

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

news

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Extension approved for Thomas Building



An artist's impression of the new extension, viewed from the corner of Symonds Street and Waterloo Quadrant.

A new building at the northern end of the City Campus, designed by Stephenson & Turner, will be extending the space for biology staff and students from 2011.

Site preparation and construction are about to start for an extension of the Thomas Building, which upon completion will provide the School of Biological Sciences with a fully integrated research complex of around 10,000 square metres.

The School of Biological Sciences currently has 180 staff and 140 postgraduate research students, and is rapidly outgrowing its existing space in the Old Biology and Thomas Buildings. The extension will provide additional space for up to 160 academic and technical staff, postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate research students.

The expanded research facility will be state-of-the-art and will also have capacity to lease laboratory space to additional spin-out and startup biotechnology companies.

"The new extension will allow the School to work towards meeting some of the University's strategic targets by providing space for increased numbers of postgraduate students as well as additional

opportunities for research projects through collaboration with and co-location of industry partners," says SBS Director Professor Joerg Kistler.

"Biological Sciences is the largest unit in the Faculty of Science [with a current annual budget of \$35 million], representing approximately 25 percent of the faculty total budget," comments Acting Dean of Science, Professor Alan Lee. "The strong growth of the School in recent years has largely been driven by the major expansion of work in the life sciences that has occurred internationally, and more space is required to capitalise on these trends and provide the best learning environment for our future students."

A significant portion of the cost of the new building will be sourced from a Partnership for Excellence grant funded by the New Zealand Government in September 2004. This funding was gained through the formation of a new Institute for Innovation in Biotechnology which started operating in July 2006 and currently includes four co-located companies and seven company partners. Completion of the new building is expected by Christmas 2010.

Key events

Science and religion

An all-day symposium at the University will explore science and religion and the links between them. Entitled "Science and religion in the 21st century: Faith in science, science in faith" it will feature working scientists and theologians from New Zealand and overseas. The event will take place in Theatre 401-439 – the "Neon foyer" – at the Engineering School, 20 Symonds Street, 8.30am-6pm, 14 March. The cost of \$20 (\$10 unwaged) will include lunch. Please contact Pervin Medhora, School of Theology on p.medhora@auckland.ac.nz

Doing real good

In the first of the Business School Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series Martin Fisher, social entrepreneur, co-founder and CEO of Kickstart International, will be in conversation with Dr Susan Woods, senior lecturer in entrepreneurship and innovation. They will discuss "Real good not feel good: How Kickstart International is changing the way the world fights poverty and how their unique model helped launch the social enterprise movement". To date, Kickstart's tools have been used to create over 60,000 micro-enterprises across Africa, and 1,000 more are started each month. Martin will describe what processes and models make successful social entrepreneurial projects. He will speak on Thursday 19 March at 6pm in Lecture Theatre OGGB4 in the Owen G Glenn Building.

Light a spark

Spark invites all students and staff members to celebrate entrepreneurship and its brand new programme for 2009, and to find out how you can win a share of the prize pool valued at over \$120,000 in cash, mentoring and networks. You will also have the chance to listen to entertaining, well-known entrepreneurs and find out more about Spark over free food and drinks. The 2009 Spark Launch will take place on 18 March, 5.30pm - 8.30pm, on Level 1 at the Business School – in the Owen G Glenn Building.

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From the Vice-Chancellor

The University Council's 23 February decision to approve a \$240 million upgrade of the Grafton Campus is a very significant vote of confidence in the future, particularly as it has been made at a time of considerable financial uncertainty.

The upgrade, to be conducted over the next four years, has three key components. The first, but least visible, involves a major overhaul of the systems which deliver electricity, gas, water, air, heating and cooling, and remove wastes. Put simply, the infrastructure on this 40-year-old campus is at the end of its useful life, and without major investment we will be unable to maintain existing activities, far less grow our research and teaching. That is, of course, a problem that is not unique to Grafton and it reflects a sustained period of public and private underinvestment in the University.

The two other components – the refurbishment of the tower blocks and the creation of new space – will allow the Faculty Administration, School of Nursing and Liggins Institute, all presently located off-campus in leased accommodation, to return to Grafton, as well as adding significantly to our teaching and research capacity. This will be vital to our future as the country demands increased training of health professionals and high quality research to address our many issues in human health.

There are several reasons why, having completed the major investment in the Business School, Grafton was the next logical development. It is a discrete campus and thus does not present some of the “domino” problems that exist on the City Campus. Its infrastructure is, as I have noted, in real danger of falling over. But most of all, it is a campus whose activities are critical if we are to meet our ambitious targets for education, research and community service. We can be confident that our investment in Grafton will produce very real returns.

However, none of that means that Grafton will be the end of this process. The Campus Development Plan signals the need for a substantial refurbishment and enhancement of our key campus facilities, at an investment of \$1 billion, Grafton excluded. Although that level of investment, and the actual construction process, will be extremely challenging, it is something that we simply must do if we are to have a place among the world's leading research universities.



Visit from NZ Centre in Beijing



Professor Liu Shusen (left) and Associate Professor Liu Hongzhong at The University of Auckland.

“Success is about continuity and development, not about reaching a particular point,” says Professor Liu Shusen, Director of the New Zealand Centre, established in 2007 at Peking University.

And indeed the development at the New Zealand Centre is proceeding apace, with an undergraduate elective course in New Zealand history and culture already established at Peking University – organised by Professor Paul Clark from The University of Auckland in collaboration with Professor Liu Shusen and other staff of the two institutions.

A further reflection of the strong and growing relationship between the two universities is highlighted by the attendance of a group of 21 top students from Peking University at a specialised Summer Course in Global History at Auckland this January and February – taught by Associate Professor Malcolm Campbell (Head of the Department of History). Many of these students are considering returning to Auckland for postgraduate study as soon as they complete their four-year undergraduate degree in Beijing, which for most means the next academic year.

Professor Liu and his colleague, Associate Professor Liu Hongzhong, Deputy Director of the New Zealand Centre, were interviewed on 9 February at The University of Auckland, during the first two days of a week-long visit to New Zealand.

The Centre is a joint initiative between The University of Auckland and Peking University, with support from the New Zealand Ministries of Economic Development, Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Education, as well as the University of Otago, Victoria University of Wellington and several private donors. The object of the visit was to allow the guests to meet representatives of the supporting Ministries, to become familiar with the three New Zealand universities involved, to discuss and plan the future directions of the Centre, and to engender support for future programmes and initiatives. The guests were both looking forward to visiting Victoria and Otago, and taking the opportunity to meet and speak with staff there.

“What we hope to take home from this meeting is ideas and possibilities,” said Professor Liu Hongzhong, “and also plans for promoting and improving our existing programmes. The meetings also offer us a chance to build strong communication, to understand what people in New Zealand expect from the Centre, and to let Government Ministers know what is being done.”

“Final results depend on many things,” added Professor Liu Shusen. “Personal contacts and communication are very important.”

Among the many topics the visitors were keen to discuss was the possibility of initiating courses in New Zealand literature at masters level, and encouraging research students to focus their theses on New Zealand topics.

The itinerary for the visit in Auckland included roundtable sessions on “The University of Auckland and the New Zealand Centre”, and a meeting with the New Zealand Centre Advisory Coordinating Group – whose membership includes representatives from the Government Ministries – as well as visits to some of the University's centres and introductions to key members of the University staff. The guests also absorbed New Zealand culture in a wider context, with a visit to the Auckland Lantern Festival, a leisurely walk through the “Sculpture on the Gulf” outdoor art exhibition on Waiheke Island, and lunch at the Stonyridge Vineyard Café.

Their Wellington and Dunedin visits included meetings with staff and roundtable discussions at Victoria University of Wellington and Otago University.

The Centre's aims are not only academic; it intends to encourage greater cooperation and mutual understanding between New Zealand and China at institutional and governmental levels. This involves undertaking special projects to enhance New Zealand-China understanding, and providing a forum for China-New Zealand dialogue and policy development among different sectors: government, academia and business.

Scholarship widens vista



Antonio Regueiro Díaz (left), with his wife Jayne McKelvie (centre) and Kathryn Lehman, look at the book that tells the stories of the scholarship winners.

Thanks to the generosity of Antonio Regueiro Díaz, Auckland's Honorary Consul for Spain, and his wife Jayne McKelvie, ten PhD students from The University of Auckland have had exciting opportunities over the last ten years to advance their research overseas with a scholarship called "Vista Linda" (Beautiful View).

The two benefactors, along with this year's scholarship winner and many past recipients, met in the Vice-Chancellor's suite at Old Government House in the presence of the Spanish Ambassador to New Zealand HE Marcos Gómez, and of other friends and fellow scholars, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the scholarship.

A special gift for Antonio and Jayne, presented by Dr Kathryn Lehman (European Languages and Literatures), was an illustrated book containing photos and stories from all recipients of the scholarship to date, with plenty of fresh pages left to be filled by the scholarship winners of the future.

Those present also told their stories in person, while those unable to attend sent printed accounts of their journeys. Three of the Vista Linda scholars were awarded "Best Thesis" for their PhD research, and four have had their theses published as books.

Current winner Judy Neale will travel to Spain and Morocco to interview some of the authors of the books she is researching, written by Spanish and Arabic fiction writers with an interest in contemporary immigration from the Maghreb to Spain.

Student wins at DocNZ

An Ordinary Person, a film by Film, Television and Media Studies PhD candidate Susan Potter, was named Best New Zealand Short Documentary in the DocNZ 2009 film festival, which recently had its Auckland season.

Asking the question "Does the law make it impossible to murder a homosexual?" the film explores several New Zealand cases of alleged murder in which defendants argued that they were provoked to kill by the victims' sexual overtures.

One of several past recipients present was Dr Gwyn Fox, who used her "Vista Linda" scholarship to travel for two months to Spain, where she conducted research on the seventeenth-century female writers of sonnets who were the subject of her PhD thesis. Gwyn said she was able to walk down the street where one of her poets lived, and had the chance to study their writings, often in the original. One of the wonderful things the scholarship gave her, she said, was time: deciphering the handwriting of the authors can be time-consuming. She is now teaching part-time in the University's Spanish Department and this year her thesis is to be published in the United States as a book.

"The scholarship winners have all gone on to do wonderful things, and that has been the reward for us," said Antonio Regueiro Díaz, who is passionately committed to promoting the knowledge of Spanish and Latin American language and culture, and feels that a wonderful way to do this is to support advanced and able scholars who are striving to reach their highest potential.

He also had words of praise for the Spanish Department, whose work he describes as "admirable". Now enjoying the best of two worlds, residing for half of each year in New Zealand and the other half in Spain, he has been surprised and delighted to find so many New Zealanders "interested and enthusiastic" about Spanish language and culture.

When successful, the result is a lesser conviction – manslaughter rather than murder. The film presents interviews with lawyers, legal academics and a journalist, intercut with a compelling dramatisation.

The film was judged the New Zealand Competition: Short Documentary winner by a panel of local and international documentary industry peers. For more information visit www.docnz.org.nz/2009/ak/film/ordinary-person

... in brief

Evolving property rights

Interested staff are invited to an international conference on "Property rights and sustainability" at the University from 16-18 April.

Hosted by the NZ Centre for Environmental Law (NZCEL) and the Faculty of Law it will consider how property rights and responsibilities can evolve to better meet the objectives of sustainability and address ecological problems. The conference marks the tenth anniversary of NZCEL, an internationally recognised centre for research on sustainability policy, governance and law.

Registration fees are modest in an effort to make the conference as accessible as possible. Early bird (prior to 17 March) is \$400 (full) and \$180 (student/NGO/unwaged). For further information and registration details, go to www.nzcel-conf.auckland.ac.nz or contact Jane Kilgour at k.j.kilgour@paradise.net.nz

Research expertise on database

The Research Office has recently developed a Research Capabilities Database.

Why? The purpose of this database, which lists the areas of research expertise of all academic staff, is to allow the Research Office to use a targeted approach for specific funding opportunities. It will also benefit all academics, enabling them to find colleagues within the University interested in similar or complementary areas of research.

How? In developing the database, the Research Office first used the information available from the faculties' websites and from the HR listing. They then contacted all heads of departments to check and approve the information.

Each academic is associated with at least one research area, identified from the OECD classification. For each research area there are different keywords (picked from individuals' personal pages). For more information see the staff intranet.

Chinese course for staff

A new course has just begun for staff interested in learning about Chinese language and culture. This is a ten-week course held on Thursdays from 1-2pm in Room 415 at 58 Symonds Street. The course, coordinated by Meiju Wang (meiju.wang@auckland.ac.nz) is especially designed for University of Auckland staff with little or no knowledge of Chinese language. It aims to help participants to improve their understanding of Chinese culture and society, as well as to gain skills in basic oral communication. The cost is \$20 for course materials. The course runs until 28 May, with a study break on 16 April.

New associate professors



Lee Wallace (English)

Following a BA(Hons) from Victoria University of Wellington, Lee Wallace was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to the University of Southampton where she completed a masters in Romanticism and Modernism.

On returning to New Zealand, she undertook a PhD in English at The University of Auckland, working on the eroticisation of colonial encounter in the Pacific since the eighteenth century. In 1996, Lee was appointed Lecturer in Women's Studies where she taught feminist cultural studies and queer cinema studies. In 2004 she relocated to the Department of English, where she is currently serving as Deputy Head.

In 1997, with colleagues from Women's Studies, she was successful in securing a three-year Marsden grant, "Sexual encounters: Pacific ethnography and the representation of sexuality". This enabled her to undertake archival work that expanded her doctoral research, her revised findings being published with Cornell University Press as *Sexual Encounters: Pacific Texts, Modern Sexualities* (2003). Informed by colonial studies, gender studies and Pacific history, *Sexual Encounters* questions the gender paradigms that dominate thinking about the sexual trajectory described by European desire as it has informed literary, artistic and anthropological representation of the Pacific and argues instead for the structuring force of male-male desire across these contact narratives.

More recently, Lee's research has focused on homosexuality, cinema and the architectures of everyday life. This work has resulted in a second monograph with Routledge, *Lesbianism, Cinema, Space: The Sexual Life of Apartments* (2009), which analyses five narrative films all of which tell the story of lesbianism as the story of apartment space. A second Marsden grant, held with colleagues from the Departments of History and Film, Television and Media Studies, spans this project and her current research on homosexuality and domesticity, which includes case studies of Dorothy Arzner's 1936 melodrama *Craig's Wife* and the queer foundations of Frank Sargeson's Takapuna bach.



Warwick Bagg (Medicine)

My two boys (Joshua and Douglas) frequently remind my wife (Brigitte) and me that we are not "true" New Zealanders, as in contrast to them, we were born in South Africa.

Despite their assertions we love our adopted country; after all we made the decision to make Aotearoa home in 1993. We have had excellent opportunities and enjoyed the transition to life in New Zealand. The opportunity to complete an MD degree at Auckland arose in the mid-1990s while I was completing my specialist medical training in endocrinology and diabetes. Subsequently I was appointed a senior lecturer in the Department of Medicine. My passion has been curriculum design and development. In particular I have been involved in curriculum oversight and development of the final year of the medical programme. Over the last two years I have led a team which has designed and implemented the Northland Regional-Rural Programme, Pūkawakawa.

For the first time in 2008, 20 year five medical students spent the year living and learning from the people of Northland. Students undertake 18 weeks of clinical attachments at Whangarei Hospital. In addition students spend seven weeks at one of Dargaville, Kaitaia or Rawene. At each rural site there is a mix of hospital, general practice and community-based learning experiences. Initial student feedback has been very positive and personally this has been the highlight of my career.

So, while my children doubt our authenticity as Kiwis, I am delighted that the University has recognised my contribution.



Michael Hay (Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre)

I am a medicinal chemist and a member of the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre. A graduate in Chemistry from the University of Canterbury, I undertook postdoctoral research in the chemistry departments at Imperial College, London, and The University of Auckland.

I was fortunate to be appointed as a Research Fellow in Medicinal Chemistry at the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre in 1991.

During my time at the ACSRC I have developed a primary interest in the development of drugs that target the tumour microenvironment.

This has involved designing and creating molecules that are selectively activated to cytotoxins by bioreductive mechanisms under hypoxia, or that inhibit enzymes crucial to tumour cell survival under hypoxia.

I have been privileged to participate in a multidisciplinary team at the ACSRC and enjoy ongoing collaborations with the Experimental Oncology Group at the ACSRC and the Department of Radiation Biology at Stanford University.

An underlying driver in my career has been to translate the fun we have in the lab into therapies that will benefit cancer patients. This has resulted in relationships with a series of biotechnology ventures including Proacta Therapeutics and Oxigene, Inc.

I am also an Associate Investigator in the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery.

Leading women

The New Zealand Women in Leadership Programme for academic women, sponsored by NZVCC and the Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust, will be held in Wellington from 29 June to 3 July. Each University is invited to nominate two women to attend this programme, which has received excellent feedback from our

six previous participants who attended in 2007 and 2008.

Applications for the programme close on 23 March and should be sent to Julie Batters (j.batters@auckland.ac.nz or Level 3, Alfred Nathan House).

Nominations need a letter of support from your Dean. Although the documentation doesn't specify

A crisis should not be wasted

The term crisis is being used to describe these economically turbulent times.

Crises are disruptive periods in which there is an inherent tendency to question deeply the way individuals and organisations conduct themselves. For companies, these questions encompass their underlying value proposition, products and services, and how these are produced.

Although inherently unpredictable, recent economic cycles in New Zealand have had a period of approximately ten years trough to trough. It has been about ten years since the depths of the last recession, which was shortly into the new millennium, and another ten years between that trough and the previous recession of the early 1990s.

The approximate half cycle of five years between the peaks and troughs of recent economic cycles is about the same period required to develop substantially new products or processes from an early concept to an effectively designed and manufactured offering ready for launch. A famous example is Nokia, which paved the way for its transformation from a riverside paper mill to a global telecommunications leader during the late 1980s when Finland was in the depths of one of its worst economic crises of modern times. As a result, Nokia was able to launch its first GSM handset, the Nokia 1011, in 1992 and in time to catch an upturn in the world economy.

Ironically, businesses have a greater ability to invest in new products and processes during buoyant economic periods. However, because the results of these investments generally have to enter the market during economically depressed periods they fail to reach their full economic potential. From this perspective, it is better to invest in new ideas during recessions such as we are experiencing now. This counter cyclical

mentality takes foresight and a conviction to behave as though there will be light at the end of the tunnel even though none is in sight.

Universities with their cutting edge research and inventive capabilities are ideal partners to reduce risk for companies seeking innovation. Technology transfer offices, such as UniServices at The University of Auckland, are well positioned to facilitate the discovery of creative linkages between research capabilities and business needs, and then nurture the embryonic ideas through their early stages of development. Our experience is that dialogue between research and business results in discovering linkages and inventions that neither could have made independently. The discoveries are often game-changing and stimulate the type of new thinking which can provide a competitive edge for the next economic expansion. For example, recent interactions have identified: the possibility to apply relationships between neonatal nutrition and whole life outcomes in humans to the improvement of farm productivity; that inductive power transfer might be adapted to conveniently charge future fleets of electric vehicles; and that the technology behind artificial muscle might be used to develop a new generation of electric motors. These are examples of how research can provide New Zealand businesses with an array of globally competitive new products and services in time for the next economic upswing.

This economic crisis is a good time for universities to reach out and connect with organisations which realise that our current economic crisis is the right time to consider a bright future based upon collaboration, breakthrough research, and sound development.

Dr Peter Lee
Auckland UniServices Ltd



Paul Kilmartin (Chemistry)

I was raised on an apple orchard in Nelson and have been trying ever since to return to a horticultural enterprise, which I managed to do in 2003 when asked to set up the University's Wine Science programme which I now direct.

In between I started university life in 1981 by undertaking performance piano, an ongoing interest, before completing degrees in maths, philosophy and chemistry at Victoria University of Wellington, and received the Sir Robert Stout Scholarship for the top senior scholar. I was one of the last students through Mount St Mary's Seminary while it was located in Hawkes Bay, and taught at St Bede's College in Christchurch for two years before moving to Auckland to complete a PhD in the electrochemistry of conducting polymers in 1997.

Following an appointment as a lecturer to the Chemistry Department in 1997, I have been able to continue research into conducting polymers as part of the Polymer Electronics Research Centre, alongside some very rewarding projects on wine oxidation processes, often with an electrochemical bent, in support of the New Zealand wine industry. My partner, Elena Kolesova, also graduated with a PhD from The University of Auckland in History in 2004. We have a very active eight-year-old son, Sasha, with Russian spoken widely at home.

the level the programme is targeted at, we would normally expect participants to be associate professors or professors and looking to take on greater leadership or management responsibilities.

These previous attendees from The University of Auckland are happy for you to contact them with any questions you may have: Associate Professor Ngairé Kerse, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences; Associate Professor Ann Sullivan, Faculty of Arts; Dr Airini, Faculty of Education; Associate Professor Judith Kilpatrick, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences; Associate Professor Joanna Putterill, Faculty of Science.

Campaign passes half-way mark

The University's "Leading the Way" Fundraising Campaign has reached \$51,236,418, taking it more than half-way towards its target of \$100 million.

The campaign was publicly launched last November, with an impressive \$48 million already raised in gifts and pledges prior to the official launch event. Further contributions over the past few months have seen the total increase by more than \$3 million.

Included in the new figure are gifts and pledges from individuals, families and trusts in support of a wide variety of specific projects or research areas, which often reflect an area of interest for the donor or are sometimes made in memory of a close relative.

Most fall under the campaign's five themes, the areas of strength in which the University is focusing its efforts: the health of our nation; the

development of our children; the growth of our economy; the future of our cities; and the expression of who we are.

Health-related research in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences has received strong support with recent gifts and pledges for research into lymphoma and leukaemia, psychology, optometry, biomedical research or medical research. The Liggins Institute, which plays a key role in the "development of our children" theme, received a donation to provide scholarships for students from low decile schools to attend the Liggins Education Network for Science (LENS) residential summer programme in biomedical science.

Other examples of recent gifts include those to help support the Business School, and scholarships in Chinese studies and for the support of disabled students at the University.

Eminent primatologist lecturing

Dr Frans de Waal from Atlanta, USA, one of the world's most prominent primatologists, is giving the Sir Douglas Robb Lectures in late March.

His theme is "Our inner ape", delving into why we are who we are. He will discuss moral emotions in humans and animals, animal empathy, and what primates know about and learn from each other.

Dr de Waal is C. H. Candler Professor, Psychology Department, Emory University, and Director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center.

He is a Dutch-born ethologist/biologist known for his work on the social intelligence of primates. His first book, *Chimpanzee Politics* (1982), compared the schmoozing and scheming of chimpanzees involved in power struggles with that of human politicians. Ever since, he has drawn parallels between primate and human behaviour, from peacemaking and morality to culture.

His scientific work has been published in hundreds of technical articles in journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, *Scientific American*, and outlets specialising in animal behaviour.

His popular books - translated into 15 languages - have made him one of the world's most visible primatologists. His latest books are *Our Inner Ape* (2005) and *Primates and Philosophers* (2006).

He has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences (US), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences. *Time* magazine selected him in 2007 as one of the world's 100 most influential people today.

His Robb series theme is associated with 2009 being the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th of the publication of his *On the Origin of Species*.

Full details of his three lectures on 24, 26 and 31 March (Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, 7pm) are at www.auckland.ac.nz/robb

Farewell to Dick Bellamy



Dick Bellamy speaks to friends and colleagues.

The crowd of friends and colleagues that thronged Old Government House to farewell Professor Dick Bellamy late last year was testimony to the esteem in which he is held and to the size of the legacy he is leaving behind.

As Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, said at the event, Dick Bellamy's career at the University has spanned 50 years.

From the time he began as a student to his retirement as Dean of Science his presence at the University has been almost continuous, apart from periods of study leave. The only exceptions are the three years he spent, after completing his PhD, as a research associate in the Department of Cell Biology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, and three separate periods as a visiting professor or scientist, at Duke University Medical Centre, Durham, North Carolina, at the National Institute for Medical research, Mill Hill, London and at the Ross Institute of Molecular Biology, Nutley, New Jersey.

Dick joined the University staff as a research scientist in 1968, was promoted to associate professor in 1975 and was granted a personal chair in Cellular and Molecular Biology in 1990. After becoming inaugural Director of the School of Biological Sciences he spent ten years in that position before accepting the post of Dean of the Faculty of Science in 2001.

Other speakers at Dick's farewell were Di McCarthy, former HOD of Psychology and now Chief Executive of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and Professor Joerg Kistler, Director of SBS. Di, in a speech illustrated with many examples that added a sometimes amusing dimension to what she was saying, thanked Dick for his "unfailing support and mentorship", his "good

humour" and his "amazing commitment to this institution and beyond".

Joerg, in an outline of Dick's long and distinguished career, spoke of his outstanding research prowess in the pioneering days of molecular biology, and in gene cloning of viral proteins; of the breadth of his vision as an administrator and his skill in building a research culture, partly through the celebration of success; of his gifts as a mentor, both for students and staff; and of the many tangible outcomes of his period as Dean, including the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery and the establishment of the Wine Science Programme as just two examples. "Please join me," he said, "in celebrating Dick's unlimited vision and passion for biology, and his great mentorship through which he was able to help so many people in their careers".

Dick Bellamy was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1989 and was made Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) in 2005. A substantial profile of his life and career will appear in the Autumn issue of *Ingenio*, to be published in May.



Joerg Kistler expresses his appreciation for Dick's outstanding contribution and unique qualities.



Milan Mrkusich (born 1925) *Painting (Ochre) 1974, acrylic on canvas, 1725 x 1725mm*

In June 1949, the School of Architecture hosted Milan Mrkusich's first-ever public showing of paintings and drawings.

Sixty years later The University of Auckland is again the venue for a new milestone in Mrkusich's career. The exhibition *Trans-Form: the abstract art of Milan Mrkusich* has been curated for the Gus Fisher Gallery by Ed Hanfling and Alan Wright, research

associates of the Art History Department, to mark the publication of their Auckland University Press book, *Mrkusich: The Art of Transformation*.

Astutely, the University acquired one of Mrkusich's masterpieces for its collection shortly after it was made. One of the iconic Corner paintings, *Painting (Ochre) 1974* is a large field of the colour named in the title, worked in acrylic paint with a small brush to

create variations in texture known as scumbling. Four small black triangles reminiscent of the devices used to anchor old snaps in albums appear in the corners.

The works have other associations for viewers. At the private view when the first of this series of works was shown at Barry Lett Galleries in 1969, one of the works was found placed face-up on the desk of the director, right where a blotting pad might belong.

These misreadings of Mrkusich's work are based on an idea of the work of art as a representation of something. Rather than illustrating his world, as an abstract artist Mrkusich was interested in the experience a painting could provide for its viewers. He insisted that his works "[had] meaning other than [being] just formal aesthetic exercises" and pointed to the possibility of a meditational or transcendental experience through the contemplation of art. It seems his intention was to lead viewers to psychic wholeness through considering imagery which conjured completeness and unity.

Mrkusich has described his Corner paintings, usually square and symmetrical in form, as "Jungian and symbolic of the Four". His reference is to Jung's four, symbolic of the earth and the four states of consciousness. The square format relates to Rudolph Koch's *Book of Signs*, where the square is "the emblem of the world and nature" and the "Christian emblem of worldliness symbolised by the number four: the four elements, the four corners of the heavens, the four Evangelists, the four rivers of Paradise".

Twenty works laden with just such symbolic content can be seen in the Gus Fisher Gallery exhibition *Trans-Form*, which is part of the University's contribution to the Auckland Festival on show until 2 May. It is the largest exhibition devoted to the artist's work in a public gallery for 24 years.

Similarly, the accompanying Auckland University Press book authored by Ed Hanfling and Alan Wright is the first major monograph to be published on Mrkusich and is on sale at the Gus Fisher Gallery for \$70.

Linda Tyler

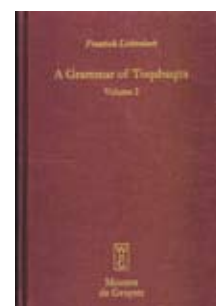
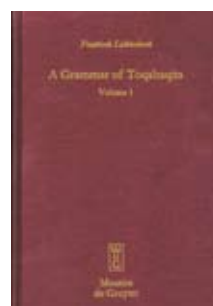
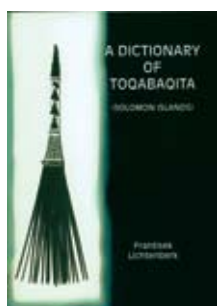
Three in a row

Three substantial volumes published in 2008 testify to the quality and sheer abundance of work from Associate Professor Frantisek (Frank) Lichtenberk (Applied Language Studies and Linguistics): a dictionary and a two-volume grammar of Toqabaqita, an Austronesian language spoken by approximately 13,000 people on the island of Malaita in the south-eastern Solomon Islands. The volumes are based on the author's extensive field-work in the Solomons, starting in the 1980s.

A Dictionary of Toqabaqita (Solomon Islands) (published by Pacific Linguistics, Canberra) is the first published dictionary of the language. The volume contains a Toqabaqita-English dictionary (nearly 7,000 entries) and an English-Toqabaqita finder list.

A Grammar of Toqabaqita, Volume 1 and Volume 2 (published by Mouton de Gruyter and

totalling 1,356 pages) is the first comprehensive grammatical description of the language. It deals with the phonology, morphology, syntax and discourse patterns of the language, as well as with its contact with Solomon Islands Pijin. It will be of special interest to typologists and to specialists in Austronesian linguistics.



Books

Frank has also done field-work in Papua New Guinea. He is the author of *A Grammar of Manam* (published in 1983). Manam is an Austronesian language spoken on Manam Island in Papua New Guinea.

What's on

FRIDAY 13 MARCH

FUN: Fun Workz

11am-12.30pm, Presentation Rm, Level 2, ClockTower, 22 Princes St. Provides staff with the know-how for producing clear, concise and accurate records of meeting proceedings. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (HRAMT). For queries phone ext 89630.

SATURDAY 14 MARCH

Symposium: Science and religion in the 21st century: Faith in science, science in faith

Professor Robert White, Professor of Geophysics, University of Cambridge and others. 8.30am-6pm Lecture Theatre 401.439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. \$20; \$10. Refreshments and lunch provided. Please register to p.medhora@auckland.ac.nz

Distinguished Alumni Speaker

Lynley Dodd: *Going to the dogs*. 10.30-11.30am Level 0, Owen G Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Rd. Queries to Melanie Middleditch, ext 83566 or email alumni-events@auckland.ac.nz View www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/template/event_item.jsp?cid=31107

Distinguished Alumni Speaker

The Rt Hon Tuilepa Malielegaoi: *Survival in the turbulent sea of change of island politics in the calm and peace of the Pacific Ocean*. 10.30-11.30am Fale Pasifika, 20 Wynyard St.

Distinguished Alumni Speaker

Richard Chandler joins the Rt Hon Mike Moore in conversation: *Building prosperity for tomorrow's world*. 12-1.15pm Level 0, Owen G Glenn Bldg.

Distinguished Alumni Speaker

Toa Fraser: *Animal tangles: That's the carnal and the heavenly right there*. 12-1pm Level 0, Owen G Glenn Bldg.

Distinguished Alumni Speaker

Sir Douglas Graham: *Māori representation in Parliament*. 12-1pm Level 0, Owen G Glenn Bldg.

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, Shortland St. Linda Tyler, Director of the Centre for NZ Art Research and Discovery, talks about the work of architect Vladimir Calala, part of the design practice Brenner Associates with Milan Mrkusich in the 1950s.

School of Biological Sciences seminar

Professor Barrie J. Frost, Dept of Psychology, Queen's University, Canada: *A taxonomy of different types of visual motion and their underlying neural mechanisms*. 1-2pm Mac 3.

TUESDAY 17 MARCH

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Johannes Reynisson, Dept of Chemistry/Auckland Bioengineering Institute: *Benchmarking in drug discovery*. 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH

Department of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar

Assoc-Prof Michael Barlow, UoA: *Individual differences: Investigating the nature of idiolects*. 12noon Rm 210, Level 2, Fisher Bldg.

2009 Spark launch

5.30-8.30pm Level 1, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Queries to Lisa Jansen, marketing@spark-challenge.com Find out how you can win a share of our prize pool valued at over \$120,000 worth of cash, mentoring and networks. Listen to entertaining, well-known entrepreneurs and find out more about Spark over free food and drinks.

THURSDAY 19 MARCH

Minute-taking workshop

9am-12.30pm, Council Rm, Level 2, ClockTower, 22 Princes St. Provides staff with the know-how for producing clear, concise and accurate records of meeting proceedings. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (HRAMT). For queries phone ext 89630.

Doctoral morning tea

10-11am iSpace, 4th Floor, Kate Edger Information Commons. Please come and enjoy a free morning tea in iSpace. This is a chance for all doctoral students to mingle, talk and share common issues. This event takes place every third Thursday of each month and is supported by the PGSA, Graduate Centre, Auckland International and WAVE/AUSA. We look forward to seeing you there.

Art discussion

4pm Gus Fisher Gallery, Shortland St. Elam Art Upfront concludes with a panel discussion followed by a closing function from 5.30pm.

2009 Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series seminar

Martin Fisher, entrepreneur, co-founder and CEO of KickStart International: *Real good not feel good: How KickStart International is changing the way the world fights poverty and how their unique model helped launch the social enterprise movement*. 6pm OGG84, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Queries to m.barr@auckland.ac.nz

FRIDAY 20 MARCH

Developing High Performance Teams

9am-4.30pm, Rm 336, Level 3, Bldg 810, 1-11 Short St. Enables managers to understand the elements of a high performance team and explore ways to achieve this level consistently. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (HRHPT). For queries phone ext 89630.

Performance

6.30pm Gus Fisher Gallery, Shortland St. Kristelle Plimmer's Auckland Fringe Festival performance, *The Therapeutic Hour: Art History Explained*. Entry by Koha. Repeats Saturday 21 March, 1pm and 5pm.

TUESDAY 24 MARCH

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Susan Pyner, Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Durham University, UK: *The neural circuitry controlling the cardiovascular system and the role it plays in cardiovascular disease*. 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, 70 Symonds St.

First Sir Douglas Robb Lecture

Dr Frans B.M. de Waal: *Our inner ape - Morality: A Darwinian view of the moral emotions in man and animals*. 7pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

THURSDAY 26 MARCH

Second Sir Douglas Robb Lecture

Dr Frans B.M. de Waal: *Our inner ape - Empathy: On the possibility of animal empathy*. 7pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

Women Returning to Work meeting

1-2pm FGW Rm, OGH. Trudi McNaughton will discuss the findings of the Strategic Review of Early Childhood Centres, Facilities, Services, Kōhanga reo and Kōhungahunga. You are welcome to bring your own lunch. Light refreshments provided.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Beautiful studio apartment in prestigious building adjacent to the University. Furnished, view of harbour, balcony. \$250 pw to careful tenant. Available early April. Phone manager 366 1829 or owner in Dunedin on (03) 472 7666.

Parnell, separate apartment-like area with separate entrance, brand new, one bdrm and loft, separate lounge shower and toilet, plus one carpark, share kitchen and patio area. \$400 pw negotiable. Suit staff or graduate. Call Doug on (021) 038 0533.

Ponsonby. Fully-furnished villa, three-bdrm, central heating etc, on Link Bus route, 30 mins walk to University. Available 13 May-13 Aug. \$300 pw + utilities. Contact (09) 378 6091 or a.poletti@xtra.co.nz

Short-term accommodation available.

Large furnished room with shared use of all the facilities of the home - well equipped kitchen and two bthrms, large deck and garden. Perfect for someone settling in to Auckland as everything is provided - available for stays of three weeks to three months. Share with one busy professional person - happy to help new people find their way in our beautiful city. \$200 pw includes water, gas, power and broadband. Location is Balmoral (2-section bus ride to University), parking in driveway, and good shopping/eating within a short walk. Phone Christine on (027) 206 1007.

Tamaki Campus. Modern four-dble bdrm, two-bthrm near new house, two minutes drive to Tamaki Campus. Solar heating, all modern features, designer kitchen, private back yard with large patio. Sunny, loads of parking, reserve/estuary on back doorstep. Suit University staff/tutors/lecturers. Photos/further information on TradeMe website (search Pt England under rentals). Available end March. \$600 pw. Phone Steve on (09) 574 5760 or (021) 048 6102.

Titirangi house to rent, 3-6 months from end of April. Friendly batten and board home. Open plan living, sunny deck and potbelly stove. House can be left fully furnished as three bdrm or furniture can be put in storage in one of the bedrooms. Set among beautiful kauri with a zen view of the water. Relax and enjoy the peace and magic. Phone (027) 411 9660.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Baylys Beach, Dargaville. Sleeps up to ten people + room to pitch tent/s. Two and a half hours north of Auckland. \$100 a night for up to six people. \$500 for seven nights for up to six people. \$8 each extra person per night. Contact (09) 439 1730 or paua007@hotmail.com

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Long-term rental or house-sitting needed. Mature University professional wants one-bdrm flat/apartment/cottage with whiteware away from noise. House-sitting an option. Happy to mind cat/dog. Max \$300 pw. Inner city suburbs preferred. Quality tenant. Contact Prue Scott at p.scott@auckland.ac.nz or (021) 869 060.

House-sitter available. University staff member looking for a house- or apartment-sitting position in the Grey Lynn, Westmere, Herne Bay, Freemans Bay, Ponsonby area from the beginning of May through winter. Phone 373-7599 ext 84149 or (021) 0251 2451.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Convenient and fully-furnished apartment

in Quest on Eden building. 54sqm with high ceilings. Queen bed, queen sofa bed in lounge, cutlery and dish service for four persons. Storage room, vacuum cleaner, washer/dryer, heated towel rail, refrigerator, microwave, toaster, kettle, shower, patio with table and two chairs. Must see to appreciate. Who needs a carpark when you're this close to campus? Asking price \$197,900. Call Mary at (09) 489 9836/(027) 422 2077. Available immediately. Please come to our Open Home Friday 13 March, 5pm-6pm.

Freemans Bay: Classic two-level 1960s ex-Council apartment in leafy Freemans Park. Central, solid, and sunny. Elevated peaceful outlook. Two dble bthrms, one off-street carpark, and secure storage. Walk to Western Park, AGGS, Freemans Bay School, Ponsonby, the Viaduct, City, and University. View Sat and Sun 1-3pm, by appointment, and on TradeMe. Inquiries mid-\$400k. 24-148 Howe Street. Phone (021) 0633 604.

Karekare. Ten acres of kauri and prime native bush, Lot 10 DP54016, located behind Lone Kauri Rd properties. North-facing building site accessed from the top of Waikarekare Lane. Nice walk to beach. Rare opportunity. Priced to sell, \$320,000 reduced from \$450,000. Contact R White, phone (09) 410 4817, or email r.white@auckland.ac.nz

MISCELLANEOUS

Academic travel. I have 12 years experience in booking all aspects of travel for University staff. I pride myself in ensuring that your travel plans are sourced at the lowest possible costs and are tailor-made to your requirements. For more information email Karen at Karen.emberton@mondotravel.co.nz or phone 366 4645 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

Adult volunteers wanted for a 12 week 'polypill' trial. You may be able to take part in the trial if you:

- Are at raised risk of a heart attack or stroke (eg smokers over 50)
- Are not taking aspirin, blood pressure or cholesterol lowering medication
- Have no heart problems
- Can attend a clinic at the Tamaki Campus, Glen Innes.

This trial is run by the CTRU, University of Auckland and sponsored by the Health Research Council of NZ and the Wellcome Trust. If you are interested please phone 373 7599 ext 82358 or visit our website www.pillproject.org

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

Speight's Podiatry can take care of your feet. Walking around campus, or a runner, and your feet are killing you? We can help. No doctor's referral is required. Podiatrists are the masters of non-surgical treatment for all foot pain. 2nd Floor, 43 High St, Auckland. Phone 306 4006. Students' only discount for general consultation (\$65 instead of \$80 for 2009). www.speightspodiatry.co.nz or email info@speightspodiatry.co.nz

Wish you could be hair free?? For every bikini VPL laser removal treatment receive a FREE underarms treatment valued at \$200! Phone 0800 458 458 Caci Medispa CBD, 43 High St Offer expires 31 March 2009 and is available exclusively at Caci Medispa, CBD, Auckland and university staff and students. Not available with any other offer and treatment is not redeemable for cash. Subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply.

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see:
www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events

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