Cervin followed her five siblings in graduating from the University.

There is no easy way of checking whether it is unprecedented but for one family to produce six Auckland graduates has to be highly unusual.

When Siobhan was capped with a conjoint BA/LLB(Hons) it marked the end of a long road for her parents Maurice and Anne-Marie Cervin. From 1991 when Carmel, their eldest, started her BA/BCom studies their children were enrolled without a pause through to this year.

“Most of my life I have had older siblings at university,” says Siobhan now working at the law firm Simpson Grierson. “I grew up around it.”

Adds her mother: “We have just been so fortunate that each of the children were able to enjoy and succeed in their studies from a young age.

“If this had been a struggle for any of them we would have had to modify our family culture. Three things we always expected of the children: that they would learn to speak English, play an orchestral instrument and go to university!”

Maurice and she have had “a huge amount of fun” with their student family over these years. “They have mostly lived at home while students and, with up to four at university at the same time, home has been a place of much lively discussion and debate.”

Maurice used to tell his children that going to university was “both a lot of fun and also a normal

part of growing up.

“It was up to them to choose what to study, but I thought a conjoint Arts/vocational degree offered the flexibility of studying a variety of Arts subjects combined with possible vocational options. These expectations were based on my own many years of university study, and my experience as a vocational guidance counsellor.”

Four Cervins followed their father’s advice in tackling conjoint degrees which included a BA. The other two took Engineering degrees, Brendan in Software Engineering and Seamus in Chemical Engineering.

Anne-Marie and Maurice graduated elsewhere. She gained a BA from Waikato and taught in secondary schools before becoming a full-time parent. Later she and Maurice founded the family publishing firm where she is managing director.

Maurice holds a variety of qualifications: Licentiate of Philosophy and Theology from the Urban University, Rome, an MA from University College, Dublin, a Master of Public Policy from Victoria, a Diploma in Guidance and Counselling from Massey.

When Liam Cervin (BA/BCom), a financial adviser based in London, returned home for his wedding to Georgina Cooper (another Auckland graduate, in performance cello), the family donned academic regalia to pose for a professional photograph on the City Campus.

Key events

Marsden workshop

The 2009 Marsden Fund application round will be launched on 28 October with an Information Workshop presented by Peter Gilberd, Deputy Manager of the Marsden Fund. This year the University of Auckland was awarded funding for 20 new projects representing \$10.3 million (19.3 percent) from the total of \$53.6 million. This year researchers at the University achieved success with nine Fast Start projects, the highest number awarded to an individual institute. The workshop will begin at 2pm in Old Government House (102-G36). Queries to d.greenwood@auckland.ac.nz

Quality teaching

The Eight Annual Teaching and Learning Showcase hosted by the Centre for Academic Development celebrates the achievement of some of our outstanding teachers and encourages staff to share in a range of perspectives on effective teaching. Keynote speakers in this two-day event, to be held 28-29 October in the Engineering Building, are this year’s Teaching Excellence Award winners Professor John Hosking (Computer Science) and Dr Dawn Garbett (Education). All staff are invited. For more information contact Dr Barbara Kensington-Miller, ext 82091, or email b.kensington-miller@auckland.ac.nz Please register to cadreception@auckland.ac.nz

Freedom advocate

A world-leading cyberlaw expert and advocate of freer copyright laws, Professor Lawrence Lessig, will give a public lecture at the University on 3 November (6.30-8pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Road). His topic is “Keeping culture free: The choices law and technology force us to make about the future of the Internet and the progress of cultures”. Professor Lessig will review the struggle produced by “copyright wars” and propose the ideals which the law and industry should follow. He is a Professor of Law at Stanford University and founded its Center for Internet and Society.

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Some years ago, the University embarked on a "China strategy" aimed at building relationships with the world's most populous, and increasingly influential, nation through a series of targeted projects.

Our recent North Asia tour, conducted from 9-18 October, was a useful reminder of how successful that strategy has been.

Three key projects have underpinned the strategy – establishment of the New Zealand Confucius Institute, the New Zealand Centre at Peking University, and the trilateral project with Tsinghua and Qinghai Universities. In Beijing Chris Tremewan and I were able to update China's Minister of Education, H. E. Zhou Ji, on progress with each of these.

Established only two years ago, the Confucius Institute, headed by Nora Yao and operated in collaboration with our Universitas 21 partner Fudan University, is already recognised as one of the leading such institutes among the more than 100 worldwide. It supports the teaching of Chinese language and culture throughout New Zealand, and received plaudits for its work in assisting our Olympic athletes in Beijing.

The New Zealand Centre, under the academic direction of Professor Paul Clark, is developing rapidly as a centre for the study of New Zealand by Chinese academics and students. As will be described in the next issue of *University News* it is now teaching a course in New Zealand History and Culture to over 50 Peking University students, with input from a number of our staff, and speakers from the New Zealand Embassy, the Ministry of Education and NZ Trade and Enterprise.

In collaboration with colleagues at Tsinghua University, we are also assisting in the development of Qinghai University in the west. Professors Wei Gao and Gary Brierley, in particular, have been involved in setting up the initial collaborations, and the tripartite arrangement is one we hope to extend to other Chinese partners.

Finally, we continue to receive very strong support from our alumni and friends in China. Over 200 attended our alumni function in Hong Kong, with a further 90 in Beijing and 100 in Shanghai. Featured speaker was Associate Professor Manying Ip. In addition, members of the University team met with about 500 students in 12 Chinese universities to discuss opportunities for PhD study at our University, thus paving the way for a continued strengthening of our academic partnerships with China.



University Health Services excel



Left to right are Kim Malan, Vivienne Peterson, Dr Jonathan Fox, Cherie Buchanan and Judith Tuck.

After 14 months of work and dedication, University Health Services has been granted Cornerstone accreditation by the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners.

This highly prestigious "badge of quality" is given to health care providers who have attained rigorously measured standards of excellence.

In a presentation on 8 October, the accreditation certificate was handed over by Dr Jonathan Fox, President of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners. Representing the whole team of University Health Services, Dr Vivienne Peterson (Clinical Director), Cherie Buchanan (Business Manager), Kim Malan (Administration Manager) and Judith Tuck (Senior Nurse) received the document.

Aiming for excellence – which is also the title of the Cornerstone accreditation programme – meant reexamining every practice and process, from a

clinical, administrative and patient perspective.

"Cornerstone is a system to put processes in place to make practices run smoothly," Vivienne explains. "We had to find out how we can promote our working processes to special groups, for example Māori or Pacific students and staff, meeting their cultural needs."

This affected basically all aspects of practice, including those affecting patients, physical factors affecting the practice, systems, practice and patient information management, and quality improvement and professional development. And it meant much additional work for the University Health Services team.

"We couldn't have done this without the whole team," Cherie says, "because everyone had to be aware of the changes that were going on."

During the whole accreditation process University Health Services received support from Rosemary Gordon, Practice Quality Manager of ProCare, the Primary Healthcare Organisation that funds University Health Services. The voluntary process was also funded in part by the New Zealand Government.

However, the work is not yet completed: Cornerstone is a continuous quality improvement activity. Every three years the team has to go through the whole process again.

So the improvements are ongoing. "But," Cherie says, "the first one is probably the hardest."

On the road in China

In October, the northern industrial city of Harbin is already distinctly chilly.

Located on the vast plains of Manchuria, Harbin is famous for its winter ice festival, its historical ties to Russia – it had a large population of White Russians after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution – and its top-ranking university, Harbin Institute of Technology. Originating around the construction of the Beijing-Moscow railway and the defence industry, HIT is now a key element in China's space programme.

Associate Professor Chris Tremewan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor Gregor Coster, Dean of Graduate Studies, and Roger Shew, Deputy Director, Auckland International, visited HIT and 11 other top-ranked Chinese universities in a PhD recruitment mission which coincided with the Vice-Chancellor's delegation to Beijing and Shanghai.

Over the past two years, the China Scholarship Council has launched a scheme for sending 5,000 students overseas each year for postgraduate study on scholarships which meet their travel and living costs. Auckland competes with the Australian Group of Eight and other research intensive international universities to attract these scholarship students.

An initial agreement to take 20 PhD students was signed by the Vice-Chancellor and the Director-General of the CSC in Shanghai two years ago in a ceremony witnessed by the Chinese Minister of Education. However, it is necessary to compete for students by building strong relationships with major universities and making

students aware of Auckland's research strengths.

Harbin was only one of 12 universities the team visited, where they met with Vice-Presidents and deans of graduate studies before presenting to prospective doctoral students. A grand total of 550 highly motivated, bright students heard a 30-minute presentation on doing a PhD at Auckland and participated in a question and answer session which generally went on at least as long.

Jilin University in Changchun, another northern industrial city where German car plants are major employers, is China's largest, with many international links. Here, Chris Tremewan also gave an invited academic lecture to the Graduate School on International Relations on the topic "Singapore's political economy: A model for China?".

Dalian University of Technology is located in the beautiful coastal city of Dalian on a peninsula stretching into the Yellow Sea just west of Korea, in Northeastern China's province of Liaoning. One of the key universities under the direct leadership of the Ministry of Education, with its main concentration on engineering, science and technology, it is keen to work with us and to send doctoral students.

Ocean University of China in Qingdao, the Olympic sailing venue and the home of Tsingdao beer, has educated 90 percent of China's PhD holders in marine science and oceanography. With Auckland's strength in marine biology, OUC welcomed Auckland's interest. The University of New South Wales and Texas A&M are also close collaborators with OUC, with UNSW taking 15 PhD students this year.



Four of the University's staff of gatemen in 1971.

Extracts from "Campus Parking", *University of Auckland News* 5, July, 1971, p.34.

The car-parking problem in Auckland does not so far extend to University staff, who can always find space in one of the University car-parks. If many of these have been left in rather a rough state, most people probably realise that this is because they are not intended to be permanent. The University must take account of the future plans of the Ministry of Works; eventually it is hoped that terraced car-parks will be built alongside the finished motorway.

Car parks will come and go as new buildings are erected on empty sites. It is hoped that there will always be enough space for everyone who wishes to park his car, but if things get too difficult a system of priority, or of paying for a space, may have to be considered.

(story continued from page 2)

Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (Beihang for short) already has research collaborations with Auckland's Faculty of Engineering, and Professor Wei Gao from the faculty co-chaired a major academic conference there earlier in October.

It is also the other major university engaged in China's space programme. Over 100 students turned out to listen to the Auckland presentation by Gregor Coster, fully supported by their professors.

As the delegation send this off to *University News*, they have already spoken to 280 prospective PhD students but have many more to

Five full-time gatemen are employed to supervise the car-parks from 7.30am to 4pm, and five part-time men do the same job from 4pm to 6pm. The gate on the main campus is manned until 8pm.

Mr Robin St Clair, who has been with the University for 5 years, half of that time as a gateman, was formerly a musician. Brothers Mr Herbert Michael and Mr Cecil Michael have both been employees of the Auckland City Council. Mr Richard Harrison was a representative for overseas agencies before he came to the University, and Mr Andy Nicholson was a farmer.

The staff who drive in each day to find parking spaces waiting do not realise how essential the gatemen's services really are. The crowds of city workers always looking for spaces would soon invade the car-parks if it were not for the vigilance of the gatemen, who deserve our thanks.

go: Shandong University (which has long-standing collaborations with our Mathematics Department); Nankai University (whose president collaborated with Distinguished Professor Ted Baker in structural biology); Tianjin University (engineering cooperation); Beijing Foreign Studies University (cooperation with Film, TV and Media Studies as well as the Department of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics); Zhejiang University (a member of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities, engineering cooperation) and, along with the last on the list for this mission, Nanjing University, is one of China's top ten universities.

General Staff Professional Development Awards

Applications and nominations for these awards will open on 3 November and close at 5pm on 28 November. An information session to help you with your application will be run by HR-Staff and Organisational Development Unit (SODU) in the first week of November.

These awards provide financial support for staff (either individuals or teams) who wish to develop their work-related skills in the fields of administration, management, technical or professional services – and "make an identifiable, significant and excellent contribution to the life of the University". The Awards are typically used for visits to other higher education institutions, staff exchanges, specialised training or attendance at international conferences.

All applications/nominations should be made on the official application form. To access this form, find out further information and see examples of development activities staff have been awarded funds for in previous years, please visit the SODU webpages at www.auckland.ac.nz/sodu and click on the "Awards, Scholarships and Fellowships" link. Please contact Jemimah Wilson je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz for further details, or if you wish to attend the information session.

Women in Leadership

Applications for the Women in Leadership programme 2009 will close on 31 October. The programme aims to provide opportunities for women to develop their leadership skills. Specific objectives include increasing the numbers of women in senior positions, enhancing recruitment and retention of women in non-traditional areas, fostering 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 Level 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.

Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/sodu and click on the Leadership Programmes link to access further information and the application form or contact the Programme Manager, Mary Ann Crick, ext 86379 or ma.crick@auckland.ac.nz

Degrees of excellence

Some of the University staff who crossed the stage at this year's Spring Graduation can be seen on these pages. Clockwise from top left: are Dr Caroline Vercoe (Art History), Dr Claudia Marquis (English) and Dr Craig Radford (Leigh Marine Laboratory), who all received PhDs; Kristian Schmidt, MATES co-ordinator, who graduated BA/LLB; Dominic Ritchie (Desktop Support Analyst) who completed a BSc in Computer Science; Dr Ilva Rupenthal, who completed her PhD in Pharmacy in Auckland and will return soon as a postdoctoral fellow (seen here with her PhD supervisor, Dr Raid Alany); and the three PhD graduates from the School of Business, Dr Gay Costain (Information Systems and Operations Management), Dr Julie Harrison (Accounting and Finance) and Dr Leith Oliver (also ISOM).



Challenge in retirement



The oldest person capped at Spring Graduation recommends university study for keeping mind and body active, challenged and in working order.

Harry Sellwood, an impressively spry and alert 78-year-old from Howick, graduated with a BA in history after seven enjoyable years of part-time study. Starting with a couple of papers he developed such a taste for it that he went on to complete his degree.

In his major he concentrated on modern history: Australian, New Zealand, Pacific and European. Anthropology was his minor and he also took Political Studies and Sociology papers.

Originally from Britain, he enrolled on retiring from a busy management career which took him across the world. "Study keeps up your work ethic and gives you an agenda."

Now Harry's dilemma is what to do next. He is tempted to keep studying and advance to postgraduate level while admitting there is "a lot of catching up to do at home".



Removing the defence of 'reasonable force'

It is about a year since the "Crimes (substituted Section 59) Amendment Act" was passed.

Contrary to the terminology adopted by campaigners in favour of hitting children, this law change was never about "smacking". It was about removing the defence of "reasonable force" which had allowed parents to be acquitted following serious assaults. When seven staff members of the Psychology Department made our written submission to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee, in February 2007, we made this clear.

Apart from the obvious ethical concerns about striking another human being, of any age, and the equally obvious anomaly of a law allowing a degree of force against children that is not allowed against adults or animals, there is some important scientific evidence that should be considered.

A large number of methodologically rigorous international and New Zealand research studies ... have demonstrated, beyond any reasonable doubt, a myriad of short-term and long term adverse sequelae to childhood physical abuse ... including failure to graduate from high school, depressive illness, eating disorders, sexual problems, divorce rate, low socioeconomic status, and suicide.

We are not convinced by the argument that such studies are not relevant because "smacking" (a euphemism for striking that seems to be applied predominantly to striking children rather than adults so as to "minimise" the violence involved) does not constitute "child abuse". The definition for "physical abuse" in most research studies includes the requirement of bruising, cuts etc. This is precisely the level of violence that is condoned by Section 59 of the Crimes Act, as evidenced by recent high profile

acquittals following the use of implements such as horsewhips, belts etc.

Any attempt to define "reasonable force" (offered by some as a compromise) could only legitimise violence against children. This seems self-evident as soon as one pictures a situation in which a man is legally allowed to hit his wife but only on certain parts of her body with certain parts of his own body or with certain instruments.

Erana Cooper (then our most senior Māori member of staff) and I also made a verbal submission. Erana eloquently argued the case from a Māori perspective. I summarised the research about the long-term effects of hitting children and its ineffectiveness as a means of changing behaviour. Over 100 organisations supported repeal, including Barnados, Plunket, the Paediatric Society of New Zealand, and the New Zealand Psychological Society.

Opponents, understandably, and the media, irresponsibly, continue to misrepresent the issue. The ballot next year will ask the ludicrously loaded question: "Should a smack as part of good parental correction be a criminal offence in New Zealand?" Last month *The New Zealand Herald* reported, under the inaccurate headline "Poll reveals backlash over smacking law", a recent poll in which 86 percent answered "yes" to this question. The same poll revealed that when asked about the actual law change only 50 percent didn't like it. Hopefully that number will soon fall to the same percentage as would currently endorse it being legal to "smack" one's wife, or any other adult whose behaviour we feel needs changing.

Associate Professor John Read
Psychology



Applications invited

Fulbright New Zealand invites applications for two award programmes funding short-term exchanges between New Zealand and the US. The Fulbright Travel Awards are for New Zealand academics, artists or professionals to visit the US for 12 to 90 days to present papers at conferences, deliver lectures, collaborate with American colleagues or visit institutions. Eight to 12 awards valued at up to NZ\$5,000 are offered each year (see www.fulbright.org.nz/awards/nz-travel.html).

Fulbright Senior Specialist Awards are for New Zealand academic institutions to host US academics, artists or professionals for two to six-week programmes of lectures, seminars, workshops, conferences or symposiums. Approximately six awards valued at up to NZ\$8,400 (plus travel expenses) are offered each year (see www.fulbright.org.nz/awards/nzinstit-senspecialists.html).

Applications for both awards close on 1 November 2008. See www.fulbright.org.nz/awards or contact Rae Holdsworth - rae@fulbright.org.nz, 04 494 1507

PhD event of the year

The Business School and PhD Club will have its third annual PhD Conference on 29 October, featuring sessions for full papers, work-in-progress, and proposal or pre-proposal stages. The 2008 PhD Conference will also feature a gala post-conference dinner and \$2,250 in prizes for best presentation awards.

The conference aims to highlight the diversity of research by PhD students in the Business School; to provide a forum for students to get feedback on their work from a wide audience; to expose them to a conference environment and allow them to improve their presentation skills; and to give them an opportunity to interact with PhD students and staff from other departments.

There will be four prizes: \$1000 for the best presentation or full paper; two prizes of \$500 for the best presentation, shorter paper or work-in-progress; and one of \$250 for the best presentation by a PhD student in his or her provisional year.

Three newcomers on Council

The University of Auckland Council has three new members – Alec Hawke, Dr Ian Parton and Sarah Roberts.

Mr Hawke, who has extensive experience in management and Māori cultural liaison, was appointed by the Minister of Education earlier this year; Dr Parton, long experienced in engineering management, was elected by the University's graduates; Ms Roberts, a senior commercial lawyer, was co-opted onto the Council.

Alec Hawke has 30 years experience in project and event management and seven years experience in records management. He has organised many cultural and sporting events connected with his iwi, Ngati Whātua, in New Zealand and Canada.

Most recently he has been the logistics coordinator and cultural liaison for the Atamira – Māori in the City event, and the organiser of the successful Bastion Point 30th commemoration. He was Ngati Whātua liaison for the tribe's involvement in a televised millennium dawn ceremony and he was the coordinator for the cultural village during the 1994 Victoria Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada.

He plans to use his time on the Council to work for an open and accessible university that reaches out and meets the needs of all students pursuing tertiary education.

Until three years ago **Dr Ian Parton** was development director for Maunsell Ltd after being managing director of Meritec Group Ltd before the two consulting engineering firms merged. He is now an independent company director and serves on a number of governance boards.

Dr Parton has a Bachelor of Engineering with first class honours and a PhD from The University of Auckland. He is a Past-President of the

Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ), a Distinguished Fellow of IPENZ and a Fellow of the Institute of Directors.

In 2007 he was awarded the Sir William Pickering Medal for Engineering Leadership. He is a Trustee of the University of Auckland Foundation.

He is passionate about engineering education and believes it is under-funded nationally at secondary school level and at the Auckland Faculty of Engineering. "I will work to secure extra funding and resources for the Engineering Faculty, for the good of the University and the long-term benefit of the people of New Zealand."

Sarah Roberts, who holds an LLB honours degree from Victoria University of Wellington, is a partner in Buddle Findlay's Auckland office. From 2004 to 2007 she was the firm's chair, overseeing its 280 staff in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

She practises in the general corporate field, specialising in major commercial transactions involving both the public and private sectors. She has been involved in acquisitions, dispositions, joint ventures, management buy-outs and structuring matters.

She is experienced in liaising with the NZ Stock Exchange, the Securities Commission and public issuers. She also acts for unlisted companies raising substantial amounts of equity.

As a member of the Council, Ms Roberts is committed to the University's ideal of the University being an internationally distinguished institution. She is particularly interested in ensuring that the already strong platform established to achieve and maintain this goal is retained and enhanced to ensure that the University is a long-term player on the global stage of recognised universities.



Alec Hawke.



Ian Parton.



Sarah Roberts.

In diet, each to their own



Martin Philpott and Lynnette Ferguson.

Dietary guidelines used at present take a "one size fits all" approach.

The assumption in general is that a diet that suits one person will suit everyone else as well. However, this entirely ignores the genetic differences between individuals.

At a symposium on the future of functional foods and edible oils, two researchers from the University – Professor Lynnette Ferguson and Dr Martin Philpott – will explain why the genetic makeup of a

person should be considered in developing an individual diet plan.

The symposium, 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, takes place from 12-13 November. Specialists from science and industry will discuss topics such as an explosion of products claiming health benefits, urgent calls to remove trans fatty acids from our diets, and the pressure placed on the world supply of food oils and fats from the growing demand for bio fuels.

Lynnette, who will speak about interactions of lipids and genes in modulating the risk of cardiovascular diseases, is Head of the Department of Nutrition, Director of Nutrigenomics New Zealand, and of Mutagen Testing at the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre. Martin, also a member of Nutrigenomics New Zealand, and a Senior Research Fellow in Medical and Health Sciences, will lecture on "Developing high throughput screens to identify foods or nutrients that can interact with genes".

Both Lynnette's and Martin's field of research is nutrigenomics. Bringing together nutrition and genetics, nutrigenomics seeks to understand the interplay between an individual's genes and the

health effects of a diet.

How any one person's body will use and respond to nutrients is driven in part by their genetic makeup. The same food might benefit the health of one patient, but have no measurable effect or even worsen the condition of another person.

The researchers are investigating which components of food could benefit people's health, taking into account their genetic makeup. This approach can potentially be harnessed to reduce the symptoms of chronic diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease – which is a significant risk factor for cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

The aim of nutrigenomics research is to discover and develop foods that can be matched to individual human genotypes for maximum health maintenance plus disease amelioration, prevention or even cure: a personalised, nutrition and gene-based diet.

Whereas Lynnette's focus is on the linkage between chronic diseases and food, Martin is working on detecting discrete compounds in foods. Testing both human and mouse cells, he develops high-throughput screening methods to investigate how the vast number of compounds present in food interact with specific genotypes involved in diet-related diseases.

From the collection

Winning a national art award in 2003, the year he completed his MFA at Elam, brought Rohan Wealleans instant notoriety.

The judge described the winning work as a huge bright vagina that he wanted to crawl inside, ensuring that the sponsors, a Waikato electricity supply company, immediately turned it down for acquisition. Since then, Rohan Wealleans has carved out his own special place in the pantheon of male artists with dodgy sexual politics. The consensus, even amongst curators who like his work, is that the artist “flays his surfaces and opens them in a labial way”. Writers shudder at his “invasive, violent even misogynistic” incisions into acrylic paint as if it was flesh. *Blade Healers* 2008, recently purchased for The University of Auckland Art Collection, shows Wealleans five years on, still unrepentant in his wielding of the craft knife, apparently now ready to construe the cutting itself as therapeutic.

Weighing over 20 kilos, the laboured surface of the painting reveals the strata of 80 different coats of colour built up laboriously on a commercial canvas support after each layer has dried. The accumulation of surfaces has been carved back so that each figure is covered with indentations revealing the tide-marks left by each colour like the rings of a cut tree trunk. Deploying squatting and languishing female

figures as ciphers to visually link the composition to the century-old proto-Cubist work by Spanish painter Pablo Picasso entitled *Les Femmes d'Alger*, 1907, Wealleans signals his own breakthrough. Just as studying the art of so-called



primitive people from the Iberian peninsula inspired Picasso to facet and fracture the forms of the naked prostitutes in his figural grouping, so Wealleans ushers in a new era with his signature layering of acrylic paint and cutting technique in *Blade Healers*. The painting even bore the original

Art

working title *Demoiselles* before it became *Blade Healers* in a word association chain which began with the work's predominant colour, and proceeded via the Australian canine breed, the blue heeler, to the final amalgam of knife and balm.

To make his work, Wealleans has cut out the shapes of five female forms, mimicking the structure of Picasso's *Demoiselles*, and then re-fixed the excised paint onto the figures as necklaces and other adornments for the figures. This approach to recombining cut and reconfigured paint on a two-dimensional surface is a new development for Wealleans, who has previously only applied his marbled off-cuts of layered acrylic paint to flat surfaces non-figuratively.

Made during the artist's recent residency in the McCahon house in Titirangi, *Blade Healers* uses the same method of rail and suspension for an unstretched canvas that the original occupant of that house used for his Northland Panels. McCahon's eight-panel masterpiece was famously painted outside on the deck at 67 Otitori Road one sunny afternoon in November 1958. Made metres away almost exactly 50 years later, Wealleans's reprise occupied him for a full four months.

Linda Tyler

Rohan Wealleans (b.1978) *Blade Healers* 2008 acrylic on canvas, 2000 x 2000mm, The University of Auckland Art Collection.

Engineering blushes pink

The Engineering building was transformed by hundred of pink balloons on 1 October for the inaugural Engineering Breast Cancer Appeal.

The event was initiated by Women in Engineering (WEN) students, and given extra impetus by Robyn Macleod, WEN Equity Adviser, who challenged as many staff and students as possible to be involved.

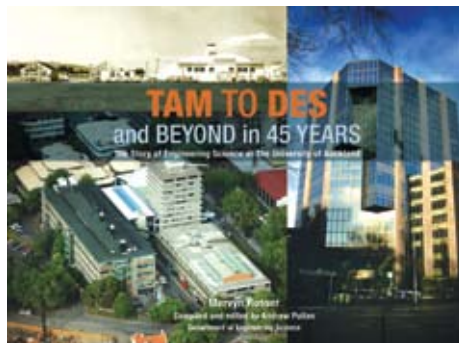
Pink wigs and bow-ties, shiny pink fairy wings and halos and pale pink t-shirts transformed the ambience of the faculty. A team of 50 students sold pink arm-bands and raspberry icecreams (generously donated by ZEST) to raise over \$3,200 for the appeal.

Male students begged and borrowed their girlfriends' pink t-shirts to show support for the cause. The success of the day has earned the event a firm place in the faculty calendar for 2009.



Staff and students.

Forty years of high performance



A commemorative book celebrating 40 years since the first graduates of Engineering Science were capped at The University of Auckland has been released.

Entitled *TAM to DES* [Theoretical Applied Mathematics to Department of Engineering Science] and *Beyond* the book was written by Mervyn Rosser, who founded the department in the 1960s with colleague Cecil Segedin (deceased). It was launched at a celebration dinner for alumni on 30 August.

Head of Department Professor Andrew Pullan says Engineering Science, which started as a mathematics arm of engineering, has quietly grown into one of the highest performing research departments in New Zealand.

“Engineering Science is about harnessing the

Book

power of mathematics and computers and combining it with human intelligence to solve everyday problems. Our fortieth anniversary is an opportunity to recognise the contribution that Engineering Science has made to high-technology aspects of New Zealand engineering,” he says.

The department's expertise in operations research is widely applied in industry. Its optimisation models are used for scheduling Air New Zealand crews, optimising electricity generation, and improving ambulance response times. The department's simulation software has been used in America's Cup yacht design.

Its graduates include Distinguished Professor Peter Hunter, who pioneered computer modelling of the human heart, and now leads the University's Bioengineering Institute; and the founders of several important technology companies, including Orion Health and Optima Corporation. Mike Chunn, the bass player in Split Enz, is also an Engineering Science graduate.

“Although much of our growth can be attributed to improvements in computing, the world is experiencing an increasing appetite for clever mathematics applied to engineering problems, and this is driving the need for graduates who have the ability and training to contribute to this growth,” Andrew says.

What's on

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER

Film screening

The Corporation. 1-3.30pm. A 2003 Canadian documentary critical of the modern-day corporation. Please email mustseefilms@gmail.com for further details and location.

Department of Philosophy seminar

Dr Catherine Legg, University of Waikato: *Scientific integrity*. 3-5pm Rm 501, Bldg 207, Arts 2.

MONDAY 27 OCTOBER

Labour Day

TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER

Eighth Annual Teaching and Learning Showcase

Until 29 October, School of Engineering. All staff are invited to attend this two-day event to celebrate the achievement of some of our outstanding teachers. The keynote speakers will be this year's Teaching Excellence Award winners, Prof John Hosking (Computer Science) and Dr Dawn Garbett (Education). Please register to cadreception@auckland.ac.nz. Queries to Dr Barbara Kensington-Miller, ext 82091 or b.kensington-miller@auckland.ac.nz.

Marsden information workshop

2-3.30pm Lecture Theatre 102-G36, OGH. Presented by Peter Gilbert, Research Funding, RSNZ, on the 2009 Marsden Fund application process. Queries to Denise Greenwood, ext 83562 or d.greenwood@auckland.ac.nz.

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER

RIMS training/refresher workshop

3-4pm Rm 420, Kate Edger Information Commons. This workshop will cover the new functionality, the APR through RIMS, entering information and getting it back out. Queries to c.reddell@auckland.ac.nz.

Department of Philosophy seminar

Paul Daniels: *Time travel and the two dimensional view of time*. 4-6pm Rm 501, Bldg 207, Arts 2.

Centre for Lacanian Analysis seminar

Lucille Holmes, Elam School of Fine Arts, UoA: *Something horrible to see: Abjection and its imaginary confusions*. 5.15-7pm Rm WS114, Level 1, WS Bldg, AUT, 24 St Paul St. Queries to Lucille Holmes, la.holmes@auckland.ac.nz.

Lounge 5 readings

5.30-7pm Lounge, OGH. Poetry and prose by students, staff, and regional writers.

THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER

School of Biological Sciences seminar

Edward Narayan, University of the South Pacific, Fiji: *Conservation of the endangered Fijian ground frog (Platymanis vitianus): Breeding and reproductive endocrinology*. 12-1pm Mac1, Old Biology Bldg, 5 Symonds St. Queries to Dr Shane Lavery, email s.lavery@auckland.ac.nz.

Holy Communion

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

Auckland branch of Society for Legal and Social Philosophy meeting

Dr Martin Wilkinson: *Consent and*

non-therapeutic uses of the bodies of the unconscious and dead. 6pm Small Lecture Theatre, Bldg 803, Faculty of Law, Eden Crescent. Queries to Jim Evans, email pj.evans@auckland.ac.nz.

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER

Walking tour

Julia Gatley, curator of *Long live the modern: NZ's new architecture, 1904-1984*, leads a free walking tour of the central city's modernist masterpieces. Places limited, bookings essential. Email gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz.

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER

Doctor of Education confirmation seminars

Until 4 November. 9am-5pm Rm U102, U Block, Postgraduate Studies, Faculty of Education, Gate 4, 60 Epsom Ave, Epsom. Candidates enrolled in part one of the Degree of Doctor of Education (EdD) will give a 25-30 minute presentation, followed by 15-20 minutes for questions and discussion. Open to all. Queries to Keitha Shalley, ph 623-8870 or k.shalley@auckland.ac.nz.

RIMS training/refresher workshop

10-11am Rm 420, Kate Edger Information Commons. Queries to c.reddell@auckland.ac.nz.

Being multicultural in Malaysia: The thinning of tolerance

Mac Yin Mee, Senior Lecturer, University of Malaya and Jawakhir Mior Jaafar, Senior Lecturer, University of Malaya. 4.30-5.30pm, SLC, Information Commons, Level 3, Seminar Rms 1 and 2. Staff please register by emailing slc@auckland.ac.nz by Friday 31 Oct.

Public lecture

Prof Lawrence Lessig: *Keeping culture free: The choices law and technology force us to make about the future of the Internet and the progress of cultures*. 6.30-8pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, Business School, 12 Grafton Rd. Queries to a.sims@auckland.ac.nz.

WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER

Parenteral Nutrition workshop

Parenteral nutrition: What, when and how. 8.30am-2.30pm Seminar Rm, School of Pharmacy, UoA. Queries to d.gargiulo@auckland.ac.nz. Organised by the Compounding Nutrition and Oncology Group of the NZHPA. Register with Elizabeth Bangera, ext 86260 or e.bangera@auckland.ac.nz.

National Institutes of Health funding workshop

10am-12noon Research Office, Level 2, 76 Symonds St. Prof Michael Heymann will deliver a presentation on applying for National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding. Light refreshments provided. RSVP for catering purposes, by 31 Oct to Emma Kelly, e.kelly@auckland.ac.nz.

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER

Presentation skills for new presenters

9am-4.30pm Rm 336, Level 3, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. Two-day programme for staff providing tools, techniques and ideas to help you produce and deliver presentations quickly and effectively. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (Course Number=HRPSP). For queries phone ext 89630.

Holy Communion

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

Tephra trouble: Volcanic hazards road show

7.30-8.30pm Te Korowai Rm, Auckland War Memorial Museum. Speakers: Dr David Johnston, Joint Centre for Disaster Research, Massey University/GNS Science; Dr Jan Lindsay, Institute of Earth Science and Engineering, UoA; Tom Wilson, Natural Hazards Research Centre, University of Canterbury. This road show summarises 15 years of research on the potential impacts of volcanic eruptions on NZ. Queries to thomas.wilson@pg.canterbury.ac.nz.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

A nice studio apartment for rent starting mid-November 2008. Fully furnished (bed, desk, in-built bathroom, fridge, microwave, TV, cupboard, drawers, heater). Nice view of Parnell Rise, the railway, and beyond. Located at 138 Anzac Ave, at the heart of Auckland CBD. Building features swimming pool, gym, gaming lounge, large communal kitchen, spacious lobby with magazine shelves, and theatre room. \$210 pw including water. Call Isyana at (021) 064 3201 or email isyana83@hotmail.com.

Balmoral/Mt Eden: Self-contained studio for rent. Quiet street, central location (near St Lukes and Balmoral shopping centres). Close to bus routes to university. Fridge, washing-machine, some furniture included. Downstairs room available for storage. Osp for one car. \$200 pw. Contact Lynette on (021) 970 665 or l.read@auckland.ac.nz.

Bijou bach for summer lease. Nov-April or Dec-May (flexible). On beautiful Waiheke Island. Catch the ferry to work or finish that writing project amongst the tranquillity of nearby bush and sea. Small one-bdrm cottage available. Would suit visiting academic/writer or professional couple. \$200 pw + exps. Phone Cecilia on (09) 372 8266 (evenings).

Devonport cottage to rent. Charming cottage in the heart of the village. One bdrm. Totally furnished. Six-minute walk to the ferry and very close to beaches and all amenities. N/s. Perfect for single woman professional. \$350 pw. Phone (09) 445 7055 or email rive@xtra.co.nz.

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.

Karekare cottage. Very secluded, sunny two storeys in 10-acre forest glade adjoining Waitakere Regional Park. Level lawn, orchard, views. Rustic, in need of TLC outside. Clawfoot bath, fully tiled bathroom, two loos. Living and two bdrms open to full-length decks. Bird life abounds. Walk to Tasman beaches without going near roads. Wireless computer setup. 2.6 kms to Karekare beach, 15 mins to Piha, 50 mins to CBD. Short/longterm. Rates neg. from \$410 pw. Phone (04) 801 7243 or email

riro@slingshot.co.nz

Two-bedroom townhouse for rent.

Modern townhouse with two large sunny bedrooms available January-October 2009. Near Parnell rose gardens, five minutes walk to restaurants, 20 minutes walk to University/Hospital. Convenient to motorways. Fully-furnished with crockery, dishwasher, standard appliances. Two car garage. \$490 pw. Phone (021) 732 432 or (09) 377 2974.

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

Canadian professor seeks furnished house or apartment. Medical professor from McMaster University and his wife seek furnished house or apartment for all or part of six months, beginning Nov 2008 to end of April 2009, in central Auckland, within a 15-minute drive of City Hospital/University of Auckland. We are flexible regarding terms and cost, and are happy to assume some responsibility for maintenance. Please contact muggah@mcmaster.ca or phone Emma Cordery, ext 89493.

Professional couple with three daughters want a house to rent from 1 January-30 April 2009 (neg end date). Prefer Grey Lynn, Ponsonby, Westmere areas. Please advise Mark Hangartner, Library. Phone 629 0335 or email m.hangartner@auckland.ac.nz.

Very reliable professional couple with toddler and baby looking for furnished accommodation in Auckland from mid-Jan to end of June 2009. Would prefer central/eastern suburbs. House sit or rent. Willing to look after child friendly pets. Please contact Tineke Fancourt at (027) 693 1481, (03) 547 7646 or tfancourt@gmail.com.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Grafton cutie. This Victorian workers' cottage has been tastefully updated for modern living. Five minutes to CBD, the Domain, and Newmarket, and close to universities, Medical School, and the Hospital. Three bdrms; asking \$570,000. Phone Stuart on (021) 286 0230.

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.

Consulting room available in central Ponsonby. A consulting room with immaculate well-appointed waiting area is available to rent part-time. These professional rooms are in a tastefully refurbished two-storey villa, centrally located in Vermont St, just 100 metres from the heart of Ponsonby Rd. Lots of free parking available. Very quiet and reasonable rental. Please contact Frances Harré for more information 817-9205 or (027) 717-9205.

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.

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).